

Councillors Briefing Note No. 282

Service: Children's Services

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Support for national campaign to encourage more people to report child abuse

Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board are supporting a national campaign which begins today (3 March) to encourage people to report child abuse.

Latest national figures show almost a third who suspect something is wrong don't follow up on their concerns. The Department for Education campaign is asking people to act on their suspicions, even if they aren't completely certain, as this can build up a wider picture to help protect a child.

Laura Mayes, cabinet member for children's services, said: "All children have a right to be safe and to be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect. Protecting our young people is one of our driving concerns in Wiltshire and although we have teams in place doing an excellent job on the ground we also need the public to be our eyes and ears.

"I can understand people may be reticent to contact us, however taking that important step to pass on that information could well be the crucial missing piece in the jigsaw."

Mark Gurrey, Independent Chair of Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board said: "We are supporting this national campaign which highlights that we all have responsibility to report concerns if we suspect child abuse or neglect."

Attached is a poster which is being distributed widely to promote the campaign with the details for the Wiltshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

If anyone suspects child abuse they can call MASH on 0300 456 0108. If anyone is worried about a child's immediate safety, they should contact the police by dialling 999.