

# Referring a child in need

## Making a Referral

To make a referral, contact the Social Care and Health Duty Team for Children and Families. Call **0121-303 1111** for the telephone number of the Social Care and Health office covering the child's address.

## Useful Contacts

**Children's Rights and Engagement Service**

Tel: **0121-303 7217**

**Childline – 24 hour advice**

Tel: **0800 1111**

**Consultation Review and Monitoring Team**

Tel: **0121 464 1229**

**Social Care and Health Customer Relations Service – for comments, complaints**

Tel: **0121 303 5161**

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অনুরোধ সাপেক্ষে বাংলা ভাষায়ও পাওয়া যায়, যোগাযোগ করুন 0121-464 3123

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પુછાવવાથી ગુજરાતીમાં પણ આ માળી શકશે. સંપર્ક માટેનો નંબર 0121-464 3123

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 0121-464 3123 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اُردو زبان میں بھی طلب کرنے پر دستیاب ہیں۔ رابطہ کے لئے 0121-464 3123 پر رجوع کریں۔

For further copies of this leaflet, translations and other formats, please contact the Communications and Information Team on 0121-464 3123.

Cover photo posed by models

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/socialcare](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/socialcare)

Information for professional,  
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## The Role of Social Care and Health

The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families says that Social Care and Health has the lead role for the assessment of children in need.

**However, the assessment of these children and their families and providing this services is a corporate responsibility.**

Social Care and Health will:

- Receive referrals and establish within a day whether this is potentially a child in need
- Do initial assessments that identify whether a child is in need and the nature of need, expressed within the Framework, and complete them within seven working days
- Undertake, co-ordinate or commission further assessments as required

This and the role and responsibilities of other agencies is explained in greater depth in the **Inter-Agency Protocol for Assessments**.

## Service Priorities

Birmingham Social Care and Health is responsible for a range of statutory responsibilities. The following are our current key service priorities for Social Care and Health Children and Families teams:

- Children who appear to be suffering, or are at risk of suffering significant harm
- Children whose parents are unable at present to provide an adequate standard of care
- Children whose parents require support to provide an adequate standard of care. This may be as a result of disability, illness or addiction, or family crisis,

- Children whose behaviour or condition causes problems to their families or the community
- Children who have no parents or carers
- Children whose parents are requesting immediate accommodation under Section 20 Children Act 1989
- Disabled children who are eligible for an assessment of their needs under Section 17(10) Children Act 1989
- Children in private foster placements
- Children previously 'looked after' by the local authority

Social Care and Health will apply these service priorities to ensure that resources assist those children who are most in need.

## Making a Referral

Referrals should always be made in writing or, where an urgent verbal referral is made, followed up in writing. An inter-agency referral form is available for this purpose, and helps Social Care and Health to be clear about your concern and what has prompted it.

While professionals should generally seek to talk over concerns with the family and seek their agreement to making referrals to Social Care and Health, this **should not be done** where such discussion and agreement-seeking will, in the judgement of the referrer, place a child at risk of significant harm.

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