

# Child Protection Onboarding Document



**DUNDEE VOLUNTEER  
& VOLUNTARY ACTION**

Charity Number SC00487  
Company SC093088

In Scotland, a "child" is legally defined as anyone who has not yet attained the age of 18, as stated in section 97(1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

### What is child protection?

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, which enables them to achieve their full potential
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

### Key pieces of legislation

- The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. If you want to read more about this [click here](#)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. If you want to read more about this [click here](#)

### Whose responsibility is child protection?

Child protection is a shared responsibility, with primary responsibility resting with parents and carers, but everyone who works or volunteers with children has a duty to keep them safe and act if they have concerns.



## Types of abuse

There are many different kinds of abuse, and many reasons why people may harm or neglect children. Here are the 6 main types of abuse:

- **Neglect** – when the basic needs of the child are not being met, these include: love, safety, affection, food, warmth and shelter.
- **Physical abuse** – When a child is deliberately hurt or injured by another person
- **Sexual abuse** – when a child is forced or persuaded into sexual activity
- **Emotional abuse** - Emotional neglect or ill treatment that has a severe adverse effect on a child's emotional development.
- **Online abuse** – can take many forms but can include sexual exploitation, grooming, communicating with children for a sexual purpose, but also includes sexting and cyberbullying.
- **Sexual exploitation** – a form of child sexual abuse which happens through control, coercion, force, enticement and bribery, it never happens through choice.

All forms of child abuse can have damaging and long-lasting consequences, but children can recover from abuse. All children have the right to be protected from abuse, and it can be prevented.

If you are worried about a child, it's better to say something than do nothing – remember, everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe from harm.



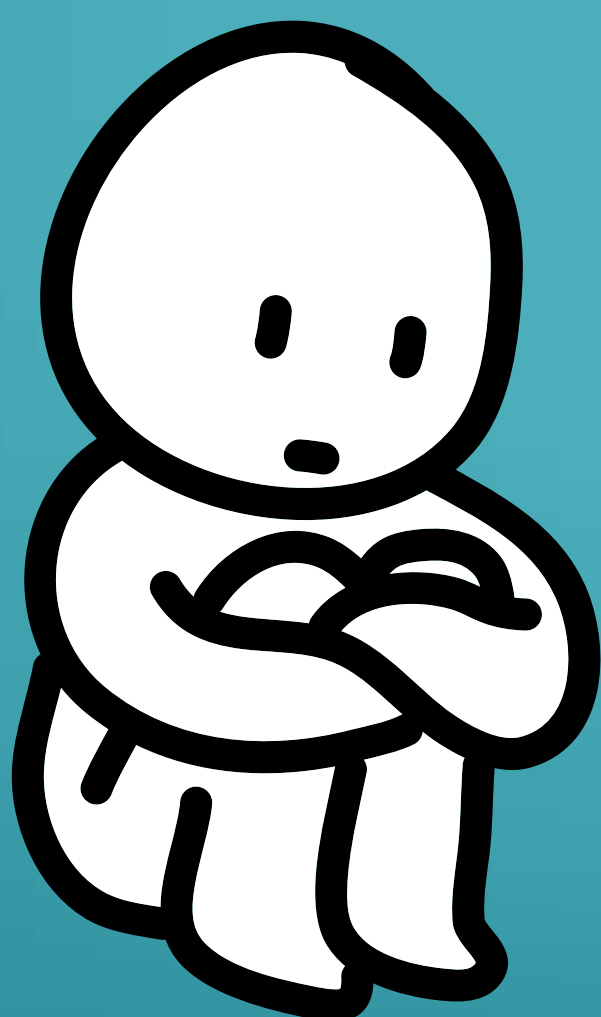
## Recognising signs of abuse

The signs of abuse can sometimes be difficult to spot, but individuals and communities can play a big part to keep children safe. You can help protect children by keeping your eyes and ears open, by being alert to signs that all is not well, and by acting on any concerns you might have.

