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## Physical Injuries: A Safeguarding Children Briefing

<b>Key Document code:</b>	WAHT-TP-097	
<b>Key Documents Owner:</b>	Dr T Dawson	Consultant Paediatrician
<b>Approved by:</b>	Paediatric Quality Improvement meeting	
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	
<b>Date of review:</b> This is the most current version and should be used until a revised document is in place	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	

### Key Amendments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Approved by</b>
26th March 2021	Approved with no amendments	Paediatric QIM

## Physical Injuries: A Safeguarding Children Briefing

### Timeliness is Key

*This briefing is to support healthcare professionals in Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to make the most robust response to physical injuries in children*

### Processes

- Where an injury is observed on a child an explanation should be sought from the parent/carer. This is obviously not done in any accusatory way but merely an enquiry into the well-being of the child. This needs to be carried out sensitively.
- Where the explanation given, in your professional opinion and using your knowledge and skills, fits with the injury and you have no concerns then document and reassure the parent/carer.
- Where you are not sure that the injury fits the explanation or there is no explanation, you should inform the parent of this and that you will need to seek further advice, then contact your Line Manager and the Integrated Safeguarding Team (IST) (01905 733871) at the earliest opportunity.
- Where you are clear that the injury is of concern or when you have sought advice because you are unsure, and your Manager or IST agreed the injury is of concern, you **MUST CONTACT WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST FAMILY FRONT DOOR (FFD) 01905 822666 or EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM (EDT) 01905 768020 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHO RAISED THE CONCERN TO CONTACT FFD/EDT. YOU MUST NOT DELEGATE THIS TO ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL.**
- In an ideal situation you will have told the parents about your concern and they will know what action you are about to take.
- If you have not informed the parent or you think that it is not safe to do so then you **MUST STILL CONTACT THE FFD/EDT** and explain the situation and take further guidance as to what action they want you to undertake e.g. inform them when you have informed the parent or undertake a joint visit with a Social Worker etc. Ultimately it is their decision how to proceed and this will be recorded on Framework i/Liquid Logic.
- Physical injuries require a medical opinion ASAP and to delay in informing the FFD/EDT of a concern of this nature can delay the commencement of Section 47 enquiries and vital evidence may be lost.
- Once identified as a concern this work takes precedence over anything else in your diary and your Manager will support you in ensuring that you are allocated the time to deal with the immediate situation.
- As is usual, if you make a referral and you are not satisfied with the response from the FFD/EDT then you must utilise the Escalation Process (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership). This can be found under the Safeguarding Header of the Trust Intranet.
- If you are unsure on the timescale and requirements within any advice you receive from the IST or the FFD/EDT then you will need to 'check back' that you are clear on what you are being advised to do.

***NB Remember that ALL bruising/injuries in children and babies who are not independently mobile should always be treated as a concern- the younger the baby, the greater the concern. ALL of these situations should be referred to Worcestershire Children First Family Front Door/Emergency Duty Team.***

### **For Babies and Children that are already open to Children's Social Care:**

If you are concerned about a new injury to a child/baby that is already open to CSC then the referral must go to the relevant Social Worker who will have a mobile phone. The Business Support Officer (BSO) can give you this number. In these cases messages should not be left with administrators and the following options can be used if the child/baby's Social Worker is not contactable:

1. Contact the Social Work Team Manager (TM)(use BSO to find out whereabouts of TM)
2. Ask BSO to tell you who the Initial Response Manager is and make contact
3. For Looked After Children (LAC), ask BSO to tell you who LAC/Permanency Duty Worker is and make contact
4. If all of the above fails then contact the FFD/EDT stating that all the above has failed and that you have new information about an injury that requires action.