**APPENDIX B – EVIDENCE OF ABUSE OF CHILDREN**

**Physical Abuse**

* Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.
* Physical abuse can be caused through omission/failure to protect.
* Regular occurrence of unexplained injuries where even apparently reasonable explanations are given. Listen for confused or conflicting explanations of how the injuries were sustained from child or carer

**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.
* Parents have poor attachment relationship, unresponsive or neglectful behaviour towards child’s emotional or psychological needs plus persistent negative comments about the child.

1. Emotional indicators are: -
2. low self-esteem/insecurity
3. unhappiness
4. fear
5. distress/anxiety
6. attention seeking
7. opposing
8. withdrawn
9. furtive, secretive behaviour
10. uncharacteristic aggression

**Neglect**

This means the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs including parent/carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, protect a child from physical harm or danger, and ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

Neglect indicators in the child within the home environment are: -

* unkempt dirty appearance
* smelly, inadequate/unwashed clothes
* hunger, insufficient food
* heating and ventilation in the home
* inappropriate sleeping arrangements and inadequate bedding
* dangerous or hazardous environment
* risk from animals in the household