SPOTTING THE SIGNS

If you think a child is being abused or you think their safety is at risk, then it is important to tell someone. These are some potential signs of abuse and neglect.

- Frequent unexplained injuries
- Consistently poor hygiene
- Becoming unusually secretive and reluctant to share information
- Unexplained gifts or possessions
- A parent regularly collecting children from school when drunk/on drugs
- Demanding or aggressive behaviour
- Frequent lateness or absence from school
- Avoiding their own family
- A young person misusing drugs or alcohol
- A child being constantly tired
- Sexual or aggressive language
- Self-harming
- Being overly obedient

You don’t have to be absolutely certain about whether a child is being abused. If you have a feeling that something’s not right, talk to your local children’s social care team who will look into it. These are all signs of potential abuse or neglect.

Each of us has a role to play.
If you’re worried about a child, visit gov.uk/reportchildabuse