

I feel worried about all of this...

That's completely understandable.

Taking your child to hospital is a worrying time for many parents and carers whilst they wait for doctors or nurses to give a medical opinion about what has happened.

Please know that if there is a need to explore any mark or injury on your child, both health and social care professionals will seek to treat you with respect and empathy and listen to your point of view.

Everyone will try to keep you informed and up to date about what is going on so you know what is going on and why. Please ask questions if you feel you don't understand what is happening.



Where else can I find information?

NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk / 08080 800 5000

Family Rights Group: www.frg.org.uk / 0808 801 0366

BCSSP: <https://bcssp.bathnes.gov.uk/>

Contact Details

B&NES Triage Team

01225 396111 / 01225 477929

Monday—Thursday

08:30 - 17:00

Friday 08:30 - 16:30

Emergency Duty Team

01454 615165

Weekdays: 08:30 -
17:00

Weekends 16:30 (Fri) - 08:30 (Mon)

All Bank Holidays



Bath & North East Somerset

B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

Bruising / Injuries in non-mobile children



Information for parents and carers



Bath & North East Somerset
Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership

Updated January 2024

A bruise, mark or injury has been observed on your baby or child.

This leaflet has been provided to you to help explain the process that is followed by professionals in relation to your child by professionals in B&NES.



Is bruising common in babies?

No. Bruising or injuries in babies who are not rolling or crawling is very unusual. It is also unusual for babies to get a bruise during everyday activities such as nappy changes, bathing or feeding.

Bruising can be related to a health condition which has not been previously identified, and further medical assessment may be required. However, sometimes bruising in babies or children is due to a deliberate injury and therefore it is important that each baby is fully assessed.

Accidents do occur. You may feel that you are able to explain the reason for your baby or child having a bruise or mark. However, your baby or child will still need to be carefully assessed. It can take an opinion from a Consultant Paediatrician (specialist children's doctor) to be able to tell the difference between bruises and other types of mark.

What happens next?

Everyone who works with children has a responsibility to follow this process when they see a bruise or injury on a baby or child who cannot move around on their own.

Sometimes, even when children can move around by themselves, professionals can still be concerned about how they have come to have a mark or injury and follow up checks will be needed.

Wherever there are any concerns about a mark or bruise, health professionals will also talk to social workers and the police may also be involved.

What is the actual process?

Contact with Children's Social Care:

A request for service is made to Children's Social Care, sharing the professionals observations of your child and what you've said.

A Multi-Agency discussion:

Information about your family will be shared between Health, Children's Social Care and Police. We may also speak to any other agencies who directly work with your family.

Next Steps:

A Paediatrician will be asked to review your child. This is usually done on the same day.

A social worker may wish to see your child and speak with you about what has happened.

What does the Paediatrician do?

They will ask you to tell them all about your child, including some family history. This will include asking about the mark or injury and what you think might have happened.

They will want to do a full examination of your child, which will include undressing them. They will ask your consent to do this examination and to complete any other tests.

Other tests might include taking blood, X-rays, scans or eye tests. This is to make sure your child has no underlying medical conditions or signs of non-accidental injury. Sometimes these tests might mean your child has to stay in hospital for them to be completed, or return for another appointment.

Once the Paediatrician has completed their examination, they will talk about what they think the outcome of this is with you. They will also share this information with Children's Social Care.

What do Children's Social Care do?

Children's Social Care are responsible for making sure that concerns about bruises or injuries are responded to. In the first instance, they will co-ordinate information being shared to help professionals make in-formed decisions about what should happen next.

If a social worker comes to meet you, this is find out more about what has happened and support the work of the Paediatrician. They may talk to you about whether your family or friends could support you at this time, or whether other support could be helpful — this will depend on your personal situation.

This will be called an assessment, which you will receive a copy of.