

Glossary – Safeguarding Children

Here is a list of important terms used within safeguarding and their definitions.

Term	Description
Abuse	Abuse is maltreatment of a child. This maltreatment can be of a sexual, emotional, physical or psychological nature.
Arranged marriage	The families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage, but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement still remains with the prospective spouses. <small>Source: Multi-agency practice guidance: Handling cases of forced marriage. HM Government June 2014.</small>
Assessment	An assessment is carried out to identify the needs of an individual and whether these needs are met. It also looks at how an individual's day-to-day life and wellbeing are being impacted.
Bullying	A vicious kind of aggressive behaviour distinguished by repeated acts against weaker victims who cannot easily defend themselves. It is often aimed at certain groups of people who are different, e.g. because of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.
Child	An individual who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.
Child criminal exploitation	This happens when an individual or a group of individuals control, coerce, deceive or manipulate a child or young person into a criminal activity. Criminal exploitation does not require physical contact and can occur via the use of technology.
Child protection	An activity that is carried out to protect a child who is suffering from, or is likely to suffer from, significant harm.
Child sexual exploitation	This is a form of child abuse. An individual or group of individuals control, coerce, deceive or manipulate a child or young person into sexual activity. Sexual exploitation does not require physical contact and can occur via the use of technology.



Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	A standardised approach to assessing the additional needs of children and young people and deciding how these should be met. The CAF is a key part of delivering frontline services that are focused on meeting the needs of children and young people. It can be used by practitioners across children's services in England.
Confidentiality	Confidentiality is defined as 'the state of keeping or being kept secret or private'. All health and social care settings must take steps to ensure an individual's information is protected from unauthorised access.
County lines	This term describes gangs and organised criminal networks expanding their criminal activities from larger cities to small towns using dedicated mobile phone lines (deal lines) to sell drugs. Often, these organisations exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money.
Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying happens online via texting, emailing, instant messaging or posting messages on social media or in chat rooms. It is different to other forms of bullying because it can take place everywhere and at any time. Anyone can be a victim. Degrading messages quickly reach not only the target but also a vast number of onlookers. This increases the humiliation felt by the victim.
Domestic abuse	Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who have been intimate partners or family members. Domestic abuse can include psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.
Early help	Early help was recommended by the Munro Review in 2011, calling for local authorities to be duty-bound to provide these type of services. Early help aims to prevent a child, or young person becoming a child in need or requiring child protection to promote their wellbeing and safety.
Education, Health and Care Plan	A plan covering the education, health and social care needs of a child or young person with a disability and/or special educational needs.
Emotional abuse	The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. Emotional abuse causes severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.
Extremism	Extremism is strongly linked to terrorist activity. An extremist holds strong beliefs which are contrary to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths, etc.

Fabricated illnesses	This is a rare form of child abuse which occurs when a parent or carer exaggerates or deliberately induces signs or symptoms of illness in a child.
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	FGM is a procedure in which the female genital organs are injured or changed. There is no medical reason for what is frequently a very traumatic and violent experience for the victim, and FGM can be harmful in many ways.
Forced marriage	A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. In cases of vulnerable individuals who lack the capacity to consent to marriage, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced. <small>Source: Multi-agency practice guidance: Handling cases of forced marriage. HM Government June 2014.</small>
Grooming	Grooming is a process by which a sexually exploitative adult manipulates a child into sexual exploitation by purporting to be the child's partner. The child is seduced into feeling loyal to their 'partner' and becomes emotionally and materially dependent on them through a process of being isolated from family, friends and professionals.
Human trafficking	The movement of people from one place to another by use of threats or force for the purpose of exploitation (which includes sexual exploitation, economic exploitation, criminal exploitation, domestic servitude, etc.)
Neglect	The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs. It is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.
Online grooming	Online grooming is an exploitative process preparatory to sexual abuse. It involves the use of technology to set up an abusive situation online.
Parent carer	An adult who has parental responsibility for a child with a disability and provides, or intends to provide, care for this child.



Parental mental ill health	<p>Parental mental ill health is a broad term which covers many conditions, including but not limited to anxiety, depression, psychotic illness and bipolar disorder.</p> <p>When referring to parental mental ill health, anyone who has regular responsibility for the care of the child is included – they do not need to have parental responsibility.</p>
Parental substance misuse	<p>Refers to the harmful or hazardous use by parents of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit or prescription drugs.</p>
Physical abuse	<p>The intentional causing of physical harm to a child. It could involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or fabricated and induced illness. It can happen at any time of life.</p>
Radicalisation	<p>The HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011 defines radicalisation as:</p> <p>'The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.</p> <p>Radicalisation is driven by an ideology which sanctions the use of violence; by propagandists for that ideology here and overseas; and by personal vulnerabilities and specific local factors which, for a range of reasons, make that ideology seem both attractive and compelling.'</p>
Sexual abuse	<p>Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, regardless of whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The perpetrators can be adult men and women and other children.</p>
Terrorism	<p>As defined in the Terrorism Act 2000, terrorism is 'an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people, causes serious damage to property or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system...</p> <p>...the use of threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.'</p>
Toxic Trio	<p>The Toxic Trio is used to describe issues of domestic abuse, parental mental ill health and parental substance misuse. These factors are considered to be indicators of increased risk to children and young people when they are present in the family.</p>
Young carer	<p>A person under the age of 18 who helps look after another person who is disabled, ill or misuses alcohol or drugs.</p>

