

## The Sark Children's Protection Panel

The Sark Children's Protection Panel has been set up to co-ordinate child protection procedures on Sark.

Members of the panel are all experienced in child protection and have received appropriate training.

Members of the panel will consider any concerns that are raised and identify the appropriate action to be taken. In a few cases this may include a referral to HSSD social workers in Guernsey to request an assessment.

The panel works confidentially and will not pass on any information it receives unless it is necessary to safeguard the child.

Leaflet produced by the

**Sark Children's Protection Panel**

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Sark Constable	07781 101908
Sark Doctor	01481 832045
Sark School	01481 832601
Methodist Minister	01481 832115
Vicar	01481 832040
Health Visitor	01481 725241
Parent Line	0808 800 2222
Child Line	0800 1111

## SARK CHILDREN'S PROTECTION PANEL

Dr John Stevenson	01481 832045
Sarah Cottle	07781 100312
Christine Audrain	07781 128912
Karen Adams	07781 106072
Sark Constable	07781 101908
Sark Vingtenier	07781 101910
Caragh Couldridge	07781 132414

## SARK CHILDREN'S PROTECTION



Keeping Children  
Safe

Public Information  
Leaflet for  
Child Protection on  
Sark



## Keeping Children Safe From Harm

**Everybody has a responsibility to keep children under 18 years of age safe from harm and abuse.**

Harm and abuse is identified in four ways:

**Neglect** means that a child is not being properly taken care of by their parents. This could be about poor hygiene or poor diet, being left alone at home, not being taken to appointments or not being sent to school.

**Physical Abuse** is where someone deliberately hurts, hits or injures a child.

**Emotional Abuse** is where someone shouts at, uses threats or makes fun of a child to make the child feel frightened, worthless or unloved. A child seeing violence between parents or other people in their home can also be at risk of emotional abuse.

**Sexual Abuse** is where someone influences, involves or forces a child to look at or take part in sexual activities. This could include encouraging unwanted touching, involving a child in watching pornography or forcing a child or young person under the age of consent to have sex.

### What should I do if I think that a child is being harmed?

If you are concerned about a child, speak to someone. You could speak to a member of the Children's Protection Panel or the Sark Health Visitor, a teacher at the school or the Sark Doctor. If you are concerned a child is at immediate risk of serious harm you should contact the police. Make sure:

- You act promptly
- You explain your concerns
- Give as much information as possible about the child & your concerns.

### Will I need to give my name?

You do not need to give your name, although this may cause difficulties in establishing whether or not a child is at risk from abuse. If you do give your name, this will be treated with discretion and only revealed if the child's safety requires it.

### What happens if I do not report a concern?

The information you have about the child is one piece of a jigsaw. If you do not share your information, those who are working with the child may be missing a crucial piece, which will make it harder for them to protect the child. It is always better to report a concern you have: Remember, we all have a responsibility to keep children safe from harm.

## Parents

As a parent you are the most important person in keeping your child safe. You should talk to the school or Health Visitor if you need help or support and feel confident about raising any concerns you have in relation to your child.

## School

School has a responsibility to ensure that all children feel safe and protected in the school environment. School staff are trained in child protection; how to identify abuse and what must be done if they or someone else is worried about a child. Children in school are told what to do if they are worried or concerned about anything, including harm and abuse.

## The Public

As responsible citizens and members of the community, everyone should feel that they have a responsibility to ensure that children are safe from harm or abuse. If they see something that worries them, they should pass this concern on so that action can be taken, if needed, to protect the child.

