



## **Safeguarding against bruising in children that are not independently mobile policy**

In line with Surrey Safeguarding our immediate response is as follows:

Any child that is found to be ill or seriously injured, or in need of urgent treatment, will be referred immediately to hospital before referral to Children's Services. All other cases will be referred to Children's services. Although it is rare, bruising is occasionally caused by deliberate injury. It is important that, where this occurs, it is picked up as soon as possible in order to support the family and protect the child.

- Referral to the Children's Services is not an accusation of wrong doing as bruising can be a sign of a health condition, even when bruising occurs due to falls or knocks the family may benefit from advice on accident prevention and safety within the home. Occasionally bruising may be due to deliberate injury. Even when explanations are given it is important for professionals to make further enquires.
- Bruising in a child not independently mobile including any child under 6 months old or children with significant disabilities resulting in immobility, should raise suspicion of mal treatment and will result in an immediate referral to Child Services.
- In all instances a written record will be kept along with a body map diagram showing areas of injury. These records will be signed, timed and dated.

### **Making a referral**

If we believe a child in our care has been, or is being abused, or neglected we will discuss this with the manager and then the chair(s) of the committee.

- We will contact MASH on 03004709100 (Opening hours 8am till 6pm EDT 5pm – 9am) or the police on 101 for any referral via the telephone. For medical advice contact Community Paediatric Team Surrey Community Health (9am-5pm 01737 768511). This will be followed up within 48 hours using the appropriate inter agency referral form.
- Social Care and Police will follow the SSCB (Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board) procedures when making a referral to the local Paediatric Teams for medical examination (managing individual cases).

What happens next:

Relevant information will be obtained from health visitor, GP, hospital records, social services and Pre-School. This will assist in making an informed decision.

A full clinical examination of the whole body of the child will be undertaken. This could include a clotting screen to exclude possible medical causes.

Results will be discussed between all professionals, to decide if any further action is to be taken or treatment given.



This policy has been adopted by Tandridge Village Pre-School Committee.

Signed on behalf of the Pre-School:

Date

This policy will be reviewed: Autumn 2020

(Unless there is a change in legislation or with direct guidance from an educational body)

Staff Signatures:

Date: