**What is do we mean by a child protection concern ?**

Section 47 of The Children Act **(**1989) defines this as having reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer **significant harm.**

**What do we mean by likely ?**

* A real possibility which cannot sensibly be ignored.

**What do we mean by significant ?**

* Having meaning
* Important
* Worthy of consideration
* Indicative
* Noteworthy
* By seriousness or implication

**What do we mean by harm ?**

Harm may be physical, emotional, sexual or neglect. Consideration of the severity of the ill treatment may include the degree and extent of physical harm, the duration and frequency of neglect, the extent of premeditation and the presence or degree of threat, coercion, sadism and bizarre or unusual element.

(Ref. Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2006)

Definition amended by Adoption and Children Act (2002) to include hearing or seeing the ill-treatment of others and includes electronic seeing and hearing.

**Who does it apply to ?**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS EVERY ONE`S RESPONSIBILITY.

Every agency working with children and families has a proactive duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

**What do we need to do ?**

As a Home-Start Wyre Forest volunteer, you will have signed a Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Children and Young People.

The Scheme has child protection procedures in place, as part of our Safeguarding Policy, but if you are concerned about the welfare of a child please contact your Co-ordinator or the Manager as soon as possible. The only exception to this guidance is if you find a child home alone or in immediate danger, in which case you should telephone the emergency services first and your Co-ordinator following this. **Please ensure you discuss all concerns with a member of HSWF staff. This is essential for your protection and that of the scheme, but most importantly to ensure the best outcomes for the child.**