

Request for a Medical Examination due to concerns about Neglect.

Policy aims-

To assist Children's Social Care and Sheffield Children's Hospital to arrange medical examinations of children when there are concerns regarding neglect of their health or developmental needs, including in situations where there is domestic violence or parental learning difficulty.

This examination forms part of the Assessment Framework to look at a child's developmental needs.

Working Together 2013-

Children may require medical examination as part of section 17 or section 47 enquiries. The health needs of a child should be considered in the initial strategy discussion when planning a joint investigation due to safeguarding concerns.

The timeliness of assessment is a critical element of the quality of the assessment and the outcomes for the child.

It is important to consider that the outcomes from a medical examination may help to inform the management plan for the child and family before case conference or court proceedings.

The Child Assessment Unit (CAU) Multi-disciplinary team at Sheffield Children's Hospital can offer

- Comprehensive medical assessment of a child's current state of health and any unmet health needs. This may lead to the early identification of any additional needs.
- Initial developmental assessment where appropriate, followed by more in-depth assessment using specialised tools as required.
- Follow up to document any improvements in development and health following interventions.
- Identification of factors that may be contributing to developmental difficulties, physical, genetic and or social and investigation and referral as appropriate.
- Referral to our team clinical psychologist where behavioural and emotional issues are identified.
- Attachment and trauma assessments where appropriate

Referrals

Accepted from Social Workers by phone or in writing.

Tel - 0114 2267803 9-5pm Monday to Friday

Fax – 0114 2267865

**Child Assessment Administrator,
Sheffield Children's Hospital,
Western Bank,**

Sheffield, S10 2TH

Urgent referrals – We aim to see routine referrals within 2 weeks. If however you feel that the referral is urgent ie, if children are being removed from their family into alternative care, children under 2 years, or concern re ill health / physical injury then please ring to discuss.

Out of hours – If you feel a child requires urgent assessment then please contact the Medical Registrar on-call via the hospital switchboard.

0114 2717000

Pre- Assessment Planning

- Please ensure that the child is accompanied by a parent / carer who can give information on the child's current and previous health and development.
- **Consent** will be required from a person with parental responsibility. If it is not possible for them to attend then please bring signed consent and their contact phone number so that the examining doctor can ring to explain the process, clarify details and obtain verbal consent.
- It is ideal if the accompanying social worker knows the child and family. They can then communicate the particular concerns regarding the child's health and development that need addressing.
- Please share previous social care assessments / case conference reports with the examining doctor. Ideally by secure E mail cau.sch@nhs.net Or Fax 0114 2267865, prior to the medical assessment. This helps us to ensure that the specific concerns of the local authority are addressed.
- Please let us know in advance of any requirements for an interpreter.

Assessment

A thorough paediatric assessment is likely to take approx 2 hours. Siblings may need to be seen in small groups, but can sometimes be seen all together.

We have excellent play facilities to keep children amused and can provide drinks and snacks.

Attending an appointment in the CAU will ensure that you are seen by a senior doctor and should avoid long waits in the Emergency Dept.

Post Assessment

The examining doctor will communicate their initial conclusion to the attending social worker and produce a written report within a week. This report will be shared with other agencies as appropriate.

We can refer on to other health services as required. Any X rays, blood tests etc can be arranged during the assessment.

Follow-up appointments to monitor progress may be required and can be arranged in the CAU.

Formal assessment of development in the under 5 year olds will require a further appointment with the nurse specialists.

Please communicate the date/time of planned case conference asap to the CAU. We will do our best to attend.

Feedback from Social Care

Please let us know the outcome of the assessment process. Contact details as above.

Audit

CAU audit programme to include attendance for neglect medicals – policy as above.

Date – April 2014

Review –

Responsibility for review – Dr Anna Ramsbottom. Sheffield Child Assessment Unit.