Warning Signs

Missed health appointments, basic needs not being met, and Behavioural problems, not going to school or poor school progress, not being clean, not looking after themselves and hurting themselves on purpose.

Possible Causes

Family breakdown, disability faced by child or other family member, domestic abuse, parents using drugs or alcohol.

What to do

Try to help your child as best you can but if there are problems you cannot help with contact the Access Team, Your Doctor or other Care professionals. Try to tell them about what's happening as openly and honestly as you can. Be involved in all meetings and interviews.

Prevention

The earlier you seek help, the less damage will be done and the easier it will be to sort out the difficulties that your child and your family face.

Contacts

Children and Families – Access Team
Telephone: 0845 351 0131

Speak to the School Nurse or your child’s school

ChildLine Telephone: 0800 1111
Children do well when their parents or carers give them a good standard of care and sometimes parents and carers need help to do this.

Children can be ‘in need’ for a variety of reasons.

Sandwell Council policies are there to make sure that children get the right services and care.

By involving the child, the parents or carers and all the relevant service providers together, the aim is to find and sort out issues early and successfully.

We always ask parents’ and carers permission to share information amongst groups of professionals, unless the child is at serious risk.

Children have a right to have their basic needs met and to be protected from abuse and neglect.

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**Working Together for our Children**

**Who are children in need?**

All sorts of children and families face a variety of difficulties, where help is needed to make sure that they are safe and supported. The difficulty may arise from disability or family breakdown or from difficulties that many parents face in responding to their child’s changing needs. Help can come from several different departments and agencies; we aim to bring them together. The goal is to meet the needs of children and families before a problem becomes a crisis.

**How it all works**

When professionals with whom you have contact become aware that you need help to meet the needs of your child, they will talk to you about how they can help. If it is not possible for their agency to provide the right service or advice they will request your permission to ask another agency to help. If a number of agencies need to make a plan with you to meet your children’s needs they may call a meeting, to which you will be invited, and at which you will be given support to share your views. At this meeting, you, your child and representatives from various agencies, work together to find a successful way forward.

**Family focused**

You and your child are consulted and are encouraged to attend any meetings held about your situation. By law, all information about your family is treated in the strictest confidence and your permission is required for information to be shared, unless there are serious concerns about your child’s safety. At any time, you and your child have the right to express your views and have anything you wish explained to you.