



Safeguarding Policy

Safe Haven Accommodation (SHA) believes in providing a supportive, positive and safe environment to all the young people who receive our services. We recognise that looked after young people are particularly vulnerable and are under the care of the local authority because:

- The young person is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm; and
- The harm, or likelihood of harm, is attributable to a lack of adequate parental care or control

Our aims are to protect and promote the welfare of all our service users and any other young people we may come into contact with through our work.

We acknowledge that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and for services to be effective, each individual staff member should play their full part.

We know that:

- there are some people who purposefully set out to harm young people
- there are other people who do not maliciously set out to harm young people but through their own choices and behaviour pose a risk of harm to young people
- perpetrators come in many forms and ages and there is no stereotypical type of a perpetrator

In order to be able to fulfil our duty to safeguard children and young people, this policy aims to provide every staff member with the information they need to ensure that every staff member:

1. understands what safeguarding means
2. knows what their duties and responsibilities are
3. has clear guidance on what action to take if and when a safeguarding concern arises

1. Safeguarding

1.1 What does 'safeguarding' mean?

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Protecting young people from abuse;
- Preventing destruction of young people's health or development;

- Ensuring that young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective support; and
- Taking action to enable all young people to have the best outcomes.

1.2 What does 'child protection' mean?

Child protection is the process of protecting individual children identified as either suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect. It involves measures and structures designed to prevent and respond to abuse and neglect.

1.3 What is the difference between safeguarding and child protection?

Safeguarding, and promoting the welfare of children, is a broader term than child protection. It encompasses protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, and ensures children grow up in safe circumstances.

Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

1.4 What is abuse and how can it occur?

Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, or psychological mistreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or other caregiver, though it can come from other people who have some form of relationship with a child. It may include any act or failure to act by a parent or other caregiver that results in actual or potential harm to a child. Child abuse can occur in a child's home, or in the organisations, schools or communities the child interacts with.

1.41 Child Trafficking

- Child trafficking and modern slavery are child abuse.
- Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.
- Children are trafficked for:
 - child sexual exploitation
 - benefit fraud
 - forced marriage
 - domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
 - forced labour in factories or agriculture
 - criminal activity such as pick pocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs, bag theft.
- Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another.

1.42 Child Sexual Exploitation

- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.
- Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online.
- Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

- Child sexual exploitation is a hidden crime. Young people often trust their abuser and do not understand that they are being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what is happening.
- It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults, including oral and anal rape. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online.
- When sexual exploitation happens online, young people may be persuaded, or forced, to:
 - send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
 - take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smart phone
 - have sexual conversations by text or online.
- Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity.
- Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped.

1.43 Emotional Abuse

- Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a young person such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the young person's emotional development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a young person, though it may occur alone. Emotional abuse may involve:
 - Conveying to young people that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person;
 - Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on young people. These may include interactions that are beyond the young people's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the young person participating in normal social interaction;
 - Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another e.g. where there is domestic violence and abuse;
 - Serious bullying, causing young people frequently to feel frightened or in danger;
 - Exploiting and corrupting young people

1.44 Financial Abuse

- Financial abuse consists of actions that force a victim to be financially dependent on the abuser
- In this form of abuse, the abuser cuts off the victim's access to money and financial information, often by stealing money from the victim, withholding money or credit cards, preventing the victim from holding a job, controlling bank accounts or refusing to account for the spending of the family money
- Financial abuse particularly affects the elderly, who are often abused by unscrupulous relatives

1.45 Neglect

- Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the young person's health or development.

- Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties or a cluster of such issues. Where there is domestic abuse and violence towards a carer, the needs of the young person may be neglected.
- Neglectful acts can be divided into six sub-categories:
 1. Supervisory Neglect: characterised by the absence of a parent or guardian which can lead to physical harm, sexual abuse or criminal behaviour;
 2. Physical Neglect: characterised by the failure to provide the basic physical necessities, such as a safe and clean home;
 3. Medical Neglect: characterised by the lack of providing medical care;
 4. Emotional Neglect: characterised by a lack of nurturance, encouragement and support;
 5. Educational Neglect: characterised by the caregivers lack to provide an education and additional resources to actively participate in the school system; and
 6. Abandonment: when the parent or guardian leaves a child alone for a long period of time without a babysitter.

