



**During the process described in this leaflet, you as the parent or carer have a right:**

- to be heard and treated with respect
- to be kept informed and involved (where this does not place a child at risk)
- to seek legal advice
- to have your racial, religious and cultural background and that of your child considered
- to bring a friend to any meetings for support. Remember that personal information about your family may be shared in discussions, which could include details of any criminal convictions, and anyone who comes with you will hear this information.

**What the professionals need from you to ensure the best outcome for your child:**

- honesty and co-operation

**Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

is a multi-agency body that oversees children's services to promote the welfare of children. The Board works to ensure that partners, from both the statutory and voluntary sector eg. Police & Brent Primary Care Trust are working together effectively. The role of the LSCB includes monitoring services and ensuring appropriate policies, training and information is in place.

**For more information contact Brent LSCB at**

Brent LSCB  
Chesterfield House 9 Park Lane Wembley HA9 7RW  
Tel: 020 8937 4237 Fax: 020 8937 4286  
Website: [www.lscb.org.uk](http://www.lscb.org.uk)

**Useful Contacts**

Brent Children and Families - Social Care  
020 8937 4875 / 020 8937 4744

Social Care Out of Hours Duty Team  
020 8863 5250

Brent Health Safeguarding Children Team  
020 8795 6397

Police Child Abuse Investigation Team  
020 8937 4703/4854

Childline  
0800 1111

NSPCC  
0808 800 5000

Family Rights Group  
0800 731 1696

If you would like this information in another language, large print, Braille, on disk or audio tape, or with pictures & symbols, please contact Brent Local Safeguarding Children Board on the details above.

**Contact details of social worker**

Name.....

Telephone .....

**What is a Child Protection Enquiry?**





## What is a Child Protection Enquiry?

When someone tells us that they are worried about a child (e.g. that a child has been hit), Social Care have to make sure that that child is safe. This is the purpose of a Child Protection Enquiry.

During the enquiry we will gather information from people who have contact with the child and their family, for example teachers and doctors.

## What will happen?

- A social worker (sometimes with a police officer) will visit you to talk about the enquiry and get your views. They must:
  - explain why they are visiting
  - discuss the concerns with you and ask your views
  - see and speak to your child (if they are old enough)
  - assess any immediate risk to your child

- After meeting you, it may be that there is no reason for us to contact you again. If so, you will be told as soon as possible.
- If there are concerns about the welfare of your child a formal 'Child Protection Enquiry' will take place. During this your child will be interviewed and may require a medical examination. The Police Child Abuse Investigation Team may also carry out their own investigations if they feel a criminal offence has been committed.

## Interviewing a child

In all cases the social worker will talk to your child.

The social workers and police child protection officers who talk to children are trained to listen to children and to reduce any fears or anxieties that they may have.

## Medical Assessment

Sometimes it is necessary for your child to be assessed by a doctor trained in child protection. Permission will be sought from you (and from your child if it is felt that your child can understand why an assessment is needed).

## At the end of the enquiry

After all checks have been completed and everyone involved spoken to, Social Care and the police, with the parents' or carers' involvement, will make a decision about the next step.

It may be felt that a 'child protection plan' is needed for you and your child. This may involve more than one organisation working together to help improve your situation. In this event a **case conference** will be arranged.

It may be felt that your child is not at risk of harm but both the child and family are in need of support. Social Care has a responsibility to provide support services to families in need. This may be in the form of information, advice and practical support or by asking other agencies to help your family.

