

A grayscale photograph of a hand holding a teddy bear. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, gripping the bear's arm. The bear is a classic, textured plush toy. The background is a plain, light color.

# Child Protection Investigations

Information for Parents and Carers

Safer Shetland - Working together to Keep Everyone Safe in Shetland

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[www.safershetland.com](http://www.safershetland.com)

# A SIMPLE OUTLINE

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What happens and why

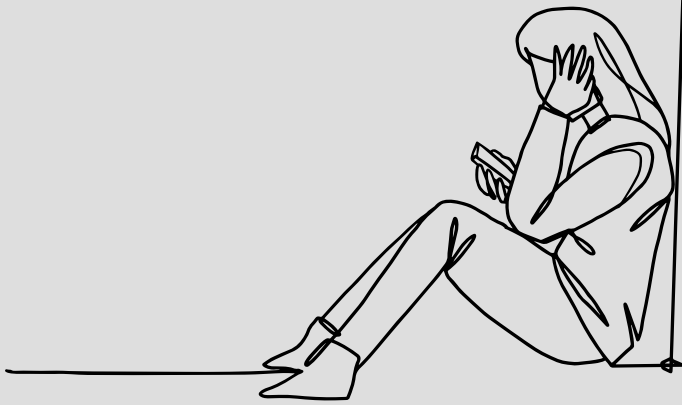


## **WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?**

An investigation is carried out following reports of a concern for the welfare or safety of the child/children in your care. The purpose of this is to gather information necessary to reduce the risk of harm and ensure their safety

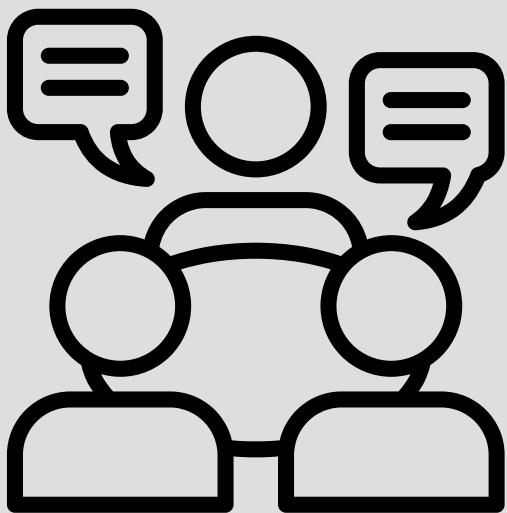
## **WHAT SORT OF HARM?**

Harm can take many forms including physical injury or neglect, emotional or sexual abuse or non-organic failure to thrive. Although it may be stressful, the process is necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.



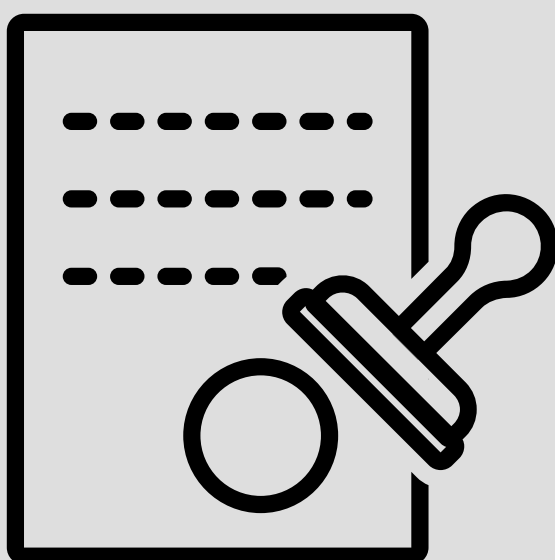
## **HOW DOES IT WORK**

A police officer and a social worker will speak with the child/children in your care, with you and also with anyone else who might have relevant information e.g. teachers, family members, doctor, etc. They may also want to check on the living conditions in your home.



## **THINGS TO BEAR IN MIND**

Wherever possible, your permission will be sought prior to speaking to the child but please remember that, if there is cause for concern, refusal to cooperate may result in emergency legal measures being taken to protect the child.



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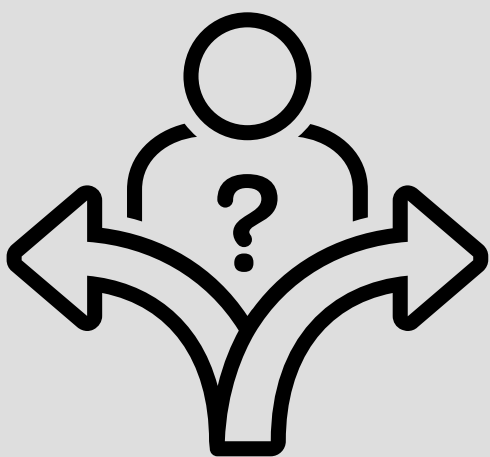
### **PEOPLE OF INTEREST**

The police will want to interview anyone who is suspected of harming a child, along with any possible witnesses. The social worker and the police officer will keep you informed wherever possible. You may feel confused and upset during this time but please bear in mind that this is being done to ensure that your child is safe and protected.



### **MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS**

It might be necessary for the child to be examined by a doctor to check their overall health or to look for any signs of injury. Information gathered from this examination may be used in any ensuing court case.



### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?**

The team will consider all the information before reaching a conclusion. If they decide that your child is not at risk then no further action will be taken. If they feel that your child is at risk, they will take steps to ensure their safety.



In most cases, children remain at home, with services being provided to offer support to the family. Where this is not considered possible, other arrangements may have to be made.

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# FURTHER QUESTIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

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## WHO TO TURN TO

If you are unsure about anything, please ask the social worker or the police officer assigned to your case. They should be able to answer any questions you might have or they may direct you towards others who should be able to help you.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Police Scotland: 101 / in an emergency: 999

### For legal advice:

[www.shetlandcab.org.uk/services/law-and-courts](http://www.shetlandcab.org.uk/services/law-and-courts) or phone 01595 694696



[www.lawscot.org.uk/](http://www.lawscot.org.uk/)



Shetland inter-agency child protection procedures can be found at:  
[www.safershetland.com/child-protection](http://www.safershetland.com/child-protection)



### For representation and advocacy:

[www.voiceability.org/in-scotland/independent-advocacy-in-scotland](http://www.voiceability.org/in-scotland/independent-advocacy-in-scotland)



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