Below are some signs of abuse you may come across or hear about in your volunteering role -

- Withdrawn
- Lack of confidence
- Stealing food
- Bruising
- Bite or burn marks
- Fear of making mistakes
- Self-harm
- Takes risks

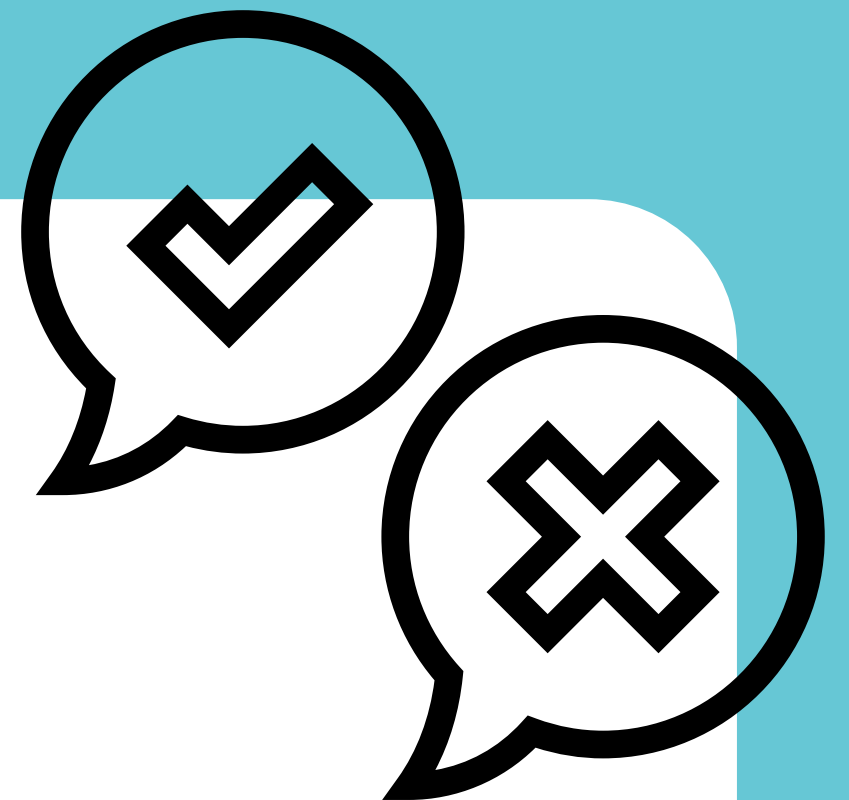
- Misses school
- Sexualised language
- Lack of friends
- Hinting at secrets
- Flinching
- Sudden behaviour changes
- Fear of a specific individual
- Changes in eating habits



## How to respond to a disclosure of abuse: do's/don'ts

### Dos

- Stay calm
- Listen carefully and show concern
- Try to memorise as much detail as possible
- Continue at the child's pace
- Keep questions to a minimum
- Reassure the child they were right to tell
- Explain the limits of confidentiality and what you are going to do next
- Record in the child's own words what was said
- Act promptly and follow appropriate reporting procedures



