

Barriers to action - survey results

Barriers to Action was jointly commissioned by the NSPCC and Careandhealth magazine. The survey questioned social care professionals as diverse as social workers, health visitors and school nurses. It explores how they reacted to possible child protection issues outside of the work environment.

Number of completed surveys: 163

This report is based on the user taking one of three routes through the survey:

Route 1: 1,2,3,9

Route 2: 1,2,3,4,5,6,9

Route 3: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9

Question 1

Does your job involve direct contact with children and/or young people?

Yes	84	51.53%
No	79	48.47%

Question 2

Which of the following best describes the area in which you live?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	84		79	
A rural area	14	16.67%	20	25.32%
An inner city area	21	25%	11	13.92%
An outer city suburb	18	21.43%	21	26.58%
A town	31	36.9%	27	34.18%

Question 3

In the time you have been a professional in the social care and health sector, **but outside of your work**, have you had concerns that a child might be at risk of abuse and not known what to do?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	84		79	
Yes	30	35.71%	24	30.38%
No	54	64.29%	55	69.62%

Question 4

If you answered yes, roughly how many times have you had concerns about a child and or young person, outside of your work, during the last three years?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	30		24	
1-3	27	90%	20	83.33%
4-6	1	3.33%	1	4.17%
7-9	0	0%	1	4.17%
10 or more	2	6.67%	2	8.33%

Question 5

Did you take action on any of these occasions?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	30		24	
Yes	24	80%	19	79.17%
No	6	20%	5	20.83%

Question 6

If you did take action, what did you do?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	24		19	
I challenged the adult I thought was harming the child	5	20.83%	8	42.11%
I talked to the child	8	33.33%	7	36.84%
I expressed my concerns to the child's parents (please do not tick this box if you thought the parents were responsible for the abuse)	5	20.83%	5	26.32%
I talked to a professional involved with the child, such as their teacher	8	33.33%	4	21.05%
I discussed my concerns with a colleague	6	25%	5	26.32%
I discussed my concerns with a friend of mine or a family member	4	16.67%	6	31.58%
I phoned a helpline for advice	1	4.17%	0	0%
I reported my concerns to the Police and/or social services	12	50%	7	36.84%
Other	5	20.83%	1	5.26%

Question 7

If you did not take action, which of the following statements best describes your reasons for not doing so?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	6		5	
I didn't feel that I had enough evidence that abuse was taking place	4	66.67%	3	60%
I did not want to jeopardise my relationship with the child or their parent(s)/carer(s)	0	0%	0	0%
I was worried about receiving recriminations from the child's family or others close to him/her	0	0%	0	0%
I thought another professional would take action	1	16.67%	1	20%
I was worried that the authorities would make things worse	0	0%	0	0%
I was worried that the authorities would not do enough to help the child	0	0%	1	20%
I was worried that taking action would have a negative effect on my own job or career	0	0%	0	0%
I was worried that I would get involved in a long, drawn-out child protection case	0	0%	0	0%
I did not know what action to take	1	16.67%	0	0%
I was reluctant to take action outside of work hours	0	0%	0	0%

Question 8

If you did not take action, which of the following statements best describes how you might respond to a future situation where you thought a child was at risk of abuse?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	6		5	
I would still not take action	1	16.67%	1	20%
I would consider taking action	5	83.33%	4	80%

Question 9

Which of the following would most help you to take action in the future, if you had concerns about a child?

	Q1 - Yes		Q1 - No	
	84		79	
Clearer guidelines on what action I could take outside of work	20	23.81%	10	12.66%
A supportive environment at work where I can raise my concerns about a child I know outside of my work who might be at risk of abuse	6	7.14%	4	5.06%
Improved lay training on child protection	11	13.1%	7	8.86%
Better information to myself as a member of the public about what I can do to help a child who might be at risk of abuse	28	33.33%	43	54.43%
Better opportunities to report my concerns, as a member of the public, to professionals	19	22.62%	15	18.99%