



Working together to Safeguard Children in BaNES e-NEWSLETTER

First Edition: Bruising in Children
March 2015

The following information was collected from CORE INFO – Cardiff Child Protection Systematic Reviews.

Bruising is the most common injury sustained by a child as a result of physical abuse.

The diagnostic problems involve the difficulty in distinguishing an abusive bruise from a non-abusive bruise as well as determining the **age of the bruise**, which **cannot be done accurately**.

A bruise must never be interpreted in isolation and must always be assessed in the context of medical and social history, developmental stage, explanation given, full clinical examination and relevant investigations.

PATTERNS OF BRUISING THAT ARE SUGGESTIVE OF PHYSICAL CHILD ABUSE:

- Bruising in babies less than 6 months old or children who are not independently mobile is VERY RARE. **A local policy for bruising in non mobile babies is currently being developed.**
- Bruises that are seen away from bony prominences.
- Bruises to the face, back, abdomen, arms, buttocks, ears and hands. It is **extremely rare to see bruises on the hands of children less than two years old**, the buttocks of children less than nine years old, **and the face and neck at any age.**
- Multiple bruises in clusters, these are often **defensive** injuries as the child tries to protect their head.
- Multiple bruises of uniform shape and bruises that carry the imprint of implement used or a ligature.
- Bruises that are accompanied by petechiae, in the absence of underlying bleeding disorders.

The Childrens Safeguarding Team

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UPCOMING LEVEL 3 CORE COMPETENCIES TRAINING FOR GPs AND PNs: Please contact Anne to reserve a place.

12TH MAY: 12-2.30PM SALT FORD GOLF CLUB; CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (lunch provided)

3RD JUNE: 1.30-4 CHEW MEDICAL PRACTICE ; SEXUAL ABUSE (lunch provided) – only 7 places left

17TH JUNE: 9-1 BOARD ROOM, ST MARTINS ; TRAINING FOR NEW PRACTICE SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS LEADS

1ST JULY : 6-9PM RUH PGMC, BGPRT; LEARNING FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS

NEXT SAFEGUARDING LEADS MEETINGS:

21ST APRIL : 12.30-2.30 @ ST CHADS : CQC REQUIREMENTS

1ST JULY : 12.30-2.30 SALT FORD GOLF CLUB : JOINT WITH PROVIDER SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS LEADS