What to do if you are worried

I HAVE IMMEDIATE CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

Consult the relevant Children's Services Department for the authority where the child lives and follow any advice/guidance given.

In Cheshire East this is **Together for Families, Family Support and Advice Line**

Telephone: **0300 123 5012**
(option 3)

If you need to contact someone out of hours and you believe it to be an emergency that can't wait, please call our Emergency Duty Team on **0300 123 5022**

Multi-agency Referral Form - Report a concern about a child

Under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, agencies have a duty to share relevant information when it is necessary to safeguard or promote a child's welfare. In these circumstances, consent is not required and will not be sought if information must be shared, to avoid giving a false impression that families can choose whether safeguarding information is disclosed. However, wherever it is safe and appropriate, professionals should be transparent with children, parents and carers about what information is being shared, why it is being shared, who it will be shared with, and how it will be used.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT/HAVE RECEIVED AN ALLEGATION ABOUT A MEMBER OF STAFF

Make brief factual notes about your concerns. Speak to the Manager, unless the allegation is against the Manager, in which case speak to the Owner/ Chairperson.

The Manager/Owner should contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who will advise on the appropriate course of action. ***Do not start investigating until directed to do so.***

Cheshire East LADO
LADO Consultation

Ofsted must be informed of all allegations against any adult living or working on the premises.

Report a serious childcare incident - GOV.UK

I HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD'S WELFARE

Speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead about your concerns immediately- do not delay.
The DSL will assess the situation and decide on the next steps.
Make sure that you make a record of concerns, agreed actions and the outcomes.