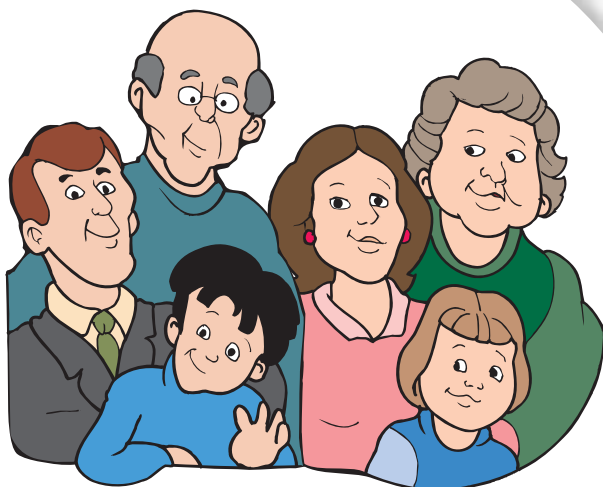




# Information for Parents about Child Protection Enquiries

Flintshire Safeguarding Children Board and  
Flintshire Social Services for Children.



## INFORMATION

The Flintshire Safeguarding Children Board and Flintshire County Council are committed to working in partnership with families to keep children safe from harm.

This leaflet is to help parents and carers to understand why Social Services make enquiries when it is alleged that a child is in danger or has suffered harm.

Children suffer harm from neglect, sexual abuse, physical harm and emotional abuse.

Children can be harmed both within their own family and by people in the wider community. The Children Act 1989 made it a duty of all local authority Social Services Departments to make enquiries, where they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child in their area is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, and to take any necessary action to safeguard their welfare.

## THE CHILD PROTECTION ENQUIRY

If you have been given a copy of this leaflet you will have seen a social worker and possibly a police officer due to concerns about your child.

In order to help protect your child, it is important that you are fully involved in any enquiry. You will need to be told exactly what the concerns are so that you are clearly informed and can co-operate with the agencies involved in the enquiry.

If there is anything you do not understand you must ask for it to be explained more fully. Every attempt will be made to make things clear.

The focus of the work of the investigation team will be the safeguarding of your child.

**The welfare of children will always come first.**

## RECORD CHECKS

The Social Services department will check all records and will talk to other people who may know the child. This could include a teacher, health visitor or other professional who has contact with the child.

This may seem intrusive, but it is necessary to talk to people who know your child because important decisions about their welfare and safety will need to be made.

## STRATEGY MEETING

Once the social worker and police officer (if one is involved) have completed their initial enquiry they will meet with their manager and other professionals who know your family. The purpose of the meeting is to share information and decide what further action is necessary.

It is then decided if and how the enquiry will proceed.

The meeting will also decide:

- 1 Who will be seen and by whom
- 1 When and how the children will be seen
- 1 Whether there is a need to clarify or obtain other information
- 1 Whether a medical diagnosis or examination of the child is necessary

You will be talked to following the strategy meeting and you may be asked to give your consent for your child to be talked to.

Only on rare occasions would action be taken or children seen without the knowledge of their parents or carers. This action would only be taken if it were seen to be in the child's best interest, in which case strict procedures would be followed.

## VISITING THE PARENTS

A social worker will then visit your home to see you and your child. Often this visit will be done with a specially trained police officer. You will be told the concerns and you will be asked for your views about the allegations. It will also usually be necessary for the social worker to see the child on their own.

If the enquiries are about allegations of serious harm you will be asked permission for your child to be interviewed by police and a social worker together at a special interview room where the interview can be video taped. This is to prevent the child having to retell his/her experience. You will be able to accompany your child unless the allegation is against you.

Sometimes an older child can agree to an interview themselves.

The social worker or police officer would talk to you about the most suitable way to interview your child.

## **MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS**

If information suggests that your child has been physically harmed you may be asked for permission to have your child seen by a paediatrician (a doctor who specialises in the medical care and treatment of children).

The paediatrician is also experienced in the diagnosis of the cause of injuries and can help to understand the possible causes. Any child over 16 can give consent to an examination. A child younger than 16 can consent if it is felt that he/she understands what this means. You will be asked for

consent; if this is refused, legal advice may be sought by the social services manager, to find a way forward.

A medical will only be arranged if the social worker feels that it is necessary:

- 1 To assess the child's general health and development
- 1 To diagnose any injury or illness present
- 1 To make recommendations for any treatment required
- 1 To provide a medical assessment to assist in further decision making
- 1 To put the child's mind at rest if they are worried

## **CASES OF NEGLECT**

Where the allegation is of neglect the social worker will ask to see your house and this will include the kitchen, bathroom and sleeping accommodation.

