

be done in a patient, caring and sensitive manner at your child's pace.

### What next?

The doctor will discuss their findings with you and the social worker and answer any questions. If you would prefer not to discuss sensitive issues in front of your child, a qualified member of staff will take care of your child. We recommend this for younger children. We may make a follow up appointment to discuss any results.

After the medical, further discussion will take place between the social worker and the police and you will be informed about this.



The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille.

Please call 01274 434361.

## Child Protection Medical Examination

Your questions answered



## Introduction

In Bradford we are committed to working in partnership with young people and their parents and carers. This leaflet will help you to understand the child protection medical assessment, part of a child protection investigation involving Bradford Social Care, police and health working together to help you

## Why does my child need an examination?

A concern has been expressed about your child's well being or an injury. A paediatrician (a specialist child and young person doctor) has been asked to see you to make a full assessment of your child. If there are other children in your family they may also be asked to attend for an examination.

## What happens first?

A social worker or police officer will normally bring you to the hospital - Children's Outpatients St Luke's Hospital, Ward 2 at BRI or Outpatients at Airedale General Hospital. On arrival a receptionist will confirm your child's name and details.

## What next?

The nurse will welcome you in a friendly and professional way and weigh and measure your child, as we do for all children. You will be asked to wait. There are toys in the waiting room for your child to play with.

## What happens during the examination?

The doctor will ask you about the problem you have come for (mark or injury). They will also ask about your child's health and family background.

The doctor will then examine your child carefully, but sensitively, all over – head, mouth, chest, arms, legs. During the examination the doctor usually makes notes and draws pictures. They routinely record all marks on your child.

If concerns are raised during the questions about your child's private parts (for example soreness or bleeding) the doctor will may need to examine this area too. This would be carefully discussed with you.



## How will information be recorded?

It is normal for the doctor to be making notes or small drawings and measuring any marks or injuries throughout the examination to look at afterwards.

Any injuries may be photographed by a hospital photographer, doctor, or police civilian. You will be asked for written permission.

## Who else will be in the examination room?

We would normally hope that a carer will be present during the examination. The social worker and police may stay in the room.

## What if my child refuses to have an examination?

Children can refuse an examination. They are never forced.

Sometimes children need some time out to talk to someone about the examination. Another appointment can be made, although this could mean loss of evidence if this is an urgent assessment. It may also mean that your child may be at risk from untreated problems. You should discuss this with the doctor and social worker.

## Will it be upsetting?

We know from studies and experience that most children actually find the medical assessment reassuring and helpful. They cope best when they are well supported by parents and carers who are calm and encouraging.

It is helpful if parents and carers are positive in their encouragement of the examination. Your child needs your support. The examination will