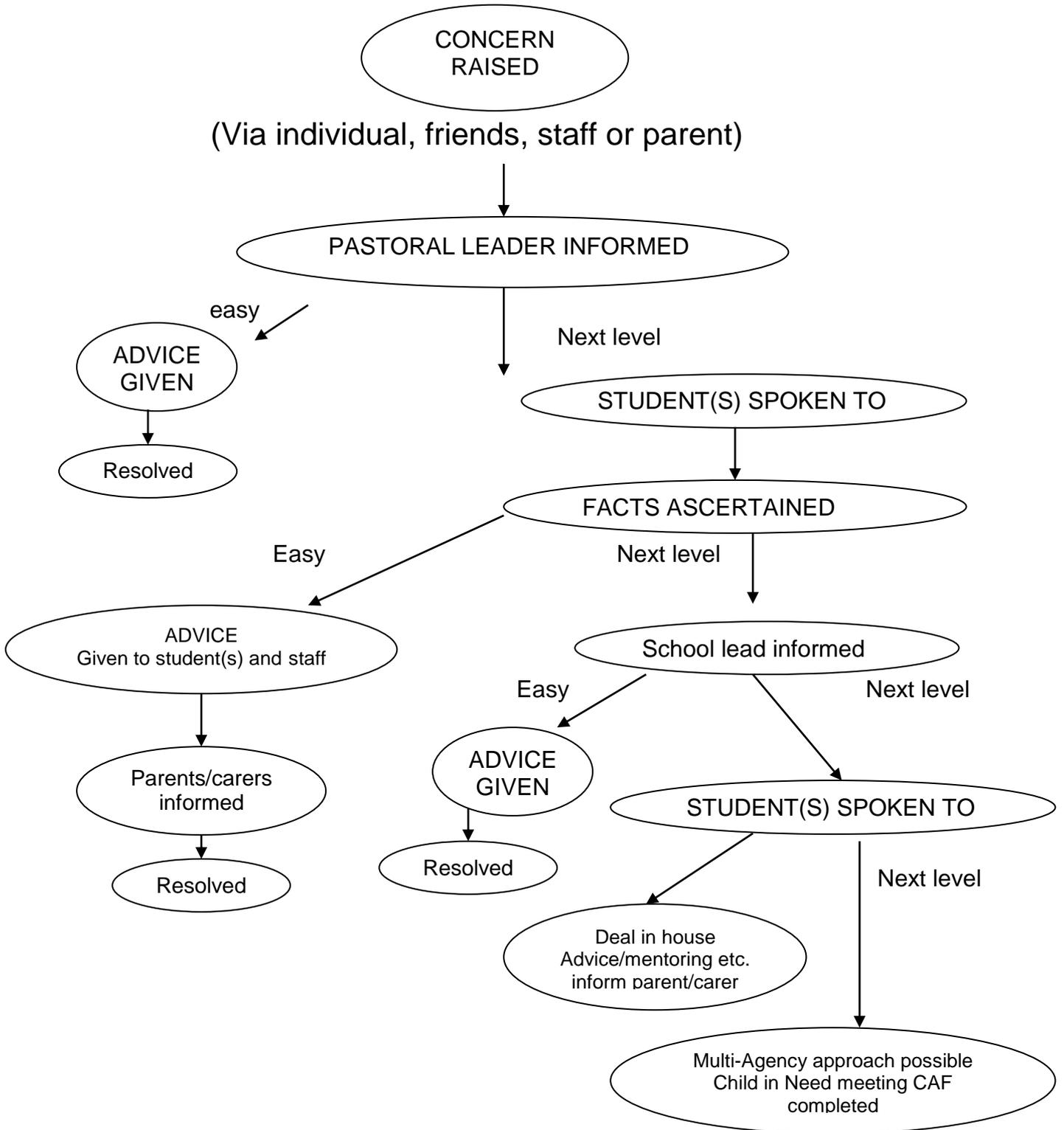


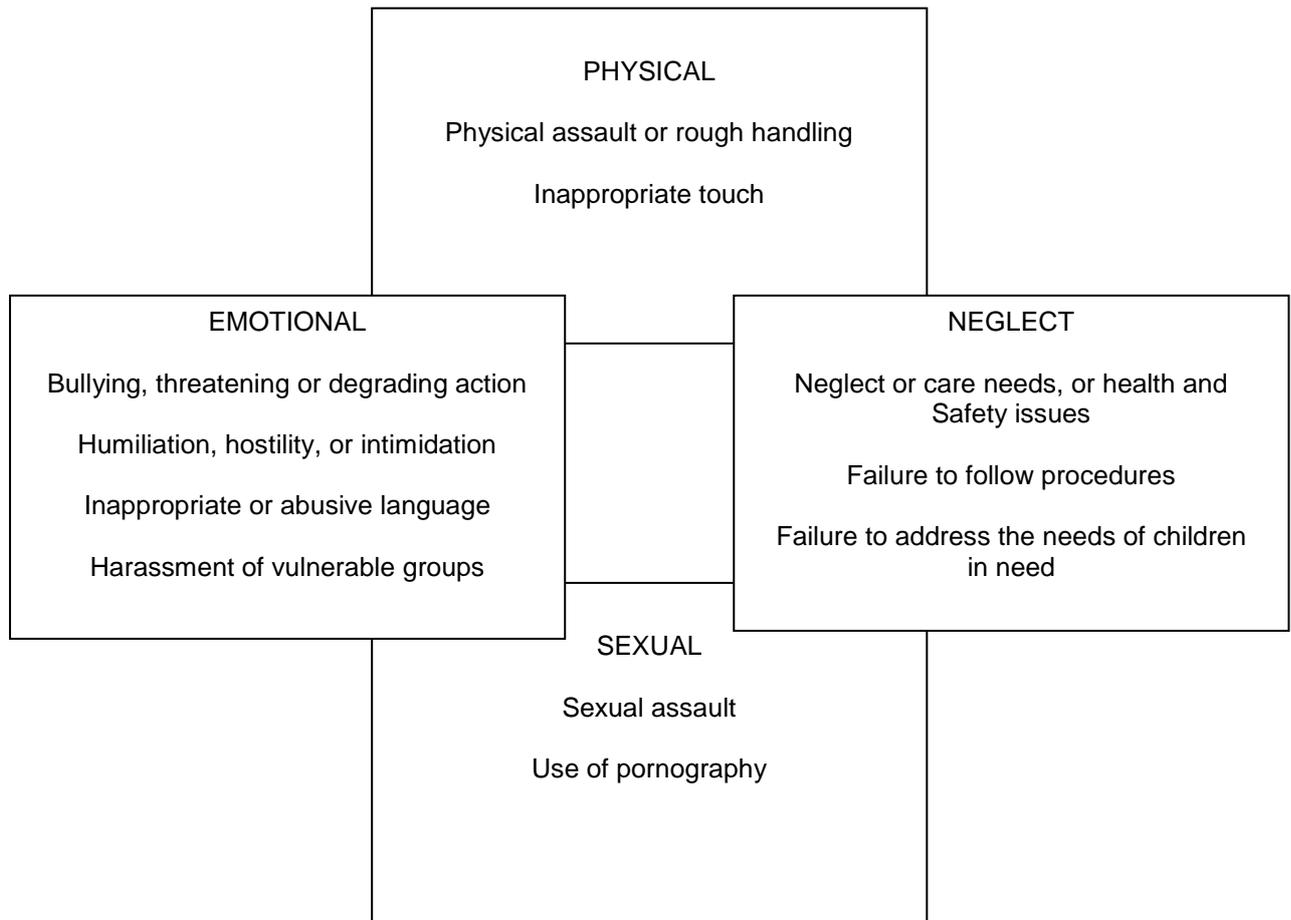
THE SCHOOL PROCESS FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

(Concerns re. bullying, substance abuse, mental health issues, change of behaviour etc.)



CATEGORIES OF ABUSE AND EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS

We use child protection terminology when describing an incident. There are four categories



RECOGNISING ABUSE

This section defines abuse and identifies the signs and risk indicators to assist professionals in recognising abuse and to support professional judgements about whether a child is at risk

2.1 DEFINITIONS

2.1.1 All professionals whose work involves having contact with children should be able to recognise, and know how to respond to indicators that a child is at risk or is likely to be at risk of significant harm. Abuse and neglect involves somebody inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children can be abused in families, institutions or community settings by those know to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*' outlines four broad categories of abuse and the guidance on recognition is provided to assist professionals in assessing whether a child is at risk.

2.1.2 Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using terms such as fabricated or induced illness previously known as Münchhausen's Syndrome by Proxy or factitious illness.

2.1.3. Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

2.1.4 Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

2.1.5. Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.