



Hello from the safeguarding team! We hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year we look forward to seeing you all Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022



## Christmas Vulnerability

You might assume that Christmas is the happiest time of year for every child, but for children whose families are in crisis or who are victims of abuse or neglect, Christmas can be one of the most upsetting times of the year.

Unfortunately, there are thousands of children in the UK today who are victims of abuse, and perhaps thousands more who cannot be accounted for. While their friends are getting lots of new toys from Santa on Christmas morning, some children might not even get the chance to smile. Being out of school means a disruption to normal routine, and with potentially abusive family members off work and at home during the holidays, there is a heightened risk of abuse.

There are lots of different forms of abuse and neglect as seen below.

- + Untreated injuries, medical and dental issues
- + Repeat accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision
- + Reoccurring illnesses or infections
- + Faltering weight or growth, and not reaching developmental milestones
- + Poor language communication or social skills
- + Unwashed clothes and inadequate clothing in general, like not having a winter coat
- + Living in an unsuitable home environment— inadequate heating or dirty living environment i.e. dog mess around the house
- + Being left alone for a long time
- + Taking on the role of carer for other family members

As always, if you suspect abuse or neglect, say something. By contacting the local authority, NSPCC or Childline, your report could quite literally mean the difference between life and death for a child at risk this Christmastime.



## Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse cases can be heightened over Christmas due to families being together for an extended period of time and existing abuse can intensify. Domestic abuse can broadly be defined as 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour; violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who have been intimate partners or family members. This can include but is not limited to the following types of abuse – psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional. If you are concerned about someone you think may be suffering DV call Womens Aid on 0800 980 3331 or 999

## Safeguarding Team

Thank you for your continued support in keep our children and community safe. We hope this leaflet is informative should you or someone you know require support. If you have any concerns please contact the team on

[Admin@oasiswarndon.org](mailto:Admin@oasiswarndon.org)

Left to right: Mrs Cooke DSL, Mrs Minton Deputy DSL, Mrs Powell Deputy DSL, Miss Spicer Deputy DSL, Mrs Newman Deputy DSL



## Firework safety

Many families will enjoy firework displays over the festive season. Particularly New Years Eve. It is important to remember that although they are very pretty going up into the sky the results of misuse are not. It is reported 69% of burns are caused by fireworks.

Top tips to remember:

- + Plan your firework display carefully, ensuring there is plenty of surrounding room
- + Keep naked flames, including cigarettes away from fireworks
- + Once lit once do not return even if the firework does not go off.
- + Do not throw them
- + Light them one at a time
- + If your child is using a sparkler ensure they are wearing gloves as they can get hot. Do NOT give to children under 5 and ensure they are put out properly
- + Ensure all fireworks/fires are properly put out