1.46 Physical Abuse

- Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a young person
- Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a young person

1.47 Sexual Abuse

- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the young person is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.
- Sexual abuse includes non-contact activities, such as involving young people in looking at, including online and with mobile phones, or in the production of, pornographic materials, watching sexual activities or encouraging young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a young person in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).
- Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other young people.
- In addition; Sexual abuse includes abuse of young people through sexual exploitation. Penetrative sex where one of the partners is under the age of 16 is illegal, although prosecution of similar age, consenting partners is not usual. However, where a child is under the age of 13 it is classified as rape.

2. Staff's duties and responsibilities

Staff should always be vigilant and **never** turn a blind eye to any suspicions or knowledge of abuse, whether it is within SHA or if it is happening to a young person outside of the organisation. Staff should also never delay in reporting any safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, so even if staff are unsure whether something is significant enough to report or not, the concern should **always** be reported no matter how big or small the concern is, so that the relevant agencies can look into the matter properly.

2.1 How do you know if someone is being abused?

The signs of child abuse are not always obvious, and a child might not tell anyone what is happening to them. Children might be scared that the abuser will find out, and worried that the abuse will get worse. Or they might think that there is no-one they can tell or that they will not be believed. Sometimes, children do not even realise that what is happening is abuse.

There are signs and symptoms of abuse and all staff should be aware of them and vigilant for such signs.

2.11 Signs and symptoms of abuse

If you are worried that a child is being abused, watch out for any unusual behaviour such as:

- aggressive or challenging behaviour
- alcohol use
- anxiousness
- changes in eating habits
- clingy
- depression
- drug use
- eating disorders
- finances - having new things which they cannot afford to buy themselves and for which there is no clear explanation, or, not having any money left and having nothing to show for the money they have received from allowances, pocket money etc
- missing episodes
- nightmares
- obsessive behaviour
- pregnancy, especially when they are not known to have any partners
- problems sleeping
- self-harming
- soils clothes
- suddenly behaving differently
- taking risks
- thoughts about suicide
- wetting the bed
- withdrawn

2.12 Signs and symptoms of domestic abuse

It is often difficult to tell if domestic abuse is happening, because it usually takes place in the family home and abusers can act very differently when other people are around. Children who witness domestic abuse may:

- become aggressive
- display anti-social behaviour
- suffer from depression or anxiety

- not do as well at school - due to difficulties at home or disruption of moving to and from refuges

2.13 Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse

Children who are sexually abused may:

- Stay away from certain people
 - they might avoid being alone with people, such as family members or friends
 - they could seem frightened of a person or reluctant to socialise with them.
- Show sexual behaviour that's inappropriate for their age
 - a child might become sexually active at a young age
 - they might be promiscuous
 - they could use sexual language or know information that you wouldn't expect them to.
- Have physical symptoms
 - anal or vaginal soreness
 - an unusual discharge
 - sexually transmitted infection (STI)
 - pregnancy

2.14 Signs and symptoms of neglect

Children who suffer neglect may have poor appearance and hygiene. They may:

- be smelly or dirty
- have unwashed clothes
- have inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat
- seem hungry or turn up to school without having breakfast or any lunch money
- have frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants

Children who are neglected may also have health and development problems. They may have:

- untreated injuries, medical and dental issues
- repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision
- recurring illnesses or infections
- not been given appropriate medicines
- missed medical appointments such as vaccinations
- poor muscle tone or prominent joints
- skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm
- thin or swollen tummy
- anaemia
- tiredness
- faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (known as failure to thrive)
- poor language, communication or social skills.

Neglected children may also experience housing and family issues. They may be:

- living in an unsuitable home environment e.g. dog mess being left or not having any heating
- left alone for a long time

- taking on the role of carer for other family members.

