



Where else can you find support?

The following national organisations you may also find useful if you're concerned about a child:

[Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) for information about how to stop bullying

[The Ben Kinsella Trust](#) for information for parents or carers worried about knife crime

[NSPCC](#) for information about the different types of child abuse

[Family Action](#) for advice about family issues including financial hardship and domestic abuse

[Frank](#) for friendly, confidential advice and questions about drugs

[CEOP](#) for advice on keeping children safe online

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD YOU CARE FOR?

Guidance for parents/carers concerned about a child's involvement in anti-social behaviour/low-level crime or who is at risk of exploitation

Signs in your child that might raise concerns...

You may have noticed changes in your child which you are worried about, such as:

- Sudden changes in their friendship groups
- Changes in mood
- Changes in behaviour – they might be more aggressive or more secretive
- Being disruptive
- Ignoring boundaries or breaking family rules
- Unsafe use of the internet or spending a lot more time online
- Problems in school – they might skip school or get into trouble more often
- Changing patterns of behaviour, including regularly going missing
- Unexplained money and you're not sure where they've got it from
- Unexplained gifts
- Change of physical appearance, including the type of clothes they wear
- Changes in their language, including the use of slang words or code words for drugs or sex
- Experimenting with drugs or alcohol
- Unexplained injuries – this might be because of self-harm, or harm caused by someone else
- Being picked up in cars driven by adults you don't know
- Being in a relationship with someone who is much older than them

Some of these signs may not always suggest anti-social behaviour, criminal activity or exploitation. However, having a conversation with your child can help provide clarity and highlight any problems.

What can you do?

- Speak to your child calmly and openly to discuss any potential issues. Encouraging them to speak can mean that they get the necessary support they may need.
- Think about other people the child could talk to. It's important that they feel they have someone to share their concerns with, even if that's not you.
- Contact one of the 7 [Sandwell Family Hubs](#) who can offer help by providing services and support for all families in Sandwell with children aged 0-19 (or 25 with SEND).
- Approach your child's school and speak to a teacher or the Designated Safeguarding Lead for additional support and guidance.
- Visit the [Sandwell Family Life](#) website for information on local activities and services for children, young people and families in Sandwell.
- If you suspect a child is experiencing abuse or neglect, contact Sandwell Children's Trust:

Telephone:
0121 569 3100

Website:
www.sandwellchildrenstrust.org/report-child-risk

- In case of immediate danger, contact the police on 999.