

If you are a professional working with children, talk through your worries with the safeguarding lead in your agency, they will be able to advise you what to do next

If you are not sure and would like some advice, you can contact the Children's Services Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH) at the number listed below and ask for a consultation to talk it through with a social worker.

As a professional (voluntary or paid), you cannot make an anonymous referral. Therefore it is good practice to discuss your worries with the parent/s first and explain why you plan to contact Children's Social Care. Unless you think that this will place the child at further risk of significant harm as a result of the parents' reaction. In suspected sexual abuse, it is common practice not to let parents know about the referral immediately in case the child is intimidated and cannot provide evidence to the police and social workers.

You will need to complete a referral form within 48 hours of the conversation. You may find it helpful to also use this form as a way of recording your contact with EHASH. On completion of the form, it will be automatically sent to the EHASH Team and you will receive a unique reference number (via email if you have put your email details into the form).

The EHASH Team will then contact you within 24 hours to confirm the outcome of your information.

EHASH Contact details -

EHASH office Tel - 01482 448 879 option 4

Out of hours Emergency Duty Team - 01482 300 304 (after 7pm)