2.2 Who is responsible for reporting abuse?

Everyone within the SHA community, both staff and service users, is individually responsible for reporting abuse immediately. However, we recognise that service users may not always be able to identify abuse or be able / want to report it. Therefore, staff should be extremely vigilant. Staff should also have a supportive approach towards young people when dealing with concerns or disclosures of abuse in line with SHA's Disclosure Policy.

If the matter is an emergency, (i.e. there is a risk of immediate danger or harm) the matter should be reported immediately to the police first by calling 999 and then contacting management to inform them immediately, who will then inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) within SHA.

If the matter is not an emergency, it should be reported immediately to the DSL. There are two DSLs within SHA:

1. Dennis Powell – Team Manager: 07808866479
2. Marcus Wilks - Service Manager: 07508197038
3. Sarah Wilks - HR Manager: 01159986734

2.21 Concerns about colleagues or managers

If staff suspect that the abuse is being carried out by another staff member then this must be reported immediately using the Whistle Blowing Policy which provides a clear and transparent way for anyone who works for SHA to raise genuine concerns about acts of wrongdoing or malpractice in the workplace. It also aims to ensure that any concerns are dealt with effectively and in a timely fashion.

The DSL will then gather the information and refer the matter to the Local Authority's Designated Officer (LADO) within 24 hours who will then advise management how to proceed with the allegation. This is in line with SHA's Allegations Against an Adult Policy.

2.3 Training and supervision

All staff must attend regular training to ensure that they are aware of any changes in the law in relation to child protection matters or the SHA's policies and procedures. This training may be a mixture of formal and informal training.

Staff will also receive supervisions as part of SHA's commitment to safeguard young people. Management may ask service users, external stakeholders or colleagues for feedback on staff performance. Management may also conduct spot checks to monitor staff performance.

3. Reporting Procedure

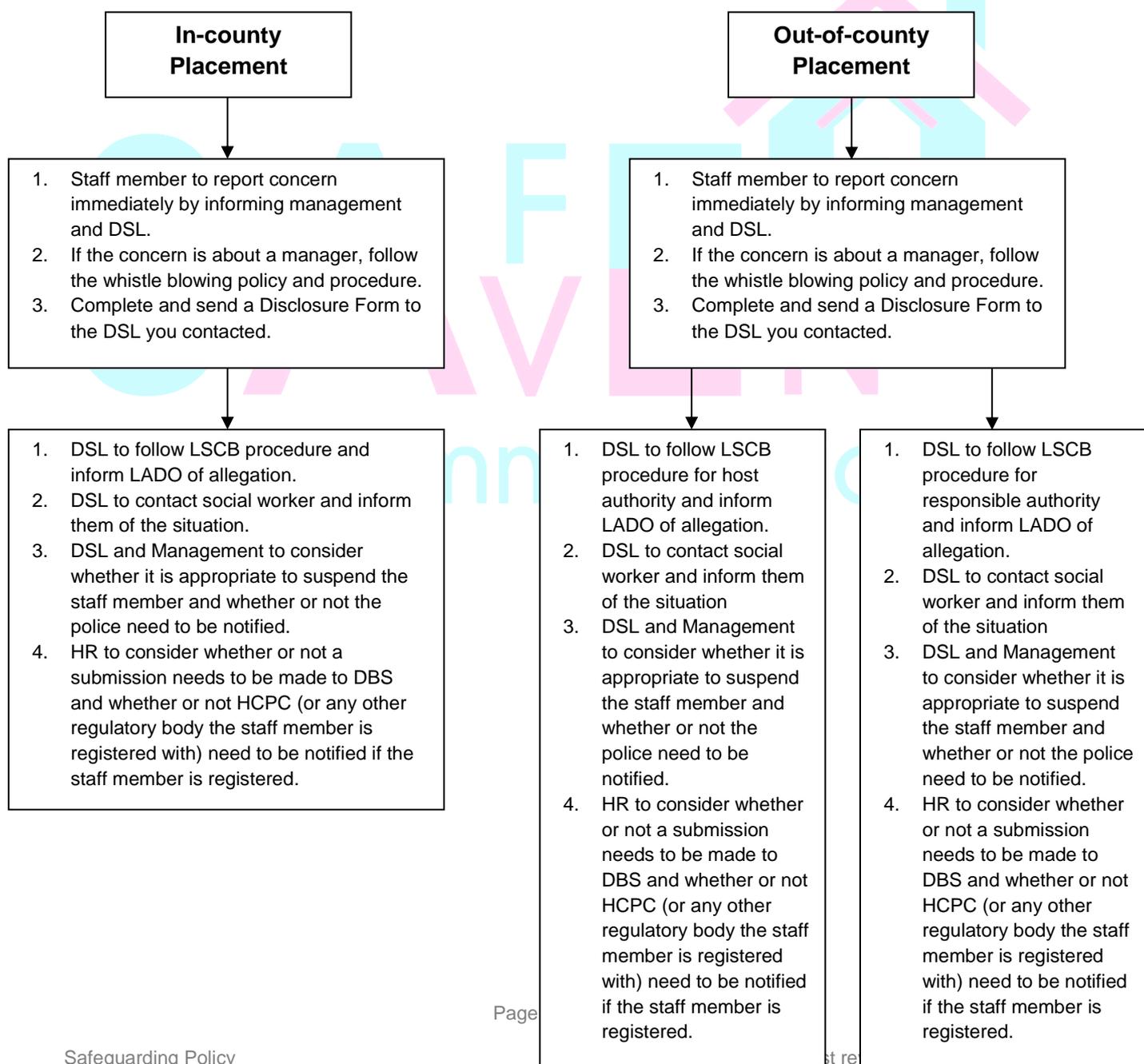
Staff should be aware that every City within the UK has their own approach to dealing with Child Protection and Safeguarding. Every Local Authority has their own Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and this contains procedures which must be followed by SHA. These procedures can be accessed online by searching for the relevant area (e.g. searching for "Nottingham City LSCB" or "Nottingham County LSCB").

