

Child Maltreatment: when to suspect maltreatment in under 18s Expert working group meeting

Date: 29/09/2025

Location: via Zoom

Minutes: Final

Expert working group members present:	
Professor Gillian Baird	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Dr Patrick Aldridge	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Deborah Brown	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Associate Professor Geoff Debelle	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Jo Complin	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Dr Cathy Fines	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Dr Amanda Mason Jones	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Susan Mein	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Cas Short	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Andrew Fellowes	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Patrick Aldridge	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 7, part of 8

NICE attendees:		
Peter Barry	Consultant Clinical Advisor	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Katharina Dworzynski	Topic Lead	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Christine Harris	Project Manager	Present via Zoom for

		items 1 to 8
Katriona O'Donoghue	Technical Analyst	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Joanna Perkin	Senior Content Designer	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Louise Sims	Social Care Advisor	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Odette Megnin-Viggars	Senior Technical Analyst	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Katriona O'Donoghue	Technical Analyst	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
Joanna Perkin	Senior Content Designer	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8

Observers:

Helen Morris	Observer	Present via Zoom for items 1 to 8
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Apologies:

Simran Chawla	Public Involvement Advisor
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1. Welcome, housekeeping and declarations of interest

The Topic facilitator, Gillian Baird welcomed Expert working group members and attendees to the first meeting of Child Maltreatment: when to suspect maltreatment in under 18s guideline update.

The Topic facilitator outlined the scope of the meeting, which was to reach a consensus on the definition of independently mobile in the context of assessing any bruise as a potential indicator of Child Maltreatment.

Housekeeping for the meeting was outlined, along with a round of introductions. Attendees were asked to declare any new declaration of interests, not previously declared on the interests register. Geoff DeBelle advised he had previously undertaken thematic reviews for the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. None of these related to the scope of this update. It was determined this interest was non specific to the scope of the meeting and would not pose a conflict of interest.

2. Presentation of results: First Consensus Questionnaire & Expert Working

Group Discussion
Gillian Baird, Topic Facilitator introduced Katriona O'Donoghue, Technical Analyst who gave on a presentation on the background and methodology for the guideline update. Katriona then proceeded to present the results of the first consensus questionnaire. Gillian Baird facilitated a discussion on the information presented. Each statement was discussed in turn by Expert working group members, enabling the NICE team and expert working group members to ask questions and seek clarification.
3. Presentation of results: First Consensus Questionnaire & Working Group Discussion continued
The Topic facilitator continued to facilitate further discussion on each of the areas presented. Agreement was reached by Expert working group members on the statements to be carried forward to formulate the second consensus questionnaire.
4. Submission of Second Consensus Questionnaire
Christine Harris, Project Manager sent Expert working group members the second consensus questionnaire for completion and return. The results of the questionnaire were analysed by the NICE team during the extended lunch break.
5. Presentation of results Second Consensus Questionnaire
The Topic facilitator introduced Katriona O'Donoghue who presented the results of the second consensus questionnaire. A discussion on each of the areas with Expert working group members followed, with input from Joanna Perkin, Senior Content Designer, on refinement of a definition. Expert working members reached consensus on a definition, and discussions were brought to a close.
7. Any other business
Katharina Dworzynski, Topic Lead and Christine Harris, Project Manager presented an overview of the next steps and anticipated timelines for this update.
11 Close of meeting
The Chair thanked the Expert working group members and NICE team for their contributions throughout the day and brought the meeting to a close.