## **DO PARENTS HAVE TO AGREE?**

The social worker may call without an appointment. They will always carry an identity card which you should make sure you see. We always aim to work with parents and to seek agreement at each stage of the enquiry. However, if parents refuse to give their consent, the local authority may apply to the court for an order to be made which allows the enquiry to continue.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

If the social worker and police officer are satisfied that the child is safe and that the allegation is unfounded, then they will tell you this. You will receive a letter from the Social Work Team Manager to confirm that the matter will go no further.

In some cases it will be necessary to arrange a meeting called a Child Protection Case Conference. The social worker is able to give you a leaflet which will explain this meeting in more detail.

## **CAN THE SOCIAL WORKER TAKE MY CHILD AWAY?**

Understandably parents are often worried that the social worker will remove the child, this cannot happen without your agreement, or by obtaining a court order. In the majority of cases children remain in their families and it is the duty of the Social Services Department to promote the upbringing of children within their families wherever possible.

However, if the social worker believes that your child is in immediate danger and cannot be protected at home they may seek legal powers to remove the child temporarily from your care.

## **IF YOU ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE SERVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED**

Several agencies are involved with child protection including Police, Health, Education and Safeguarding and Specialist Services.

If you wish to complain about the behaviour or attitude of a particular officer, it is important that you discuss your concerns with the agency which employs that person.

Some decisions are the responsibility of more than one agency, for example, at a child protection conference, several agencies may agree to make a Child Protection Plan in order to keep your child safe.

**WHAT SHOULD PARENTS DO IF THEY HAVE A COMPLAINT OR WANT ADVICE?**

You can discuss the matter with the relevant Team Manager whose name is at the end of this booklet. If you are not satisfied with their response you can make a formal complaint by contacting the Complaints Officer at County Hall. **Tel: 01352 702570**

If you want some independent advice you can contact your local Citizen’s Advice Bureau, a local solicitor specialising in Child Care Matters, or the following national organisation:

**THE FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP**

**Second Floor, The Print House, 18 Aswin Street, LONDON E8 3DL**

Advice Line: **0808 801 0366**, (Mon – Fri 10am – 3.30pm)

Email: **email@advice@frg.org.uk**

Social worker who called today is name is: .....

The contact number is: .....

Team Manager’s Name: .....

Contact Number: .....

**PLEASE TELL THE SOCIAL WORKER YOUR LANGUAGE OF CHOICE SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS THE NEED FOR AN INTERPRETER.**

Social Worker’s Name: .....

Contact Number: .....

Enw'r Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol .....  
Rhif ffôn .....

## DYMEDWCH WRTH Y GWEITHIWR CYMDEITHASOL PA IAITH YR HOFFECH EI DEFNYDDIO ER MWYN I NI DRAFOD A OES ANGEN CYFIEITHYDD.

Enw'r Rheolwr Tîm: .....  
Rhif ffôn: .....  
Y rhif ffôn yw: .....  
Enw'r gweithiwr cymdeithasol a alwodd heddiw: .....

Ebost: [email@advice@frg.org.uk](mailto:email@advice@frg.org.uk)  
Llinell Gyngor: **0808 801 0366**, (Llun - Gwe 10am – 3.30pm)  
**Second Floor, The Print House, 18 Aswin Street, LONDON E8 3DL**  
**THE FAMILY RIGHTS GROUP**

Os hoffech gyngor annibynnol, gallwch hefyd gysylltu â Chyngor ar Bopeth,  
cyfreithiwr lleol sy'n arbenigo mewn Materion Gofal Plant, neu â'r corff  
cenedlaethol a ganlyn:

**Ffôn: 01352 702570**

Gallwch drafod y mater â'r Rheolwr Tîm perthnasol. Mae ei enw ar ddiwedd  
y llyfryn hwn. Os nad ydych yn fodlon â'r ymateb a gewch, gallwch wneud  
cwyn ffurfiol drwy ffonio'r Swyddog Cwynion yn Neuadd y Sir.

## SUT I WNEUD CWYN NEU OFFN AM GYNGOR ?

Os hoffech gwyno am ymddygiad neu agwedd swyddog penodol, mae'n  
bwysig eich bod yn trafod eich pryderon â'r asiantaeth sy'n cyflogi'r person  
hwnnw .  
Weithiau, mae gwahanol asiantaethau'n rhannu cyfrifoldeb dros  
benderfyniad e.e. mewn cynhadledd amddiffyn plentyn, gall nifer o  
asiantaethau gytuno i baratoi Cynllun Amddiffyn Plentyn er mwyn cadw'ch  
plentyn yn ddiogel.

Mae nifer o asiantaethau ynghlwm wrth y broses amddiffyn plant gan gynnwys yr heddlu, gwasanaethau iechyd, addysg, diogelu a gwasanaethau arbenigol.

