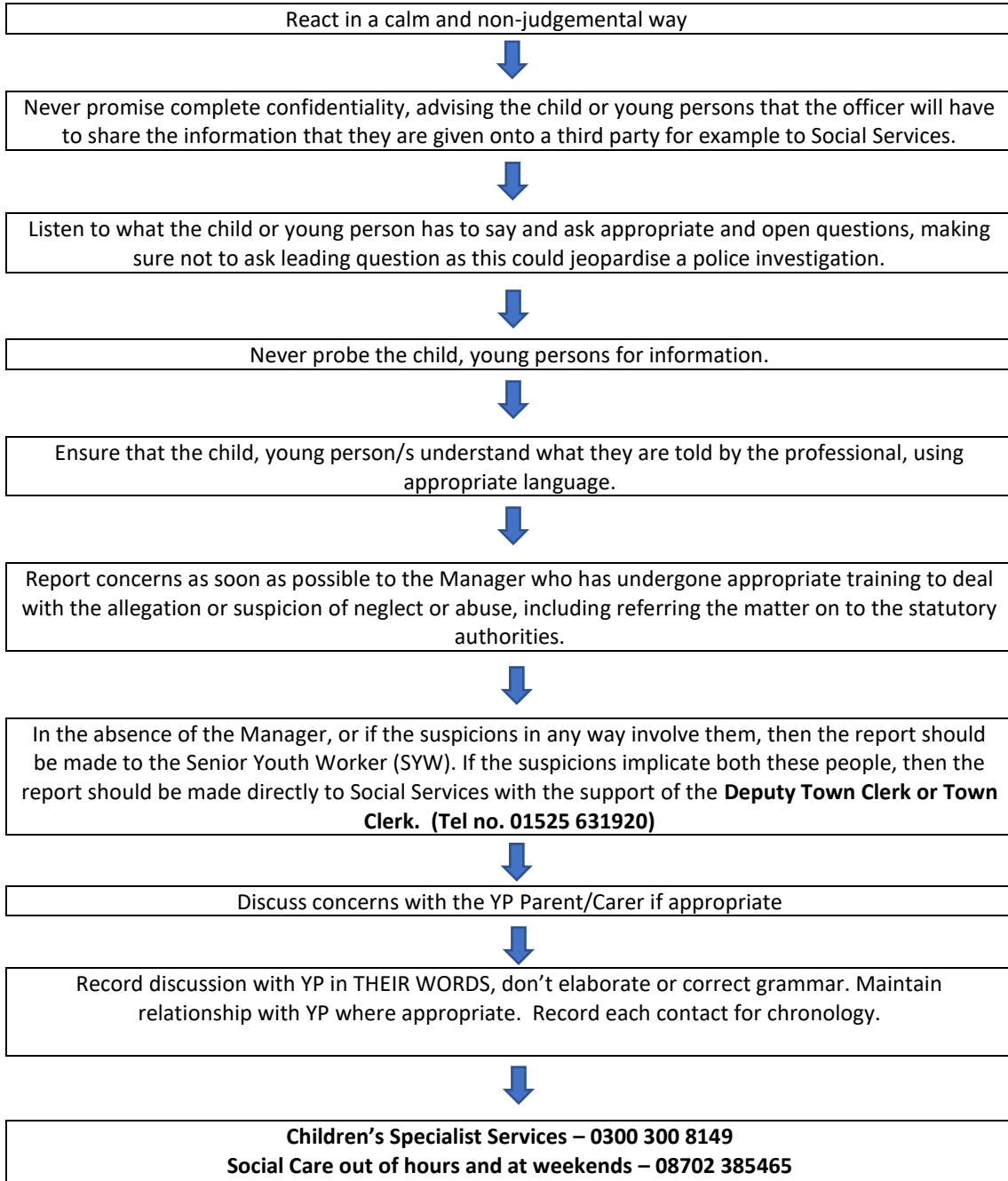


RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should any Town Council Officer carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:



- Any telephone referrals must be followed up in writing within 48 hours.

It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or to seek advice from Social Services should they feel it is appropriate. It is Social Services' task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.