



Registrants should be aware of the needs of children who may be at risk of abuse. For ethical reasons, registrants should be clear about the limits of confidentiality.

If a registrant has any concern for the welfare of a child, or a vulnerable person, they should keep 'Contemporaneous Management Notes' (write this in the heading) as a record of events and actions. Such notes should record facts rather than opinions and ideally should include a conclusion in a risk assessment format. A registrant must discuss their concerns with a BPC psychoanalytical psychotherapist supervisor or with members of their peer supervision group. If this concern is seen as being in any way justified (the registrant's supervisor or supervisory group should err on the side of caution in such a sensitive area) then the registrant must discuss the matter with a member of the 'Child Protection Advisory Panel'. If the concern is seen as justified then the registrant will usually need to raise the issue with the patient with a view to obtaining their consent to refer the matter to social services. In cases where it is believed that informing the patient that a referral is going to be made might place a child (or vulnerable adult) at increased risk of harm (or compromise a possible criminal investigation), then the referral should be made without informing the patient until social services or the police advises that this can safely be done.

The Local Authority Social Services Department may then activate their statutory procedures policy as set out in a document called 'Working Together'. These procedures may require the registrant to confirm their concern in writing. Following the discussions with a Children & Families Social Worker a 'Strategy Meeting' may be called to which the registrant may be invited.

At any stage of this procedure it may be decided that no action is needed at this point in time.

In cases of urgency the registrant should first raise the matter with the patient and then try to discuss the matter with a member of the Child Protection Advisory Panel by telephone.

In cases where there is risk of death or serious harm then the police should be informed immediately.