## OS NAD YDYCH YN HAPUS GYDA'R GWASANAETH A GAWSOCH

Mae rhieni, wrth gwrs, yn aml yn poeni y bydd y gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn cymryd y plentyn o'r cartref. Ni all hyn ddigwydd heb eich caniatâd chi neu heb orchymyn llys. Yn y rhan fwyaf o achosion, bydd plant yn aros gyda'u teuluoedd a dyletswydd yr Adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yw ceisio cadw plant gyda'u teuluoedd pan fo hynny'n bosibl. Ond, os yw'r gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn credu bod eich plentyn mewn perygl uniongyrchol, ac nad oes modd ei ddioegelu yn y cartref, mae'n bosibl y byddant yn gofyn am bwerau cyfreithiol i'w symud o'ch gofal dros dro.

## ALL Y GWEITHIWR CYMDEITHASOL FYND A'M PLENTYN ODDI ARNAF?

Os yw'r gweithiwr cymdeithasol a swyddog yr heddlu'n fodion bod y plentyn yn ddiogel ac nad oes sail i'r honiadau, yna byddant yn dweud wrthyh. Cewch lythyr gan Reolwr y Tîm Gwaith Cymdeithasol yn cadarnhau na fydd y mater yn mynd ymhellach. Weithiau, bydd angen trefnu cyfarfod o'r enw Cynhadled Achos Amddiffyn Plant. Gall y gweithiwr cymdeithasol roi taflen i chi sy'n egluro'r cyfarfod yn fanylach.

## BETH SY'N DIGWYDD NESAF?

Mae'n bosibl y bydd y gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn galw heb apwyntiad. Bydd bob amser yn cario cerdyn adnabod a dylech wneud yn siŵr eich bod yn gweld hwn. Rydym bob amser yn ceisio gweithio gyda rhieni a'u cael i gyfuno ar bob cam o'r ymchwiliad. Fodd bynnag, os yw rhieni'n gwrthod rhoi caniatâd, gall yr awdurdod lleol wneud cais am orchymyn llys i ganiatâu i'r ymchwiliad barhau.

## TOES RAID I RIENI GYTUNO?



Os bydd yr honiadau'n ymwneud ag esgeulustod, bydd y gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn gofyn am gael gweld eich tŷ a bydd hyn yn cynnwys y geglin, yr ystafell ymolchi a'r lloffttydd.

## ACHOSION O ESGEULUSTOD

Ni fydd archwiliad meddygol yn cael ei gynnal oni bai bod y gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn teimlo bod hynny'n angenrheidiol i:

- 1 asesu iechyd a datblygiad cyffredinol y plentyn
- 1 gweld a oes gan y plentyn anat neu salwch
- 1 gwnedud argymhellion ar gyfer unrhyw driniaeth posibl
- 1 cael asesiad meddygol a all helpu gyda phenderfyniadau eraill
- 1 tawelu unrhyw bryderon sydd gan y plentyn

Os yw gwymbodaeth yn awgrymu bod eich plentyn wedi cael ei niweidio'n gorfforol, mae'n bosibl y bydd angen i chi roi'ch caniatâd i baediatregydd (meddyg sy'n arbenigo mewn gofal a thriniaeth feddygol i blant) weld eich plentyn. Bydd gan y paediatregydd hefyd brofiad mewn darganfod rhesymau posibl dros anafiadau a gall ein helpu ni i ddeall y rhesymau hyn. Gall unrhyw blentyn dros 16 oed gytuno i gael archwiliad. Gall plentyn iau nag 16 oed roi caniatâd os credwn ei fod yn deall beth mae hyn yn ei olygu. Bydd angen i chi roi caniatâd, os na fyddwch yn fodlon gwned hynny, bydd rheolwr y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn gofyn am gyngor cyfreithiol cyn penderfynu ar y ffordd ymlaen.

## ARCHWILIADAU MEDDYGOL

Bydd y gweithiwr cymdeithasol neu swyddog yr heddlu'n siarad â chi am y ffordd fwyaf addas o gyfweld eich plentyn.

Welthiau caiff plentyn hyn gytuno i gael ei holi ei hun.

Cewch fynd gyda'r plentyn oni bai bod yr honiadau'n ymwneud â chi. fideo. Bydd hyn yn digwydd i arbed i'r plentyn ortod allardodd ei brofiadau. mewn ystafell gyfweld arbenig lle bydd modd recordio'r cyfweliad ar dâp caniatâd i swyddog yr heddlu a gweithiwr cymdeithasol gyfweld eich plentyn

Os yw'r honiadau'n ymwneud â niwed difrifol, byddwn yn gofyn i chi roi

Yna, bydd gweithiwr cymdeithasol yn ymweld â'ch cartref i'ch gweld chi a'ch plentyn. Yn aml iawn, bydd swyddog yr heddlu, sydd wedi cael hyfforddiant arbenig, yn dod hefyd. Byddant yn dweud wrthyb beth yw'r pryduron a chewch chi gyflle i roi sylwadau ar yr honiadau. Fel arfer, bydd angen i'r gweithiwr cymdeithasol weld y plentyn ar ei ben ei hun hefyd.

