

# WHEN TO SUSPECT CHILD MALTREATMENT

If you consider or suspect child maltreatment it is good practice to follow the process outlined below – A Quick Reference Guide

## Listen and observe...

Take into account the whole picture of the child or young person. Sources of information that help to do this include:

## Seek an explanation...

for any injury or presentation from both the parent or carer and the child or young person in an open and non-judgemental manner.

## Record...

in the child or young person's clinical record exactly what is observed and heard from whom and when.

Record why this is of concern.

## CONSIDER child maltreatment...

CONSIDER means maltreatment is one possible explanation for the alerting feature or is included in the differential diagnosis.

At any stage during the process of considering maltreatment the level of concern may change and lead to exclude or suspect maltreatment.

## SUSPECT Child maltreatment...

if an alerting feature or considering child maltreatment prompts you to suspect child maltreatment refer the child or young person to children's social care, following Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

## EXCLUDE child maltreatment...

if a suitable explanation is found for the alerting feature. This may be the decision after discussion of the case with a more experienced colleague or gathering collateral information as part of considering child maltreatment.

## RECORD... all actions taken and the outcome.

Remember you are accountable for ensuring that appropriate help is provided to the child following any referral.