

For situations that do not warrant immediate reporting to CPS, CPS may refer the families to community based Child Protection Specialist Centres (CPSCs), for ongoing support. Examples include cases in which there was inappropriate or excessive discipline, but caregivers were willing to receive help and improve on their parenting methods. More information on CPSCs is provided in Chapter Six. For families facing high levels of emotional and economic stress, which may adversely impact CYPs in the future, CPS may refer the families to Family Service Centres (FSCs) and other social service agencies. Examples of such cases will include families who need caregiving support, financial assistance or counseling to better cope with stressors and provide adequate care for CYPs. When suspected child abuse by a family member is reported to CPS and the case is taken up, a social investigation is initiated. The police may concurrently undertake a criminal investigation when a criminal offence is reported to have taken place or suspected to have taken place. A Child Protection Officer (CPO) is assigned to the case.

A : THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Child protection concerns operate on a continuum, with corresponding responses from either the community, more specialised partners or the State. Generally, a more serious concern will necessitate higher levels and more intrusive interventions, with the State stepping in when warranted.



Diagram 1: Continuum of Child Protection Intervention and Community-Based Services