

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

Introduction to Safeguarding Children (Level 1)

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility to safeguard them and promote their wellbeing. It is essential to be able to recognise indicators that raise concerns about a child, including the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation, and to know how to respond.

This Introduction to Safeguarding Children course will equip you with the skills and knowledge you need to safeguard children in your care. It explains the types of maltreatment that children might experience and how to recognise the signs that it may be happening. It also outlines the best way to respond should you suspect maltreatment is taking place, how to respond to a disclosure and how to accurately share and record your concerns.

Module 1: Safeguarding and Child Protection

This module introduces the fundamental elements of safeguarding children. It defines the terms 'safeguarding' and 'child protection', explains why these things are important and outlines your roles and responsibilities in accordance with laws and legislation.

- Defining safeguarding and child protection
- Key legislation and guidance
- Legal requirements
- Responsibilities
- The importance of effective training
- Professional curiosity and extra-familial safeguarding

Module 2: Recognising Child Abuse

This module covers the four overarching categories of child abuse. It explains what each entails and how to spot the signs that may indicate it is occurring.

- General indicators of maltreatment
- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse

Module 3: Recognising Different Types of Maltreatment

This module examines further types of maltreatment that sit within the four overarching categories of abuse, and covers the specific indicators associated with each of them.

- Domestic abuse
- Online abuse
- Child-on-child abuse
- Bullying
- Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB)
- Grooming
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Child criminal exploitation (CCE)
- Child trafficking and modern slavery
- Radicalisation and extremism
- Honour or faith-based abuse (HBA)
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Module 4: Risks and Vulnerabilities

This module focuses on the various factors and circumstances which may put a child at greater risk of maltreatment.

- Additional risk factors and vulnerabilities
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Mental health concerns
- Looked after children (LAC)
- Children missing education
- Children who identify as LGBTQIA+
- Unmet parental mental health needs
- Parental substance misuse
- Parental risk factors
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Multiple risks (intersectionality)

Module 5: Responding to Disclosures and Concerns

This module outlines what you should do if a child discloses maltreatment to you, what to do if you suspect maltreatment is taking place and the action to take should somebody else raise concerns about a child.

- Why children might not disclose information
- How you might be alerted to a concern
- Why professionals don't take action
- Disclosures from a child
- Responding to a disclosure
- Taking action
- Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (MASA)
- Concerns regarding adults in positions of trust

Module 6: Recording and Sharing Information

This module explains the reporting procedures that you should follow if you are alerted to a safeguarding or child protection concern. It covers who to discuss your concern with, how to record information and how to respond if you are dissatisfied with how a concern is handled.

- Sharing concerns
- Sharing a concern with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- What to record
- Concerns regarding another staff member
- Sharing information
- Responses from children's social care
- Disagreeing with decisions
- Record keeping

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Module 7: Safeguarding in Education and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

This final module includes an optional section, depending on whether you work in an educational setting. For those working in education, the module looks more closely at safeguarding and child protection responsibilities, issues and considerations in these settings. There is also a further optional section aimed specifically at those working in the EYFS. Those who do not work in education or the EYFS will be able to move directly to the final slides of the course, which include helpful links, downloads and information regarding the assessment.

- Sector-specific legislation and guidance
- Policies and procedures
- Children with additional vulnerabilities in an education setting
- Roles and responsibilities
- Relationships, sex and health education (RSHE)
- Children with additional vulnerabilities
- Recognising types of maltreatment in an education setting
- Operation Encompass
- Child-on-child sexual violence and harassment
- Gender questioning children
- Further guidance
- The EYFS statutory framework
- EYFS policies and procedures
- EYFS safeguarding responsibilities
- Safer eating
- Additional risks and recognising signs of maltreatment in children ages 0-5

Aims of the training

By the end of this course, learners will be able to:

- Recognise the difference between safeguarding and child protection and why they are important.
- Identify key legislation and the statutory framework which underpins safeguarding practice.
- Recognise and describe the different types of child maltreatment.
- Identify things that make some children particularly vulnerable.
- Recognise safeguarding concerns and possible signs of child maltreatment and identify how to respond appropriately.