



The Dorchester Child Contact Centre is a place where children can come together with adults from whom they are separated in a warm, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere.



## The Dorchester Child Contact Centre



### Information Leaflet for Parents



The Dorchester Child Contact Centre CIO

Registered number 1207108

51 Charles Street  
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EE

07930 809184

Founded in 2001 by the United Church  
Dorchester



Promoting safe child contact  
within a national framework  
of Child Contact Centres

## What is a Child Contact Centre?

The Dorchester Child Contact Centre is run by volunteers and is a place where children can enjoy the company of adults from whom they are separated.

## When do you open?

We are open on the first and third Saturday of each month from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

## What is it like?

There is a warm and friendly atmosphere, with plenty of toys. Refreshments are available without charge – although cash contributions are welcome.



## How are visits arranged?

If you would like to come to our Centre, a solicitor, family court welfare officer, social worker or family mediator will need to contact us and then complete an application/referral form.

## Do I have to meet my former partner?

Not if you don't want to. Please let us know in advance and we can arrange for this not to happen.

## How often can I come?

This will be arranged before you come, between yourself, the person who completes your application form and your former partner.

## Will any reports be made about what happens at the Child Contact Centre?

The Dorchester Child Contact Centre is independent of the courts, Social Services and other statutory agencies. We do not take sides nor do we make verbal or written reports about visits unless a child is believed to be at risk of harm.

## What are the rules?

As our Centre is often used by several families at one time and we want to provide a safe and happy place for children we ask people using it to remember the following:



- Children need a familiar face so a parent must be present at all times
- Parents are always responsible for the safety and supervision of their child
- A child may be taken from the Centre during a visit, only if it is stated on the referral form or with the written consent of both parents
- Other relatives or friends may attend only by prior arrangement with all parties including the Centre
- Anyone under the influence of or carrying alcohol/drugs will not be allowed admittance
- Photography and videoing are not allowed without prior permission from the Centre
- Please make sure your mobile phone is switched off while you are at the Centre
- Abusive or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and those involved will be asked to leave



## Our concern is for the children

Every effort is made to maintain a pleasant atmosphere, but we reserve the right to ask parents to leave if their conduct is such that the atmosphere becomes unpleasant.



## What happens if I cannot come?

Please let your former partner and our Contact Centre Co-ordinator know in advance.

The Centre's number is 07930 809 184.