

Area Child Protection Committee

The ACPC brings together local agencies working with children and families. ACPC is responsible for policy, procedures and services to support children and families in need + to protect children from abuse and neglect. ACPC membership includes representatives from B&NES Council Services, B&NES Primary Care Trust, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Avon & Somerset Probation Service, Connexions West of England, Barnardos and the Child & Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS).

Contacts

The child protection units in your police force and social services will help you in suspected cases of child abuse. They will also advise on child protection and related issues.

Avon & Somerset Constabulary Child Protection Team
(located in Keynsham)
Tel: 0117 945 4707 or 0117 945 4786

Bath & North East Somerset Social Services
01225 477000 www.bathnes.gov.uk/socialservices

Social Services Referral Assessment Team
01225 396313/4

Helpful Information

Child-Safe, Avon & Somerset Constabulary
visit www.child-safe.org.uk

For Bath & North East Somerset Child-Safe scheme,
seminars and resources
01275 816131 or visit www.child-safe.org.uk

Child-Safe Freephone
For national information and resources
0800 389 7695

Bath & North East Somerset Youth & Community Service
01225 396980 www.bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset Sports Development
01225 396456 or visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/sports

Bath & North East Somerset Area Child Protection
Committee (ACPC) or visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/acpc

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)
www.crb.gov.uk or www.disclosure.gov.uk



POLICE APPROVED SCHEME



Parents Awareness

Supported by the
Bath and North East Somerset Area
Child Protection Committee

www.child-safe.org.uk

Protecting your children from abuse

Many parents worry that their children may suffer abuse when they are out of their sight – playing sport or participating in activities away from home.

This Child-Safe leaflet has been written to help you feel more secure and to keep your children safe from harm. Like road safety, you can make simple rules part of your family's life.

By following the simple advice in this leaflet, you will be able to help protect your children when they are participating in club activities and enable them to develop independence and self confidence.

Remember: People who abuse children do not always stand out in a crowd and may even be someone that you know. Parents and others who are responsible for children must always be aware that there are potential risks.

But, it is very important to keep a sense of perspective, as;

- The vast majority of adults will never hurt a child;
- Children and young people must be allowed to become independent and learn to look after themselves.



Joining Clubs & Organisations

Before you agree to your child joining any club or group, or sending them on any other kind of organised activity these points should be kept in mind:

1. Is the club/group implementing Child-Safe?
2. Talk to other parents about their experience of the group – are they confident that their children are in safe hands?
3. Ask the staff and volunteers if they have been checked through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and how long they have been involved with the club/group.
4. Ask the police or local authority (Youth & Community Service or Sports Development) if they have any links with the group.
5. Is the club or group well-known in the local community? How long has it existed?

6. Are you satisfied that there are sufficient adults available to supervise the children at all times?
7. Will your child always be with other children or will they ever be left alone with an adult or adults?
8. Does the club/group encourage parents to participate in activities?
9. Are the qualifications of the responsible adults listed?
10. Has the group produced a written policy which clearly states its commitment to protect the children in its care from abuse? Is it part of a bigger organisation with clear child protection rules?

Once your child has joined

- Do drop in occasionally
- Do talk to your child about the activities and listen carefully if your child seems reluctant to attend
- Do talk to other parents

Teach your Children

- To know the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching;
- To feel confident about refusing to do anything which they think is wrong or frightening;
- The difference between good secrets which are fun to keep and bad secrets which they worry about.

What do I do if my child tells me he/she has been abused?

If you suspect your child has been abused you will be feeling very upset and may be feeling anger towards someone you trusted.

Do not confront the suspected abuser, seek help and report your concerns. There are many organisations which exist to help people at this difficult time. The contact details for organisations within Bath & North East Somerset are listed on the back of this leaflet

Remember – this advice is about making you feel comfortable about your child's safety. Most adults are not abusers so you need not be frightened – or frighten your children – unduly.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)

The CRB has been set up by the Home Office to help organisations make safer recruitment decisions. By providing wider access to criminal record information, the CRB helps employers in the public, private and voluntary sectors to identify candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially work involving contact with children or other vulnerable members of society.

- CRB disclosure checks should be carried out on everyone who may be working closely with young people, whether in paid employment or in a voluntary capacity.
- Parents should recognise that a CRB disclosure check is only valid for the time of issue and cannot guarantee children's safety but it does help.

Child-Safe

This leaflet has been produced by the Bath & North East Somerset Child-Safe Partnership.

The Child-Safe Scheme was developed by Avon and Somerset Constabulary and has been fully embraced by the Bath & North East Somerset Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) and ACHE (Action on Child Exploitation), who initiated a Child-Safe Partnership including the Social Services, the Primary Care Trust, Sports Development, Youth and Community Services and Barnardos.

The Child-Safe scheme offers a modern, practical and pro-active approach to child protection with very clear objectives:

- To offer all clubs and organisations support, information and advice to help understand and deal with child protection issues
- To support parents, volunteers, staff, children and young people
- To close doors of opportunity and prevent offenders easily reaching positions of trust.