

# **The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health**

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## **Biggest ever doctor child protection training drive launched by RCPCH and NSPCC**

A new scheme to give doctors more skills in managing suspected cases of child abuse is being launched today by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the NSPCC and the Advanced Life Support Group (ALSG).

*Safeguarding Children - Recognition and Response in Child Protection*; the first ever nationwide course will enable doctors to be better equipped to recognise and respond to possible cases of child abuse. It will be rolled out to doctors training in paediatrics. The project was made possible with government funding.

Until now, the availability of child protection training for paediatricians varied enormously across the country and was not mandatory. Every paediatrician will have to take a recognised child protection course as part of their training. It is hoped that eventually everyone studying paediatrics will undertake the RCPCH and NSPCC training course too.

*Recognition and Response in Child Protection* has been designed by the RCPCH, NSPCC and the ALSG. It consists of a day long intensive course run by experienced trainers and is supported by an interactive DVD and training pack. The training pack uses interactive slides, case histories and practical examples which will help doctors be more aware of possible cases of abuse when undertaking routine examinations.

The interactive DVD and training pack will also be available to doctors working in A & E departments and GP surgeries. The rollout of the course to both training and qualified paediatric specialists will help ensure that, for the first time, there is a nationwide training standard for all doctors and specialists who work closely with children and young people.

NSPCC director of training and consultancy Enid Hendry said, "Our aim is to support Doctors. Deciding to report possible child abuse can be a very difficult judgement call but it could be the child's only chance of intervention.

"Paediatricians are often the best placed professionals to notice signs such as old fractures and unusual bruising."

RCPCH president – elect, Dr Patricia Hamilton, said: “Doctors are a crucial link in the child protection chain and we want to do everything possible to enable them to recognise and respond to possible cases of abuse appropriately. The training course is designed to be beneficial to trainees and experienced doctors alike.”

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**For media enquiries only, contact Vicky Hardman on 020 7825 7403 or out of hours 07976 206625, or Claire Brunert at the RCPCH on 020 7307 8004.**

**Notes to editors:**

- The project was made possible by grants from the Department of Health, the NSPCC and also the Johnson and Johnson Paediatric Institute.
- The NSPCC’s purpose is to end cruelty to children. Its vision is of a society where all children are loved, valued and able to fulfil their potential. It seeks to achieve cultural, social and political change – influencing legislation, policy, practice, attitudes and behaviours and delivering services for the benefit of children and young people.
- The RCPCH established as a Royal College in 1996. The college currently has over 6000 members, who are mainly hospital and community paediatricians. Most members are based in the UK, though we have an increasing number of members and fellows who live overseas. The main objects of the College are to advance the art and science of paediatrics, improve standards of medical care to children, and to educate and examine doctors in paediatrics. Additionally, the College has a function in providing information to the public on the health care of children.
- ALSG is a not-for-profit organisation. As a medical education charity, their aim is to preserve life by providing training packages and training courses. Founded in 1990, it became a charity in 1993. Since the start, they have trained in excess of 45,000 people and have established a network of 5,000 instructors in 25 countries around the world.