



One minute guide

Children's Emergency Duty Team

No. 121, December 2024

What is the Children's Emergency Duty Team?

The Children's Emergency Duty Team (EDT) is a small team of qualified, specially trained and experienced senior social workers who provide an emergency response outside of office hours on behalf of Children's Social Work Service. Children's EDT forms part of the [Duty and Advice Team](#).

EDT work 365 days a year and will consider a response for any child or young person (up to the age of 18) who is at risk of significant harm. EDT starts as daytime services finish and continues through the evening, night and any Bank Holidays until daytime services resume. There is usually one social worker on shift overnight.

Where a response is needed for an adult, this is provided by [Adult's Emergency Duty Team](#).

Who can contact Children's EDT?

Only practitioners ringing in a professional capacity can contact Children's EDT. Prior to making contact with EDT, practitioners should consider if it is an emergency situation.

If the concern can wait until the next day, Duty and Advice should be contacted during office hours between 9am until 5pm Monday to Thursday (until 4.30pm on Fridays) on tel: 0113 37 60336.

Which concerns should be directed to EDT and which shouldn't?

Practitioners should direct concerns to Children's EDT that cannot wait until the next working day for attention. These include:

- When a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm; and
- When a child protection enquiry is needed because of physical, sexual and/ or emotional abuse or chronic neglect; and

Situations that can wait until the next day include:

- Where practitioners wish to discuss or refer non-urgent concerns;
- When a practitioner would like to pass on a message to an allocated social worker or other practitioner;
- Issues related to contact/ Family Time arrangements; and
- Difficulties which are being safely addressed by family members.

What should practitioners do when contacting EDT?

When contacting Children's EDT, practitioners should be prepared to share full and accurate information about the child and the family concerned.

This is in addition to providing factual information about the emergency, to ensure the team can advise or respond effectively.

Key contacts

Practitioners should contact Children's EDT on tel: 0113 53 50600.

Calls may not be answered immediately, as the team may be busy taking other calls. Messages can be left on voicemail and the team will respond to all messages as soon as possible.

Email: childrensedt@leeds.gov.uk

Adult's EDT can be contacted on tel: 0113 3780644

Email: edt.ss@leeds.gov.uk

Duty and Advice for practitioners can be contacted on tel: 0113 3760336 (please select option 4).

Where a member of the public believes that a child or young person is in immediate danger or at risk of significant harm, they should ring 999 and ask for the police.

During office hours, members of the public should contact Leeds City Council's Contact Centre on tel: 0113 222 4403 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

There are a number of other relevant One Minute Guides including: [Duty and Advice](#), [Front Door Safeguarding Hub](#), and [Contact/ Family Time](#).