

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you suspect that a child or young person is being abused, neglected, mistreated or in any danger you must take action.

Report your concern

Contact Walsall Children's Services MAST on 01922 658170

Out of Office hours: 0300 555 2922
or 0300 555 2836

In an emergency call the Police on 999

A Police Officer or Social worker will follow up every report where they think a child or young person may be at risk of harm.

They will talk with the child and with other people who know the child and may be able to provide more information. They may also wish to talk with you as the person reporting the concern.

Walsall Safeguarding Children Board

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is a shared responsibility and a high priority for Walsall agencies. It includes protecting children from abuse and neglect and ensuring that they grow up safely, having the best life chances to enter adulthood successfully.

Walsall Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Walsall.

For more information on Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB)

Visit our website at: www.wlscb.org.uk

Email us at: wscb@walsall.gov.uk

Or call the Safeguarding Board on: 01922 659520



Better Together for Children

**MULTI-AGENCY
THRESHOLD
GUIDANCE**

**IDENTIFYING NEED
AND ANALYSING RISK
WHEN WORKING
WITH CHILDREN
IN WALSALL**

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

Key Principles Underpinning our Practice:

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility:

We need to work closely together to ensure that children and families get the right help at the right time to achieve their full potential.

Information Sharing:

Never assume someone else has passed the information on.

A Child Centred Approach:

Hear the child's voice and ensure all your intervention is rooted in child development.

Intervene Early:

Promoting the resilience of all children and intervening early to tackle problems that emerge will help to make this happen.

Parental Consent:

We should always seek parental consent. However, where parents refuse to give consent you need to make a professional judgement about whether, without help, the needs of the child will increase.

Thresholds for Support

Children and young people have different needs and will need different types and levels of support to ensure that they meet their full potential both as children and later as adults.

There are four levels of intervention:

Level 1

Universal services

Level 2

Early Help through a single agency response to identified additional needs

Level 3

Early Help Additional support – a co-ordinated multiagency response to identified additional needs

Level 4

Statutory Intervention of Children's Social Care

However, as individuals, children rarely "fit" neatly into these categories; neither do their circumstances always change in predictable or sustained ways. We recognise that the needs of children and young people can fluctuate, moving or jumping across categories as life events take place. If you need advice about which threshold a child is currently at, contact **MAST on 01922 658170**.

Risk

One of our challenges when considering the needs of a child or young person is determining when a level of need may escalate, or has escalated, to the point where we consider that there may be a risk of significant harm to the well being of the child or young person.

Professionals need to adopt a "risk sensible" approach, one that encompasses "Healthy scepticism and respectful uncertainty".

To do this effectively, the needs of the child need to be assessed along with the protective factors in a child's life and their resilience in terms of the child/young person's development, their family and the environmental context.

All professionals will work within their own agency's policies and procedures and all agencies share the WSCB Safeguarding policies and procedures which can be accessed at www.wlscb.org.uk