

For further information about this service contact:

Luton

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Email: edwinlobocomms.S1@nhs.net

Bedfordshire

Child Development Centre
Hill Rise
Kempston,
Bedfordshire MK42 7EB
Tel: 0300 555 0606
Email: ccs.beds.childrens.cdc.admin@nhs.net

Union Street Clinic
Union Street
Bedford MK40 2SF
Tel: 0300 555 0606
Email: ccs.paediatricadminteam-unionstreet@nhs.net



If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

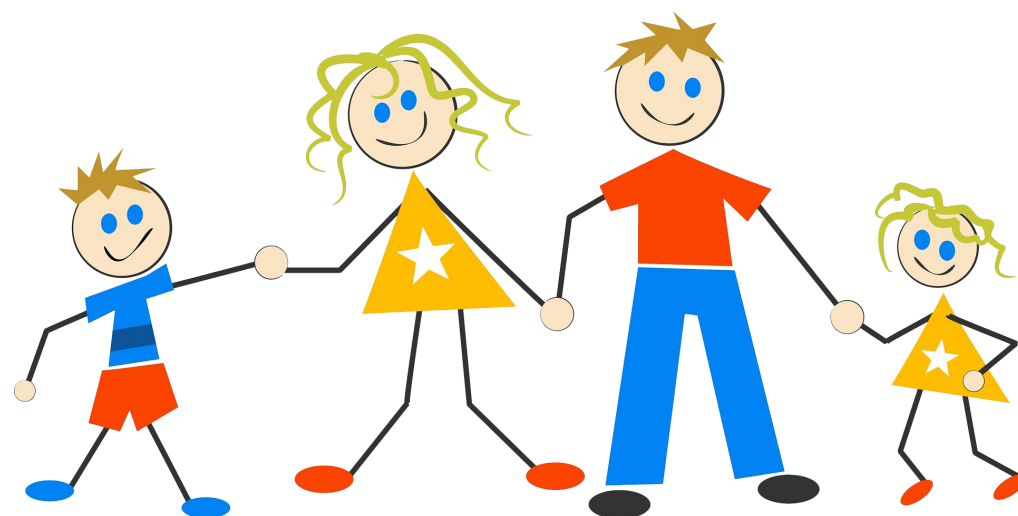
If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.

Child Protection Medical Assessments:

2. Information for parents and carers

Community Paediatrics



Introduction

Your child has been referred to us by Children's Social Care for a child protection medical assessment because concerns have been raised that he/she may have suffered harm or be at risk of harm.

This leaflet will provide you with information about what to expect from the child protection medical assessment.

Why does my child need a child protection medical assessment?

If safeguarding concerns are raised about a child, relevant professionals may decide together that a medical assessment is required. This may be because of concern about physical harm or about a child's general health and wellbeing.

Who will be present?

- The social worker involved in your case will usually be present at your child's medical assessment. They will provide information to the doctor (a community paediatrician) and support you and your child through the process.
- An interpreter will be arranged by the social worker if required.
- If you or your child would like a chaperone we will try our best to arrange this.
- The medical assessment will be carried out by one or two paediatricians.
- Your child may wish to speak to the doctor on their own depending on their age. We will always respect your child's wishes.

What will happen at the assessment?

On arrival

You will be able to wait in our family room before the assessment begins. Your social worker may also speak to you here. Your child may have their weight and height measured by our Health Care Assistant before seeing the doctor.

History

- The doctor will usually speak to the social worker first while you wait in the family room.
- The doctor will later ask you about your child's birth history, health and previous illnesses, growth, immunisations, behaviour, development and learning. You will also be asked about any relevant family history that may affect your child.
- If your child has an injury the doctor may need to ask you about this.
- It is common practice for the doctor to also speak to children on their if appropriate. Some children may have specific concerns about their own health and wellbeing that they wish to discuss.
- You can also discuss with the doctor any concerns you have about your child's health.

Consent

Before the examination is carried out we will ask you and/or your child (if they are old enough) to sign a consent form to give your permission. There are some special circumstances where the doctor may examine a child without parental consent if it is felt to be in the best interests of the child.

The examination

The doctor will carry out a detailed examination of your child and document the findings. This includes assessment of your child's growth, teeth, heart, skin, etc. Observations of your child's behaviour and development will also be made. Any marks or injuries will be carefully documented.

Photography

The doctor may feel it is important to take photographs of any marks or injuries seen and will ask for written consent from you and/or your child to do this. This will be fully explained to you at the time. The photographs can be taken by the doctor who is carrying out the examination.

What happens after the examination?

The doctor who examined your child will talk to you and the social worker about any concerns from the assessment. They will discuss with you if your child requires any further medical investigations, referrals to other services or follow up appointments.

The doctor has a duty to write a report which is sent to your GP and the social worker. It may also be sent to your health visitor or school nurse if appropriate.

Please speak to the doctor if you have any concerns or questions about the child protection examination.

The assessment is being carried out to help protect your child's welfare.

The doctor will always act in the best interests of your child.