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Keeping kids safe at Christmas

As the festive season approaches, Child Protection Committees Scotland encourages everyone to keep eyes and ears open for children who may be experiencing harm over the holidays. We've all got a part to play to protect children and young people, even at Christmas.

Coping with the pandemic has been challenging for everyone, but some families will have been under more strain than others. Parents who were struggling to cope before Coronavirus may have been pushed to crisis point during this year, and the festive season can put some families under even more pressure. Sadly, some children and young people will experience neglect and abuse.

As restrictions ease over Christmas, everyone can be alert to signs that all is not well for a child or young person. If you see or hear something that's not right, or spot unusual behaviour from a child, talk to someone about your concerns - child protection services always stay open at Christmas. Don't wait if you are worried about a child, there is support available, and **it's always better to say something than do nothing**.

Whether you're a child who needs help, a parent who is looking for support, or an adult who is concerned about a child's wellbeing, there is always someone you can talk to, even at Christmas and New Year.

You can find more information about where to get help on the [Child Protection Scotland website](#) or from your [local council's children and families team](#). If you are very worried about a child you should call Police Scotland on 101, or if a child is in immediate danger please call 999.

Let's all try to keep Scotland's kids safe this Christmas.

*****ENDS*****