



**Is this information kept by Children's Social Care?**

Yes - a record will be kept of the fact that your non-mobile child was referred and examined alongside the findings of that examination. You can request to see your records at any time by contacting Children's Social Care on 01403 229900.

Our aim is to support you and keep you fully informed at all times of what is happening and why. Please feel free to ask questions at any time.

**Further information is available from:**

Your local Health Visiting Team / Community Nursing Team.....

Children's Social Care: Tel. 01403 229900

NHS 111: Tel 111

West Sussex Safeguarding Children Board:  
[www.westsussexscb.org.uk](http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk)

Sussex procedures can be found online:  
<http://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk>

**My Non  
Independently  
Mobile child has a  
Bruise/unexplained  
skin mark  
What happens  
next?**

**The West Sussex  
Bruise Guidance explained**

### **Why is there concern that my Non Independently Mobile child may have a bruise/unexplained skin mark**

Bruises/unexplained skin marks on a child who cannot crawl or walk are very unusual and research has shown that it can be a serious cause for concern.

### **What could be the reason for the bruise/unexplained skin mark**

- It might not be a bruise/unexplained skin mark at all, it may be an unusual birthmark - not all birthmarks are present at birth but can appear days or weeks later.
- The bruise/unexplained skin mark may be a sign of a medical condition such as a blood disorder which requires further medical investigation.
- The bruise/unexplained skin mark can be a sign that your child has sustained an injury.

All staff in West Sussex follow the Bruising in Children who are Not Independently Mobile Guidance which specifies the actions they should take. We aim to ensure that your child receives the best care at all times.

### **What is going to happen next?**

- The professional who discussed your Non Independently Mobile child's bruise/unexplained mark with you has a duty to contact Children's Social Care (CSC). A meeting will be held which includes children's social care, the Police and a Paediatrician.
- You will be contacted and given an appointment, usually within 24hrs of the referral, for your child to be seen by a paediatrician (a doctor specialising in children). This is most often at your local child development centre or hospital. This is done quickly because if any further treatment or investigations are required it is important this happens as soon as possible for your child.
- At the appointment the paediatrician will ask you about your child, examine your child fully and then decide if any further medical investigations are required. Any information you can give about your baby is extremely important in finding out the reason for your child's bruise/unexplained skin mark.
- The paediatrician will inform CSC of the outcome of your child's examination. You will be told of any decisions taken and if there are any further actions required these will be discussed with you.