

Medical Examination in Cases of Suspected Child Abuse

Procedure to be followed after a strategy discussion to include social care, police and health

Derby City and Southern Derbyshire

	8.30am – 4pm Mon- Fri	4pm-8pm Mon- Fri* 8am – 8pm Weekends*
Concern about Sexual Abuse	Examinations by the on call Consultant Community Paediatrician can be arranged by calling the Safeguarding Children Unit at Kingsway House on 01332 623730	Examinations by the on call Consultant Community Paediatrician can be arranged directly or by calling the Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on 01332 623700
	* Referrals will not be accepted outside of these hours unless specifically agreed with the on-call consultant. See also points 1 and 2 below.	
Concern about Non Accidental Injury	8.30am – 4pm Mon- Fri	All other times if felt to be urgent (please see Procedures)
Children 18 months and older	Where the child does not require immediate medical attention examination by the Community Paediatric team can be arranged by calling the Safeguarding Children Unit at Kingsway House on 01332 623730	Examinations by the on call Paediatric Registrar can be arranged by calling the Royal Derby Hospital on 01332 340131 and asking switchboard to page the registrar
Children under 18 months	Examinations by the on call Hospital Paediatric Registrar can be arranged by calling Royal Derby Hospital on 01332 340 131 and ask the switchboard to page the on-call registrar	
Non-urgent concern about Significant Neglect	Most cases should be referred in writing to the local community paediatrician, and will be seen within 4 weeks. Please see notes below for information to be included with the referral.	
Urgent concern about Neglect	In urgent cases of severe neglect, a telephone discussion should be had with the on call community paediatrician to determine the timing of the medical. On rare occasions children are considered to be at immediate risk through severe neglect, and Police or Social Care consider that urgent steps may be needed to safeguard the children. The timing of the medical assessment should reflect the need for medical evidence to inform this decision or be used in court proceedings, and will normally be within 24 hours.	

1. Medical cover out of hours is for emergencies only and medicals which take place outside 9am to 4pm should only be requested where there is urgent concern regarding the health of the child, or where arrangements to safeguard the child cannot be made without medical advice or opinion.
2. Every effort will be made on the part of medical staff to avoid delay, but there are circumstances when urgent clinical work has to take priority over a child protection medical and delay is unavoidable. This may occur at any time, but is particularly the case out of hours.
3. When referring for a non-urgent medical assessment for neglect, a written referral should be sent to the local community paediatrician, including background health and social situation, parental background and health, the nature of any specific health concerns and any specific questions that need to be answered. The letter should clearly state that the medical is required for assessment of neglect and what is the current level of social care involvement.

Version Control

This document replaces all other previous published versions and should be read in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures					
Version	Author/s	Updated by	Signed off by	Date	Review Date
1.	Consultant Paediatrician and Designated Doctor for Derby City	-	DSCB Policy and Procedures Group	April 2017	April 2020