

Flowchart for unusual injury, bruise, suspicious mark, unexplained pain or reduced movement of limb

Practitioner observes an unusual injury, bruise, mark or unexplained pain or reduced movement of limb.
Consider safeguarding processes as per SET Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures.

If the infant/child is seriously ill and requires emergency treatment call 999 and request ambulance and police attendance if appropriate. Call Children Social Care.

If unexplained pain or reduced movement child should be taken to A&E and acute safeguarding process at hospital followed. If you have concerns child may not be taken follow organisational policy.

For bruising if child is well, seek an explanation and record accurately. This should include family history, details of parents/carers and siblings, any disclosure and other relevant information from child.

Speak to Safeguarding lead within organisation. If unsure contact the Children & Families hub (Essex)/ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (Thurrock) or Children Single Point of Contact (Southend).

Do you have access to a health professional who can review with the appropriate expertise to assess the nature and presentation of the suspicious injury, and to appraise the circumstances of the presentation including the developmental stage of the child.

YES

Is there any evidence of a medical condition that could have caused or contributed to the bruising, or a plausible explanation.

NO

YES

Bruising/mark/injury is explained and there are no further safeguarding concerns.

Record information including practitioner that has made this decision and feedback to parents/carers.

No significant safeguarding concerns identified. Consider Early Help offer.

Explain to parents/carers the reason for an immediate request for support to Children Social Care. If child is at risk of immediate significant harm consider calling the priority or consultation line (page14).

Likelihood of Non-Accidental Injury

Strategy meeting to consider any other information on the child and family and any known risks, and to jointly decide whether any further assessment, investigation or action is needed to support the family or protect the child.

Child and Family Assessment

Section 47 investigation commenced. Child Protection Medical requested

See Appendix 2 for Paediatrician hospital contact details.