

QUESTION - WHAT DOES CHILD ABUSE MEAN?

ANSWER - Child abuse is harm to children and young people up to 18 years of age by physical injury and violence, sexual violence, neglect and emotional harm

FOR EXAMPLE:

- **Physical abuse**
e.g. punched, thrown, shaken, beaten with something, burnt on purpose
- **Emotional abuse**
e.g. living with domestic violence, constant criticism, threats and withholding love.
- **Sexual abuse**
e.g. unwelcome touching and fondling by another child or any sexual touching and fondling by an adult to a child, sex that is paid for with money or gifts
- **Neglect**
e.g. failure to provide for a child's medical and mental health or other basic needs such as proper food, shelter warmth and protection

CHILD ABUSE IS NEVER THE CHILD'S FAULT. CHILD ABUSE IS A CRIME.

Child Abuse can and does happen to children of all ages, in any family whether rich or poor and from any ethnic group. The abuser is usually a parent, other family member or carer, but could also be another adult or child.

Checklist Is child abuse happening in your home?



- Has a parent or someone else hurt or injured you physically, or has tried to hurt or injure you?
- Are you constantly criticised and put down by a parent or other person and made to feel stupid or worthless?
- Do your parents or other carers ignore your needs and fail to take care of you?
- Has a parent or someone else touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable or has tricked you or pressured you into doing sexual things for them?
- Have you ever felt like the main carer of your brothers or sisters because your parents or carers were not? This might have been because the adults were dependent on alcohol or drugs or because one adult was being violent and abusive to the other.

If any of these things are going on for you then it would be good for you to talk to someone about it, for example, an adult you can trust, maybe a teacher, non-abusing parent, family friend, or a service set up to support children and young people.

Make a list of people you could talk to and of organisations, especially those near where you live, that can help. This list could include Social Services, Barnardos and NCH Action for Children.

