

Further Information and Support:

Cumberland Safeguarding Hub
0333 240 1727

**Westmorland and Furness
Safeguarding Hub** 0300 373 2724

**National Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children
(NSPCC)**
0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

Family Rights Group
0808 801 0366
www.frg.org.uk



**Cumbria Safeguarding
Children Partnership**

**Bruising in babies
and children
who are not
independently
mobile**



**Information
for parents**



You have been given this leaflet because you or someone who supports you or your child is concerned because they have seen a mark that looks like a bruise and/or that does not have a clear explanation.

Any professional who comes across a mark like this is required to follow the same process that has been agreed to try to make sure all children are kept safe.

Your baby will be referred to children's Social Care who will work with a specialist children's doctor (Consultant Paediatrician) to decide what further steps, if any, need to be taken.

Why are we concerned about this mark?

Babies who are not yet crawling, cruising or walking rarely get bruises. It is very unusual for babies to get a bruise during everyday activities such as nappy changes, bathing or feeding. Even when babies are knocked or fall it is unusual for them to get a bruise.

Sometimes even when a baby is able to cruise or walk by themselves a professional maybe concerned.

Accidents do happen and you may feel that you are able to explain why your baby has a bruise or mark. However they will still need to be carefully assessed.

It can take an opinion from a consultant paediatrician (specialist children's doctor) to be able to tell the difference between bruises and other types of mark.

Bruising can be linked to an illness that has not been spotted before. It is important to find this so it can be treated.

Sometimes bruising in babies and is due to a deliberate injury.

We check all bruises and marks to try to make sure all children are safe and get the treatment they need.

What will happen now?

A full examination by a Consultant Paediatrician on Children's Ward. This will happen as soon as possible, normally on the same day as the mark is seen. The doctor may ask for x-rays, blood tests, scans or other tests. Your baby may have to stay in hospital overnight until these are done so you may want to bring (or ask someone to bring) some things for an overnight stay.

There may be a meeting led by Children's Services. This discussion will involve getting information from other agencies who work with you and your family—e.g. GP, nursery, school (for your older children). The police will attend this meeting.

If you are not sure what is happening or do not understand, please ask. It can be a frightening time for you and that makes it more difficult to understand things. Sometimes people think they have explained what is happening but they have not been clear enough. Everyone wants your baby to be safe and are busy doing things to make sure this happens but it is still ok for you to ask them to explain again and again until you understand.