Safeguarding children: a guide for the pharmacy team

Second edition

Educational solutions for the NHS pharmacy workforce
# Contents

About CPPE open learning programmes  
About this learning programme  

## Section 1  Background and policy  

1.1 The Victoria Climbié Inquiry report  
   Recommendations  

1.2 Key policies and legislation  
   Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004  
   *The common assessment framework*  

1.3 Legislation and guidance relating to sexual health services  
   Sexual Offences Act 2003  
   Consent, confidentiality and sexual health services  
   Lord Fraser’s response to the Gillick case (1986)  

## Section 2  Heightening awareness of child abuse and neglect  

2.1 Types of abuse and neglect  
   Physical abuse  
   Emotional abuse  
   Sexual abuse  
   Neglect  
   Fabricated or induced illness  

2.2 Safeguarding children and pharmacy  
   *Hidden harm: children of problem drug users or parents/carers with mental health problems*  
   Lessons from research and inspection  
   Children at risk – what you can do to help  

Exercise  
Suggested answers  

## Section 3  Working across boundaries  

3.1 Working with primary care trusts and local authorities  
   Accountability and responsibilities for safeguarding children  

3.2 Local safeguarding children boards  

Practice points
The subject of children’s safety has rarely left the political agenda over the last 30 years, with cases of child abuse and neglect making the headlines with unacceptable regularity. In February 2000, the shocking and tragic death of Victoria Climbie prompted a public enquiry and subsequent recommendations which continue to inform policy and legislative changes. Many of these changes affect the pharmacy workforce who, together with all adults working with children, are responsible for safeguarding them. In August 2007, the equally tragic death of Baby P triggered national outrage and calls for reform of the safeguarding system in England. Three inquiries and a nationwide review of social care services are underway.

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians regularly come into contact with children and their families and are ideally placed to identify children at risk of abuse and neglect. It is important therefore that they are familiar with current legislation and guidance relating to the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children. Local procedures should be in place in the event that a case of suspected abuse or neglect is identified. To take no action could potentially result in serious injury or even the death of a child.

### NSF for children, young people and maternity services

**Standard 5**

All agencies work to prevent children suffering harm and to promote their welfare, provide them with the services they require to address their identified needs and safeguard children who are being or who are likely to be harmed.

**Point 6:**

**Recognising a Child or Young Person who requires protecting from harm**

‘Safeguarding children and young people from harm depends upon staff being alert to signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect, high quality assessments and effective communication and sharing of information. Recording and communicating information in a clear and timely manner and systematically gathering information from a range of sources improve identification of children and young people in need or at risk of harm.’

This booklet seeks to provide an overview of the background and policy surrounding the safeguarding of children and to identify resources and procedures available to support the pharmacy workforce and other health professionals working with children. Once you have read through the booklet you should be familiar with the relevant legal and government policy issues and know where to access appropriate local services so that you feel confident to act if confronted with a suspected case of child neglect or abuse.

This programme should take you approximately 1.5 hours to work through.

**Target audience**

We have written this learning programme for all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians offering NHS services. As health professionals you must ensure that you understand your roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children.
Learning style adopted in this programme

This learning programme is split into six sections. We suggest that you work through these in order. This will allow you to develop an understanding of the policy and legislation in this area and how these apply to your role as a pharmacy professional.

Learning objectives

CPPE has linked all its learning programmes to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain’s competences for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This will make it easier for you to connect your professional practice to your learning needs and learning activities. We have selected only the competences for general pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, but we are aware that others exist.

We have also linked the learning to the dimensions of the NHS Knowledge and Skills framework (KSF).

The competences and dimensions relevant to this programme are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning objectives</th>
<th>RPSGB competences</th>
<th>KSF dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summarise the background and policy surrounding the safeguarding of children and the issues this raises for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.</td>
<td>G1, TG2, TG16</td>
<td>Core</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convey the importance for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to increase their awareness of child abuse and neglect and develop ways of working with other health professionals to promote best practice to deal with situations involving suspected abuse or neglect.</td>
<td>G1, G2, TG1, TG16</td>
<td>Personal and people development Level 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlight situations in which you are best placed to observe signs of abuse or neglect and the legal issues to consider when making a referral.</td>
<td>G1, G2, TG1, TG2</td>
<td>Communication Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify sources of useful information and contacts for the development of local procedures for dealing with suspected child abuse or neglect observed in a pharmacy setting.</td>
<td>G1, G2, G8, TG1, TG7</td>
<td>Health, safety and security Level 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Equality and diversity Level 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Health and well-being HWB7 Level 3</td>
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<td>Information and knowledge IK3 Level 3</td>
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