

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Bruising in Children who are Not Independently Mobile Protocol

The protocol can be found at the following link

https://www.knowsleyscb.org.uk/pr ofessionals/multi-agency-training/

NSPCC Core Info leaflet: Bruises on Children

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/ documents/advice-and-info/core-infobruises-children.pdf The Multi-Agency protocol provides all practitioners with a knowledge base and strategy for the assessment, management and referral of children who are non-mobile who present with injuries (including bruising or suspicious marks).

The protocol also contains a body diagram in the Appendix. In all cases careful mapping of the bruising must be made with as much description as possible to assist discussion of concerns (Appendix A),

Body diagrams would be helpful in describing the site and any possible descriptions. A full detailed description of an injury would be made at the medical safeguarding assessment.

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Any child who is found to be seriously ill or injured, or in need of urgent treatment or further investigation, must be referred immediately to hospital followed by referral to Children's Social Care/MASH. Bruising is the commonest presenting feature of physical abuse in children. The younger the child the greater the risk that bruising is non-accidental. There is a substantial and well-founded research base on the significance of bruising in children.

Innocent bruising is rare in children who are non-independently mobile. It is the responsibility of Children's Social Care and the local acute hospital to investigate whether bruising is consistent with an innocent cause or not.

Any suspicious bruising would lead to the convening of a multi agency strategy meeting.

Where a decision to refer to the MASH is made, it is the responsibility of the first professional to learn of or observe the injury to make the referral.

An injury must never be interpreted in isolation and must always be assessed in the context of medical and social history, developmental stage and explanation given. A full clinical examination and relevant investigations must be undertaken by a paediatrician. This examination would be arranged by children's social care.

Any injury, or mark that might be bruising, in a child of any age that causes professionals concern must be discussed with the parents/carers whenever possible, providing this does not pose further risk to the child. If a parent or carer is uncooperative or refuses to take the child for further assessment, this must be reported immediately to Children's Social Care.