Chapter Nine: Child Protection

Child protection is properly viewed as an aspect of duties in respect of ‘safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children’.

Clarifies as:
- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children’s health or development.
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children have the best life chances.

Social workers have a duty to protect specific children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

Definitions of ‘child abuse’:
- ‘a form of maltreatment of a child... inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, or institutional or community setting by those known to them or by others.’
  (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013).

  - also can be emotional, physical, sexual abuse and neglect.

  **Physical** includes hitting, shaking, poisoning, burning, suffocating, and inducing illness of a child.

  **Emotional** includes preventing involvement in normal social interaction, seeing/hearing ill-treatment of others, feeling worthless or unwanted.

  **Sexual abuse** includes forcing or enticing young persons to take part in sexual activities, physical and non-physical, images or grooming.

  **Neglect** includes failure to meet child’s basic needs; food, clothing, shelter, access to medical treatments.

A duty to investigate:

Local authority receives referrals from a wide range of sources, such as:
- education
- health services
- households
- social services professionals
- police
- anonymous
- children themselves

There must be clarity on any action to be taken and by whom, all decisions should be recorded in writing.

With an emphasis on timeliness. Within one working day, social worker should make a decision on what type of response is required.