If a young person is living within the borders of the Local Authority who is responsible for them, the process is simpler as staff will only need to follow the protocol for one LSCB. If however a young person is an 'out-of-county' placement, (meaning that they are living within the borders of a Local Authority which is different to the Local Authority who is responsible for them) then staff need to be aware that there will be two separate LSCB procedures which will need to be followed. These are referred to as:

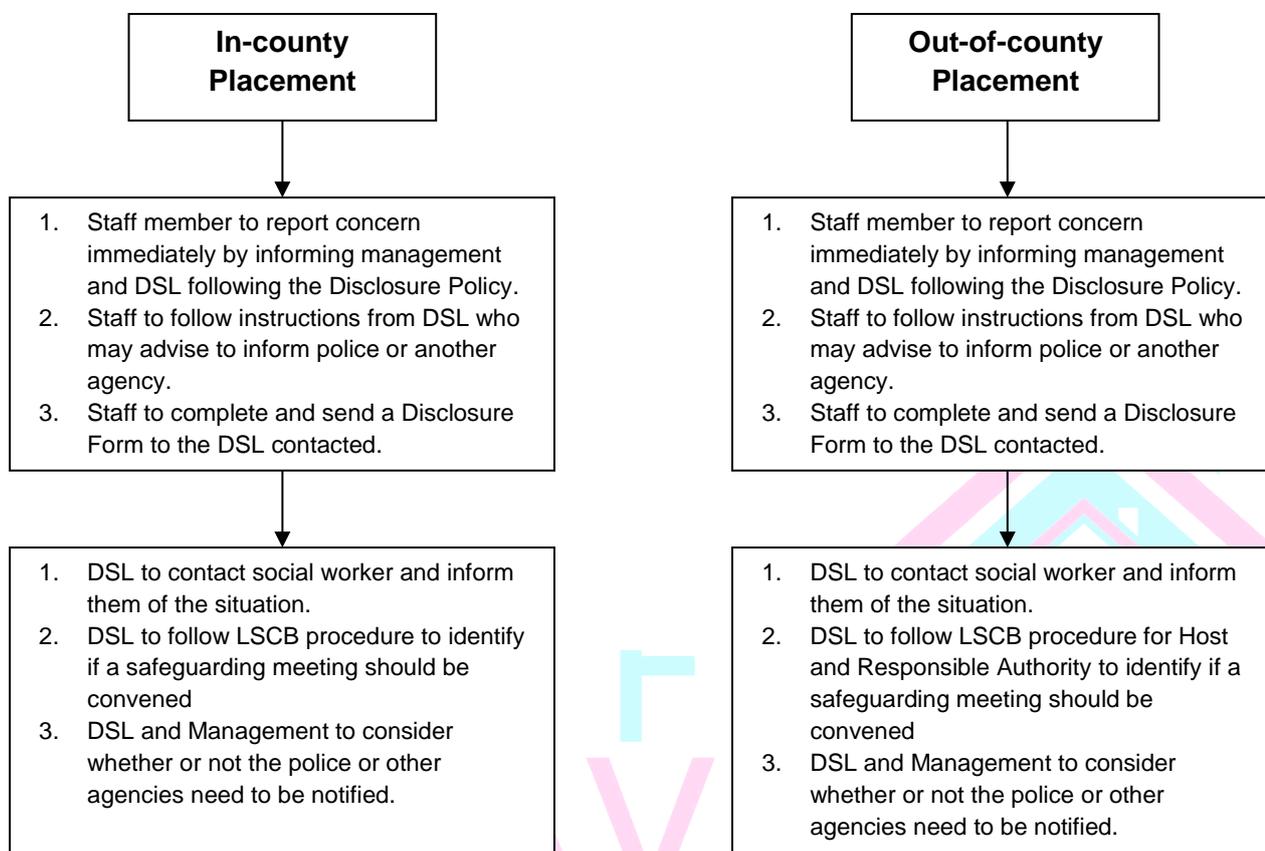
- Host authority - the Local Authority for the area in which the young person lives
- Responsible authority - the Local Authority who are responsible for the young person

The flowcharts below are designed to inform staff what to do for both in-county and out-of-county placements.

3.1 Reporting safeguarding concerns about a staff member



3.2 Reporting concerns about someone outside of SHA who may be harming service users



3.3 Reporting concerns about a child or young person who is a not service user of SHA

When concerns arise, staff should use their knowledge and agency resources to contact the local children’s social care or the police about their concerns directly and to complete the appropriate referral form, if there are urgent concerns.

In such circumstances a formal referral to Local Authority children's social care, the police or emergency medical services (if the young person requires urgent medical attention) must not be delayed by the need for consultation with management or the DSL.

All staff with contact with young people and members of their families must make a referral to Local Authority children's social care if there evidence that a young person or an unborn baby:

- Is suffering significant harm through abuse or neglect;
- Is likely to suffer significant harm in the future.

