

# Symptoms of Abuse

## **Physical**

- •Bruises, black eyes and broken bones
- Unexplained or untreated injuries
- •Injuries to unusual body parts e.g. thighs, back, abdomen
- Bruising that resembles hand/finger marks
- •Burns/scalds
- •Human bites/cigarette burns
- •Injuries that the child cannot explain or explains unconvincingly
- •Injuries in babies and non mobile children

#### Sexual

- •Genital discomfort, pain, itching, bruising, injuries
- •Public /compulsive masturbation
- Eating disorders
- •Sexually explicit behaviour or language not appropriate for their age
- Sexually Transmitted Infection
- Sexually explicit drawings
- Pregnancy

#### **Behaviours**

- •Marked change in general behaviour
- Low self-esteem
- Extremely passive/aggressive
- •Withdrawn/withdrawal from friends & family
- Sleeping difficulties
- Eating disorder

- Lethargy/tiredness
- Fear of certain adults
- Poor social relationships
- •Bullying/anti-social behaviours
- Attendance difficulties
- Disclosure
- Self harm

# Neglect

- Child cold/inappropriately dressed
- Undernourished/always hungry
- •Untreated medical problems e.g. dental decay, head lice etc
- •Lethargy, tiredness or aggressive tendencies

### Emotional

- •Physical, mental & emotional development lags
- •Talks of excessive punishment
- •Fear of parents being contacted
- Sudden speech disorders
- •Running away
- •Self deprecation, low self esteem