

or carer feigns the symptoms or, or deliberately causes ill health to a young person whom they are looking after. E.g. fictitious illness by proxy or Munchausen's syndrome by proxy.

Sexual Abuse

This is where a child is used by others to meet their own sexual needs. This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing pornographic materials is also a form of sexual abuse. The age of consent for sexual activity is 16 years. Any sexual activity involving persons when one or more of the persons involved is aged 15 or under is unlawful. This is 'underage sex'. Underage sex may involve child abuse, and therefore require a referral to social services and the police.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional ill-treatment of a young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the young person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to young people that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. It may involve causing young people to feel frightened or in danger by being constantly yelled at, threatened or taunted which may make the young person very nervous and withdrawn.

Neglect

This is where a child's basic physical and psychological needs are not met, which is likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development (e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect from physical harm or danger, or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment). It may also include refusal to give love, affection and attention.

Abuse can take many forms. It's important to recognise that the following are all forms of abuse that may affect children and young people: Bullying, County Lines, Criminal Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, FGM, Grooming, Harmful sexual behaviour, Modern Slavery, Online Abuse, Radicalisation, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking.

D.

Indicators of Abuse

Indications that a young person may be being abused include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- Deliberately avoiding social services for fear of the child being received into care