

Intoxicated Child / Young Person Presenting at NHS Lanarkshire Emergency Departments



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| TARGET AUDIENCE | All NHSL employees |
| PATIENT GROUP | Children and Young People of Lanarkshire |

Clinical Guidelines Summary

AIM

This guidance aims to support health professional decision making in relation to a child / young person presenting intoxicated with alcohol and/or other substances at Emergency Departments (ED) in Lanarkshire. The guidance will support professional decision making, promote safer discharge and inform appropriate follow up.

This guidance provides a framework to support staff in ED in relation to:

- Raising a Notification of Child Protection Concern (NOCP).
- Raising Adult Support and Protection Concern (AP1) if age 16/17 years old and the young person who is not on a Compulsory Supervision Order.

(See appendix 1)

Definitions

Under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, a 'child' is defined, for the purposes of all Parts of that Act, as someone who has not yet attained the age of 18. The individual young person's circumstances and age will dictate what legal protections are available. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 can be applied to over 16's when the criteria are met.

Intoxicated Child/Young Person Presenting at NHS Lanarkshire Emergency Departments Guideline Body

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- If health staff suspect that a child or young person has experienced or is at risk of abuse or neglect, they must provide any immediate medical care required, gather information from the child or young person's medical records, and contact social work standby services.
- Where assessment of the child/young person indicates potential risk of significant harm, staff must follow Child Protection/Adult Support and Protection processes to formally raise their concern. Staff must ensure that senior practitioners are involved in any decision-making process.
- Following assessment, the child/young person should not be discharged until the Emergency Medicine Physician is satisfied that the child/young person is medically fit for discharge and the parent/carer is involved.
- Parent/carer should be advised a NOCPC may lead to a full multi agency needs/risk assessment and commencement of Child Protection processes.
- If child/young person is medically fit for discharge and responsible adult cannot be contacted (if under 16 years) staff should contact Social Work for advice.

Where there may be a child protection concern, information may be lawfully shared without the need for consent to be obtained from the individual(s) to whom the information relates (National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021).

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Responding to intoxicated child/young person presenting at
NHS Lanarkshire Emergency Departments

Are there any indicators of the following?

- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse/exploitation
- Child Trafficking
- Missing person
- Looked After Child/Young Person
- Pregnant
- All children 13 years and under
- Child experiencing mental health issues

Yes

Submit NOCPC to Social Work and follow Child Protection/Adult Support and Protection procedures.

Out of hours: North 0800 121 4114
South 0303 123 1008

No

Does the child/ young person fall into one or more of the following categories of risk?

- Family history of substance misuse
- Young offender
- Homeless
- Mental health problem
- Known to addiction services
- Behaviour causing concern to staff
- Recurrent attendances
- Positive e-Care alert on TrakCare
- In conflict with the law

(List not exhaustive - use clinical judgement)

Yes

Consider risk of harm, check portal system, Trakcare, discuss with Senior Clinician or Child Protection Advisor. If assessment outcome indicative of risk of significant harm, follow Child Protection /Adult Support and Protection procedures.

Out of hours:

North 0800 121 4114

South 0303 123 1008

No

- Discharge
- Offer referral to Adult Substance Misuse Service if appropriate
- If medically fit for discharge and unable to contact responsible adult (if under 16 years) contact Social Work for advice
- Consideration for CAMHS referral if appropriate
- Signpost/referral to specialised service:
[Home | LANDED Peer Education Service | Lanarkshire](#)
[Home \(thegivit.org\)](#) (South Lanarkshire)
[Barnardo's Axis Lanarkshire Core | Barnardo's](#)
[\(barnardos.org.uk\)](#) (North Lanarkshire)

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References/Evidence

Scottish Government (2022) Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) Practice Guidance 1- Using the GIRFEC Practice Model 2022 - Using the National Practice Model. Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-right-child-girfec-practice-guidance-1-using-national-practice-model/documents/>.

Scottish Government (2021) National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland – Updated 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2023/08/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021-updated-2023/documents/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021-updated-2023/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021-updated-2023/govscot%3Adocument/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021-updated-2023.pdf>

Scottish Government (2014) Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/section/1/enacted>

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**Intoxicated Child/Young Person Presenting
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Appendix 1**

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| <p>Raising a Notification of Child Protection Concern (NOCP) Policy</p> | <p>Firstport Corporate Policies Page: https://nhsguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/guidelines/child-protection/</p> |
| <p>Raising Adult Support and Protection Concern (AP1) Policy</p> | <p>Firstport Corporate Policies Page: https://www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/download/adult-support-and-protection-policy/?wpdmdl=4775&refresh=652d2e915555d1697459857</p> |

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1. Governance information for Guidance document

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lead Author(s): | Bernadette McCormick NHSL Public Protection Professional Lead/Service Manager |
| Endorsing Body: | NHS Lanarkshire Public Protection Strategic Group |
| Version Number: | 2.0 |
| Approval date | August 2023 |
| Review Date: | August 2026 |
| Responsible Person (if different from lead author) | Ann Marie Sangster NHSL Chief Nurse, Head of Service Public Protection |

| CONSULTATION AND DISTRIBUTION RECORD | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Contributing Author / Authors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Advisors |
| Consultation Process / Stakeholders: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Lanarkshire Public Protection Strategic Group NHS Lanarkshire Lead Child Protection Paediatrician Staff Briefing |
| Distribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHSL – FirstPort |
| CHANGE RECORD | |

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| Date | Lead Author | Change | Version No. |
|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| June 2017 | Child Protection Advisor | June 2017 | 1 |
| June 2020 | Head of Child and Adult Protection | Date extended until 30 June 2023 due to Covid - 19 | 1.0 |
| August 2023 | Child Protection Advisors | Reviewed and updated to reflect change in National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021. | 2.0 |

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