

## Child Protection System in Scotland

### How to report a concern

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on **999**. If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should share your concerns.

- **Follow your organisational child protection procedures.** Organisations that work with children and families must have [safeguarding policies and procedures](#) in place.
- **Contact the NSPCC Helpline** on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or by emailing [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk). Our trained professionals will talk through your concerns with you and give you expert advice.
- **Contact your local children's social work team.** Their contact details can be found on the website for the local authority the child lives in.
- **Contact the local Children's Reporter.** Local, independent officials can decide if any legal interventions need to be made to protect a child. Children's Reporters offices can be found on the [Scottish Children's Reporter Administration website](#).
- **Contact Police Scotland** if you are concerned that a child is in immediate danger.

Services will risk assess the situation and take action to protect the child as appropriate either through statutory involvement or other support. This may include making a referral to the local authority.

[> See our information about recognising and responding to abuse](#)

## **SHANARRI**

The SHANARRI indicators aim to help those working with children and young people assess how a child is doing at any point in time and identify what support is needed.

The indicators state that every child and young person should be:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

(Scottish Government, 2021a). Anyone who has concerns about a child's wellbeing should listen to the child and their family's views and consider the following key questions:

- What is getting in the way of this child or young person's wellbeing?
- Do I have all the information I need to help this child or young person?
- What can I do now to help this child or young person?
- What can my agency do to help this child or young person?
- What additional help, if any, may be needed from others? (Scottish Government, 2021a).