3. DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Neglect

- Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse.

- A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.

- A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm.

- They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents/carers.

- A child who is neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well.
- Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Different Types of Neglect

- Physical: Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child or provide for their safety.

- Emotional: Failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, perhaps by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them (this is often the most difficult type of neglect to prove).

- Medical: Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical recommendations.

- Educational: Failing to ensure a child receives an education.

Physical Abuse

- Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child, causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.

- It is not accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them.

- There is no excuse for physically abusing a child. It causes serious, and often long-lasting, harm - and in severe cases, death.

Sexual Abuse

- A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities.
- This does not have to be physical contact and it can happen online.
- Sometimes the child will not understand that what is happening to them is abuse.
- They may not even understand that it is wrong. Or they may be afraid to speak out.

- There are 2 different types of child sexual abuse. These are called contact abuse and non-contact abuse.

Contact abuse involves touching activities where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration.

It includes:

- forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activity
- rape or penetration by putting an object or body part inside a child's mouth, vagina or anus
- sexual touching of any part of the body whether the child is wearing clothes or not
- making a child take their clothes off, touch someone else's genitals or masturbate.

Non-contact abuse involves non-touching activities, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the internet and flashing.

It includes:

- encouraging a child to watch or hear sexual acts
- not taking proper measures to prevent a child being exposed to sexual activities by others
- meeting a child following sexual grooming with the intent of abusing them
- online abuse including making, viewing or distributing child abuse images
- allowing someone else to make, view or distribute child abuse images
- sexually exploiting a child for money, power or status (child exploitation)
- showing pornography to a child.

Emotional Abuse

- Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development.

- Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.

- Children who are emotionally abused are often suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time - but this is not always the case.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

- Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.
- It can happen anywhere - at school, at home or online. It is usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.
- Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online and it can be devastating for a young person. Unlike bullying in the real world, online bullying can follow the child wherever they go, via social networks, gaming sites and apps and mobile phone.

Bullying can take different forms. It could include:

- physical bullying, such as hitting, slapping or pushing someone

- verbal bullying, such as name calling, gossiping or threatening someone
- non-verbal abuse, such as hand signs or text messages
- emotional abuse, such as threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- exclusion, such as ignoring or isolating someone
- undermining, by constant criticism or spreading rumours
- controlling or manipulating someone
- making silent, hoax or abusive calls
- racial, sexual or homophobic bullying
- bullying someone because they have a disability.