## YMWELD A'R RHINIEN

Anaml iawn y byddwn yn cymryd camau neu'n gweld plentyn heb ganiatâd y rhieni neu'r gofaliwr. Ni fydd hyn yn digwydd oni bai bod hynny er lles y plentyn, ac yn yr achosion hyn, byddwn yn dilyn gweithdrefnau caeth. Ar ôl y cyfarfod strategaeth byddwn yn siarad â chi ac mae'n bosibl y byddwn yn gofyn i chi roi caniatâd i ni siarad â'ch plentyn.

- 1 Pwy fydd yn cael ei weld a gan bwy
- 1 Pryd a sut y bydd y plant yn cael eu gweld
- 1 Oes angen cael rhagor o wybodaeth
- 1 Oes angen diagnosis neu archwiliad meddygol ar y plentyn

Pan fydd y gweithiwr cymdeithasol a swyddog yr heddlu (os bydd yn rhan o'r ymchwiliad) wedi cwblhau eu hymchwiliad cychwynnol, byddant yn cyfarfod â'u rheolwr a gweithwyr profesiynol eraill sy'n adnabod eich teulu. Fwpa y cyfarfod hwn fydd rhannu gwybodaeth a phenderfynu ar y camau eraill y bydd angen eu cymryd. Yna byddwn yn phenderfynu a oes angen parhau â'r ymchwiliad ac, os felly, sut. Bydd y cyfarfod hefyd yn phenderfynu:

## CYFARFOD STRATEGAETH

Bydd yr Adran Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn archwilio unrhyw gofnodion ac yn siarad â phobl sy'n adnabod y plentyn. Gallai'r rhain gynnwys athrawon, gweithwyr iechyd neu weithwyr profesiynol eraill sydd â chysylltiad â'r plentyn. Efallai y byddwch yn teimlo'n bod yn ymyrryd gormod, ond mae'n rhaid i ni siarad â phobl sy'n adnabod eich plentyn gan y bydd yn rhaid gwneud penderfyniadau pwysig am ei les a'i ddiogelwch.

## ARCHWILIO COFNODION

## GWYBODAETH

Mae Bwrdd Diogelu Plant Sir y Fflint a Chyngor Sir y Fflint wedi ymrwymo i weithio mewn partneriaeth â theuluoedd i gadw plant yn ddiogel rhag niwed.

Tafien yw hon i helpu rhieni a gofaliwyr i ddeall pam mae'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn gwneud cynnal ymchwilad pan geir honiadau bod plentyn mewn perygl neu wedi cael niwed.

Caiff plant eu niweidio os cânt eu hesgeuluso, eu cam-drin yn rhywiol, eu hantw'n gorfforol neu eu cam-drin yn emosïynol. Mae modd i blant gael eu niweidio gan eu teuluoedd eu hunain neu gan bobl yn y gymuned ehangach. Mae Deddf Plant 1989 yn rhoi dyletswydd ar holl Adrannau Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol awdurdodau lleol i gynnal ymchwilad os oes ganddynt achos rhesymol dros amau bod plentyn yn eu hardaloedd yn dioddef niwed sylweddol, ac i gymryd unrhyw gamau angenrheidiol i ddiogelu eu lles.

## YR YMCHWILIAD AMDIFFYFN PLANT

Os ydych chi wedi cael copi o'r datfen hon byddwch wedi gweld gweithiwr cymdeithasol ac un o swyddogion yr heddlu, o bosibl, oherwydd pryderon am eich plentyn.

Er mwyn helpu i ddiogelu'ch plentyn, mae'n bwysig eich bod yn rhan iawn o unrhyw ymchwilad. Bydd angen i chi wybod beth yn union yw'r pryderon hyn er mwyn i chi fedru cydweithredu â'r asiantaethau a fydd yn rhan o'r ymchwilad.

Os oes unrhyw beth nad ydych yn ei ddeall, rhaid i chi ofyn am eglurhad llawnach. Bydd pawb yn gwneud bob ymdrech i wneud pethau'n glir. Bydd gwaith y tîm ymchwilio'n canolbwyntio ar ddiogelu'ch plentyn.

## Lles y plentyn fydd yn dod gyntaf bob amser.



Bwrdd Diogelu Plant Sir y Fflint a Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol Plant Sir y Fflint.

# Gwybodaeth i Rieni am Ymchwilad Diogelu Plant

