

Q: What will Children's Social Care and the Health Specialist do?

A: Children's Social Care and the Health Professionals will check whether you have received services from them in the past, ask for information from your GP and your Health Visitor and will make arrangements to speak to you either by phone or in person. This may be at the same time as your attendance with the doctor or at a separate appointment and they may want to visit you at home. They will then discuss their findings with the specialist doctor for children who examined your child to decide together whether any further steps need to be taken or any treatment given.

Q: All of this is very upsetting. I feel as though I am being accused of hurting my child. Why do I have to be put through this?

A: We know this can be very upsetting but the only way of picking up serious causes for bruising or injuries is to investigate every case where it occurs. However, you can be reassured that you will be treated with courtesy and sensitivity and your explanations will be listened to and discussed with you. You will also be kept informed at all times so that you know what is going on and why. You can ask questions at any time and will be given the opportunity to discuss your concerns fully at every stage.

**SAFEGUARDING
♦
CHILDREN
♦
TOGETHER**



Please contact
Wigan Safeguarding Children Board

If you would like to discuss
this further

Tel: 01942 486025
www.wigan.gov.uk/WSCB/index.aspx

[March 2017]

What's Happening?

**Information for
Parents & Carers
about Bruising and
Injuries in
Non-Mobile
Children**



**Safeguarding
Children
Together**

You have been given this leaflet because someone who supports you or your family has come across a bruise on your child, or symptoms of a possible injury.

Any professional who comes across bruising or possible signs of an injury in a child who is not able to move on their own (non-independently mobile or immobile) are required to refer the child to a specialist doctor for children (Paediatrician).

Immobile children are not yet crawling, cruising or walking independently or are older children who are not mobile because of a disability.

The child is also referred to Children's Social Care, who will work with the specialist doctor for children to decide what further steps, if any, need to be taken.

Q: Why do non-mobile children with a bruise or possible injury need to see a specialist doctor?

A: It is rare for children who are not able to move around by themselves to have a bruise or become injured. A bruise or symptoms of an injury can be a sign of a health condition, a blood disease or an infection. This means it is important that a specialist doctor for children looks at your child and discusses with you why there might be a bruise or injury.



Q: Why is bruising or injury in non-mobile children such a concern?

A: It is difficult to cause bruising or injury in immobile children with day-to-day activities such as feeding, nappy changing and normal handling. Even where babies fall or get knocked it is unusual for them to bruise (unlike children who are crawling or walking who often get bruises). However, there are also some important causes of bruising which may seriously affect a child's health. A child may bruise easily, for example due to haemophilia, or be suffering from a blood disease such as leukaemia or an infection such as meningitis. Very occasionally bruising may be due to deliberate injury. Even where there is an apparent simple explanation it is important to rule out these more serious conditions. It also sometimes takes an expert to tell the difference between a bruise and certain type of birthmark.

Q: I understand the reason for seeing a child specialist doctor but why do I need to be referred to Children's Social Care?

A: Although rare, bruising is occasionally caused by deliberate harm. 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 Children's Social Care is not an accusation of wrong doing, but a way of looking for causes of bruising and injury in the same way that the doctor looks for them.



Q: What will happen next?

A: Either a Health Professional, or a member of Children's Social Care, will contact you to talk to you about your child and what will happen next.

- Arrangements will be made to have an appointment as soon as possible, preferably straight away, with a specialist doctor for children.
- The doctor will talk to you about your child, examine your child fully and decide whether or not to do further investigations such as blood tests or x-rays and decide whether your child needs any further treatment.
- The doctor will then talk to Children's Social Care.