

What will the Paediatrician do?

The Paediatrician will ask you all about your baby/child. This will include when the bruise or injury was first noticed and if you know how it happened.

The Paediatrician will do a full examination which includes undressing your baby/child. The Paediatrician will discuss the outcome of their assessment with you. They may ask for your consent as the parent or carer to perform other examinations or tests.

Your baby/child may require further tests or investigations such as x-rays, and/or bloods tests. This is to ensure there is no underlying medical condition or signs of a non-accidental injury.

Your baby/child may need to stay in hospital while these tests/investigations are being carried out.

If x-rays are required they may need to be repeated again in 2 weeks.

If you have any questions or do not understand anything please ask.

What happens next?

The Paediatrician will speak to the Social Work Department and let them know the outcome of your baby/child's assessment. The Paediatrician might also need to speak to the Police. In the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) a Police Officer, Social Worker and member of NHS Public Protection Team will discuss and jointly decide whether any further action is needed.

Social Work will update you on the outcome of the MASH discussion and advise if any further action is needed.

For further information and Support please contact:

Locality Social Work - Tel: 0303 333 3000
Social Work Out of Hours - Tel: 01387 273660



Bruising and Injuries in Babies and Children

*Information for parents and carers about
bruising or injuries on babies and children
who are not independently mobile*



This leaflet explains the process that Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership must follow for babies/children living in Dumfries and Galloway when a bruise, injury or mark has been noticed on your baby or child.

All professionals working with babies and children are expected, as part of their professional duties, to ensure babies and children are kept safe from harm.

If you do not understand any part of the process and need further explanation, then ask the professionals involved who can then provide you with further information.

Why is bruising in babies and non-mobile children such a concern?

Bruising in babies or children who are not crawling is unusual and not common.

It is very unusual for a baby to get a bruise during everyday activities such as nappy changing, bathing or feeding.

But I have explained how I thought this happened.

Even when babies and non-mobile children fall or get knocked, it is unusual for them to get injured or bruised.

Bruising can be related to a health condition which has not been previously identified, and further medical assessments may be required.

Sometimes bruising in babies or non-mobile children is due to a deliberate injury. Even where there is an explanation it is important for professionals to make further enquiries.

Your baby or child will still need to be carefully assessed. It can take an opinion from a Consultant Paediatrician (specialist children's doctor) to be able to tell the difference between bruises and other types of marks.

This is very upsetting for me. Why do I/we have to be put through this?

We understand this can be very upsetting, but the only way of picking up serious causes for bruising or injuries is to investigate every case when it occurs.

However you can be reassured that you will be treated with courtesy and sensitivity and your explanations will be listened to and discussed with you. You will be kept informed at all times so that you know what is going on and why. You can ask questions at any time and will be given the opportunity to discuss your concerns fully at every stage.

What happens now?

1. A request will be made for an examination by a health professional at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary (DGRI) or in some cases the on-call Paediatrician may ask your GP to see the child.
2. A referral will be made to Social Work.
3. Your baby or child will be discussed with Health, Police and Social Work. This is called the MASH team. Part of the assessment involves gathering information from other agencies who may hold information about your family or who may be working directly with you.



This will be arranged as soon as possible.