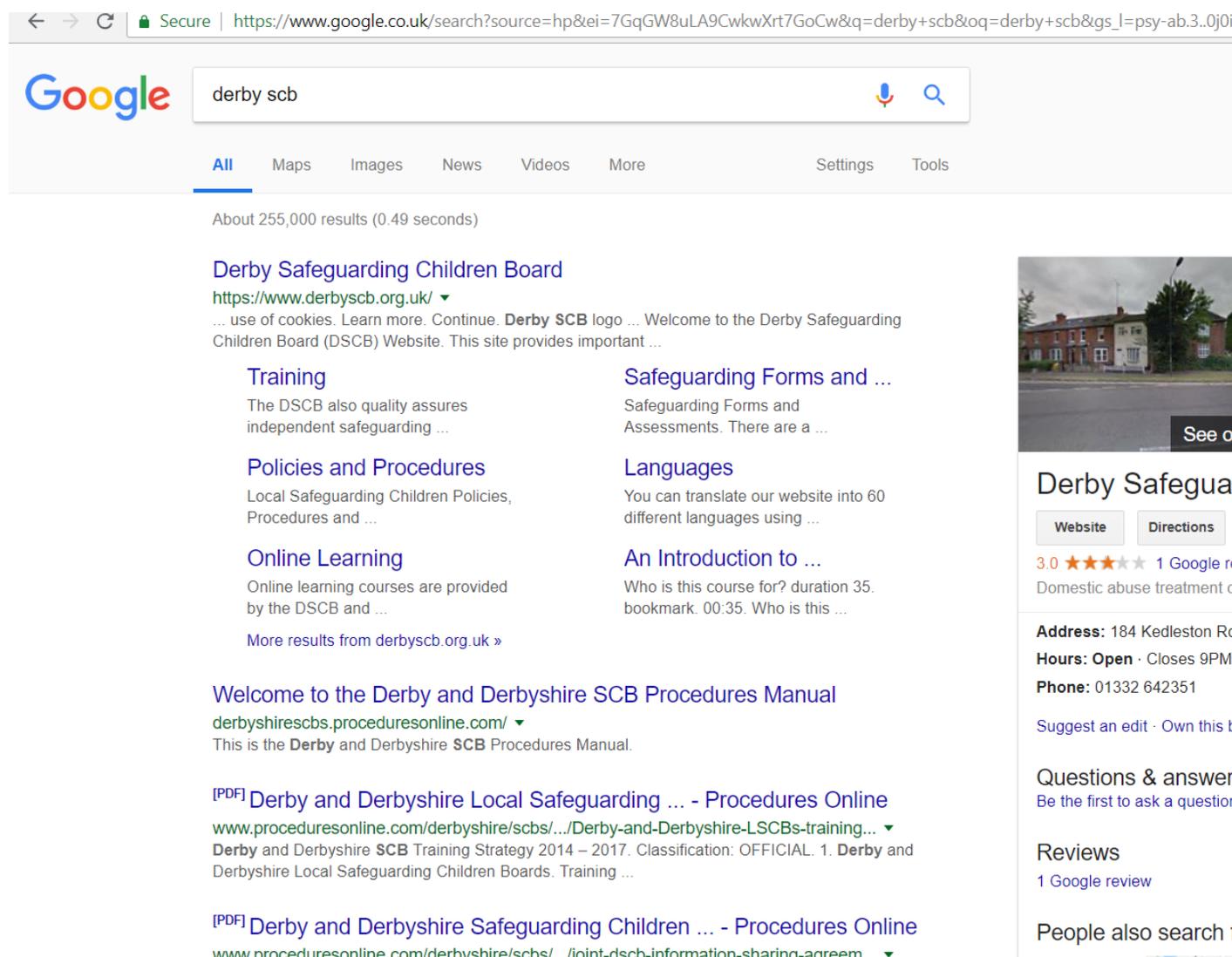
The timing of such referrals should reflect the level of perceived risk of harm as soon as possible and not longer than within one working day of identification or disclosure of harm or risk of harm.

Links to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB)

Local Authority LSCB Procedures are all published online. It is not recommended that these are printed off as they can be updated at any time by a Local Authority, making any printed copies invalid.

As SHA works with an ever-growing number of Local Authorities, it is not possible to list every single one on this policy. Instead, if staff need to access a Local Authorities Safeguarding procedures, they can do this by going to Google (www.google.co.uk) and typing in the name of the Local Authority followed by the letters "scb" and this should bring up relevant link in the results. As an example, if staff were looking for the procedures for Derby, they would type in to Google, "derbyscb".

The below shows an example of what to look for.



The screenshot shows a Google search for "derby scb". The search results page displays "About 255,000 results (0.49 seconds)". The top result is "Derby Safeguarding Children Board" with the URL <https://www.derbyscb.org.uk/>. Below this, there are several links categorized into "Training", "Policies and Procedures", "Online Learning", "Safeguarding Forms and Assessments", "Languages", and "An Introduction to ...". A right-hand sidebar shows a preview of the Derby Safeguarding Children Board website, including its address (184 Kedleston Road, Derby), phone number (01332 642351), and a 3.0 star rating. The bottom of the page shows "Questions & answers" and "Reviews" sections.