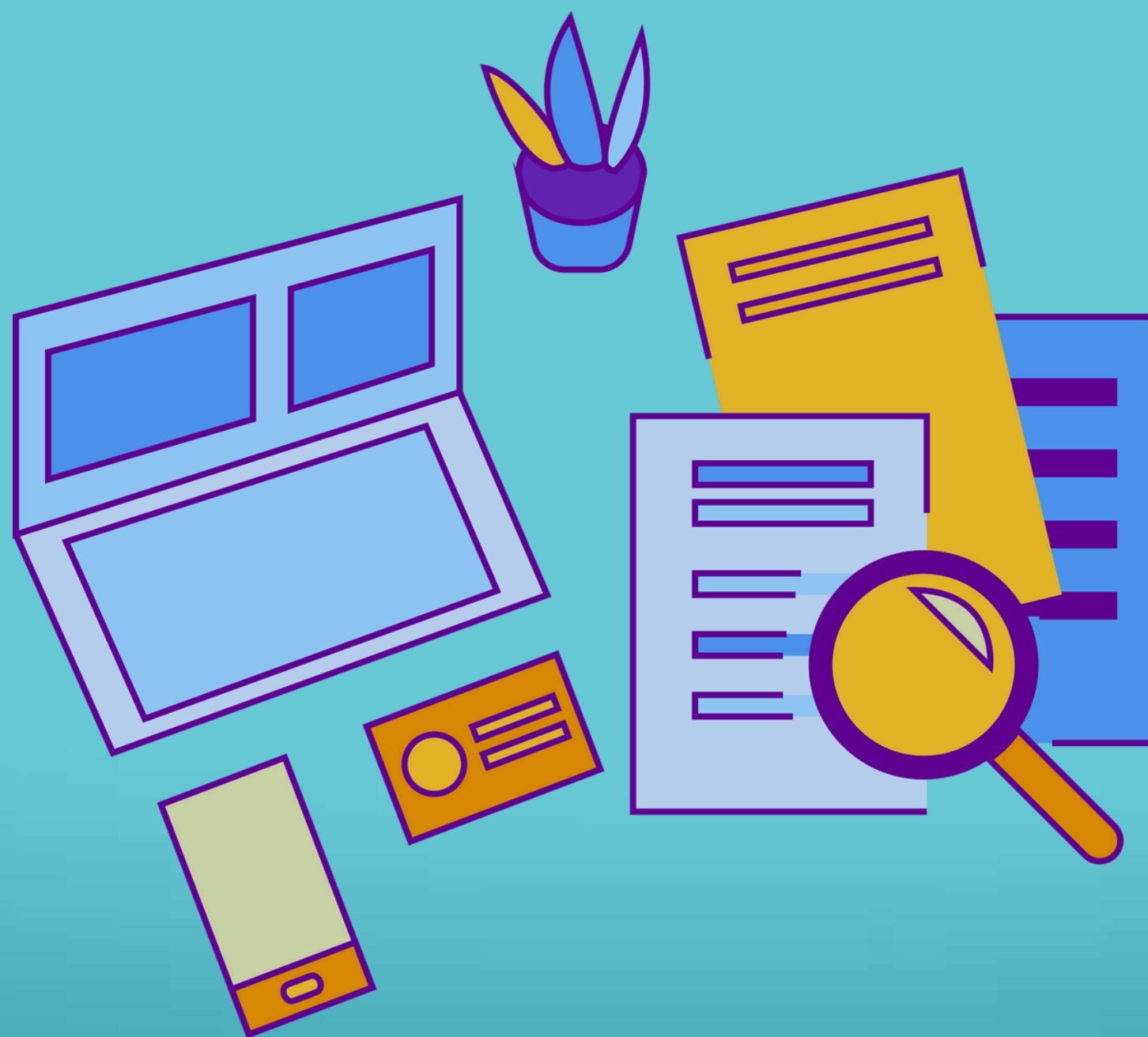
### Don'ts

- Think it's someone else's job
- Express shock or anger in what is being said to you
- Ask too many questions
- Make assumptions
- Put words in their mouth
- Make negative comments about the suspected abuser
- Make false promises including confidentiality
- Delay listening to the child or reporting your concern
- Carry out an investigation into the allegation



## Reporting a child protection concern

Each organisation will have their own reporting procedure for reporting a child protection concern, so please make yourself familiar with this and refer to each organisation's child protection policy.



### Useful links -

- <https://www.childprotection.scot/>
- <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/rights/uncrc/>
- <https://www.dundeeprotectschildren.co.uk/>
- In Dundee, if you have concerns about a child's welfare or safety, you can contact the Dundee Child Protection Line at 01382 307999 or report a concern online here: <https://www.dundeeprotectschildren.co.uk/report>

## Questions

1. What types of abuse are the 6 main types of abuse?

2. List three signs of abuse outlined in this document.

3. How would you report a concern to the Dundee Child Protection Team?

