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## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

### Our statement of general policy practice is:

- To put in place positive systems of control in order to protect the interests of the beneficiaries of the charity, its employees and the trustees of the charity
- To follow requirements as obligated by law
- To recommend good practice in areas where there is no legal requirement
- To provide information, instruction and supervision for employees
- To review and revise this policy as necessary at regular intervals

Created/Updated	Signed	Review date
11/08/2017	R COLLEY	11/08/2019
07/12/2017	R COLLEY	07/12/2019
19/07/2018	R COLLEY	19/07/2020
18/10/2018	R COLLEY	18/10/2020
30/10/2019	R COLLEY	30/10/2020
October 2020	R COLLEY	30/10/2021

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# **CEDA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy**

## **Purpose and Aims**

The purpose of CEDA'S safeguarding policy is to provide a secure framework for the workforce in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those children/young people who attend our setting. This policy applies to everyone who accesses CEDA including Trustees, staff, service users, visitors and volunteers.

The policy aims to ensure that:

- All our children are safe and protected from harm, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or belief.
- CEDA is following current government legislation.
- Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable children to feel safe and adopt safe practices; Staff, children, trustees, visitors, volunteers and parents are aware of the expected behaviours' and the settings legal responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our children.

## **Ethos**

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. In 2003, the Government published the Every Child Matters Green Paper alongside the formal response to the report into the death of Victoria Climbié. The Green Paper informed the Children Act 2004 and it set out five outcomes that are key to children and young people's wellbeing:

- be healthy;
- stay safe;
- enjoy and achieve;
- make a positive contribution; and
- achieve economic wellbeing.

The five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances. Improving outcomes for all children and young people underpins all of the development and work within this setting and each child's safety is paramount to the charity.

Safeguarding in CEDA is considered everyone's responsibility and as such our setting aims to create the safest environment within which every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. CEDA recognises the contribution it can make in ensuring that all children registered or who use our setting feel that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken. We will do this by working in partnership with other agencies and seeking to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and other colleagues to develop and provide activities and opportunities throughout our curriculum that will help to equip our children with the skills they need. This will include

materials and learning experiences that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours.

### **Responsibilities and expectations**

CEDA has a board of trustees whose legal responsibility it is to make sure that the setting has an effective safeguarding policy and procedures in place and monitors that the setting complies with them. The Service Manager should also ensure that the policy is made available to parents and carers if requested. It is the responsibility of the Service Manager to ensure that all staff and volunteers are properly checked to make sure they are safe to work with the children who attend our setting, that the setting has procedures for handling allegations of abuse made against members of staff (including the Group leaders Manager and CEOs) or volunteers and ensure the safe and appropriate use of cameras, mobile phones, technology and on line equipment within the setting. The trustees have appointed a Safeguarding Designated Officer (SDO) who has lead responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues in our setting.

The Safeguarding Designated Officer is Nick Cranston, the Youth Services Manager. If he are not available then the contact person is Renata Colley, the CEO. These persons can also be contacted with any safeguarding concerns. The named Member of the Trustees for Safeguarding is Steve Keable.

It is the responsibility of the SDO to ensure that all safeguarding issues raised in setting are effectively responded to, recorded and referred to the appropriate agency. They are also responsible for arranging the whole settings safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers who work with children and young people in our setting. The SDO must ensure that the whole settings safeguarding training takes place at least every three years; which they can deliver within setting provided they are linked in to the support and quality assurance process offered by the Local Authority.

The SDO is required to attend or ensure that a senior member of staff who has the relevant training and access to appropriate supervision, attends where appropriate, all child protection case conferences, reviews, core groups or meetings where it concerns a child at our setting and to contribute to multi-agency discussions to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

The SDO is responsible for ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones through the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the appropriate policies and procedures. This includes the Technology and Social Media Policy which includes Camera & Image Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, Acceptable Use Policy.

All Child Protection concerns need to be acted on immediately. If you are concerned that a child may be at risk or is actually suffering abuse, you must tell the Safeguarding Designated Officer. All Adults, including the SDO, have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) – Social Care, MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or the Police. Where a disclosure is made to a visiting staff member from a different agency, e.g. Early Years Consultants, Health Visitors, it is the responsibility of that agency staff to formally report the referral to the Setting's Designated Person in the first instance. Any records made should be kept securely on file.

### **Recognising concerns, signs and indicators of abuse**

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For our setting it includes such things as child safety, bullying, racist abuse, harassment, visits, intimate care and internet safety etc. However it must be acknowledged that technology itself will not present the greatest risk, but the behaviours of individuals using such equipment will. The witnessing of abuse can have a damaging affect on those who are party to it, as well as the child subjected to the actual abuse, and in itself will have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of the child. Abuse can take place in any family, institution or community setting, by telephone or on the internet. Abuse can often be difficult to recognise as children may behave differently or seem unhappy for many reasons, as they move through the stages of childhood or their family circumstances change. However, it is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the need to consult further.

### **Physical Abuse**

This can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, punching, kicking, scalding, burning, drowning and suffocating. It can also result when a parent or carer deliberately causes the ill health of a child in order to seek attention through fabricated or induced illness. This was previously known as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy.

### **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional Abuse is where a child's need for love, security, recognition and praise is not met. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of someone else such as in Domestic Violence or Domestic Abuse. A parent, carer or authority figure is considered emotionally abusive when they are consistently hostile, rejecting, threatening or undermining toward a child or other family member. It can also occur when children are prevented from having social contact with others or if inappropriate expectations are placed upon them. Symptoms that indicate emotional abuse include:

- Excessively clingy or attention seeking.
- Very low self-esteem or excessive self-criticism.
- Withdrawn behaviour or fearfulness.

- Lack of appropriate boundaries with strangers; too eager to please.
- Eating disorders or self-harm

### **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may include physical contact both penetrative and non-penetrative, or viewing pornographic material including through the use of the internet. Indicators of sexual abuse include: allegations or disclosures, genital soreness, injuries or disclosure, sexually transmitted diseases, inappropriate sexualized behaviour including words, play or drawing. Sexual abuse includes grooming a child in preparation for abuse e.g. via the internet.

### **Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which can significantly harm their health and development. Neglect can include inadequate supervision (being left alone for long periods of time), lack of stimulation, social contact or education, lack of appropriate food, shelter, appropriate clothing for conditions and medical attention and treatment when necessary.

### **Signs and symptoms of abuse**

- Unexplained delay in seeking treatment that is needed
- Incompatible explanations
- Constant minor injuries
- Unexplained bruising:
  - Bruise marks in or around the mouth
  - Black eyes, especially if both eyes are black and there are no marks to forehead or nose
  - Grasp marks
  - Finger marks
  - Bruising of the ears
  - Linear bruising (particularly buttocks or back)
  - Differing age bruising
- Bite marks
- Burns and scalds
- Cigarette burns
- General physical disability
- Unresponsiveness of the vulnerable person
- Soiling and wetting
- Change in behavioural patterns
- 'Frozen look'
- Attention seeking

- Apprehension
- Antisocial behaviour
- Unkempt appearance
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour
- Sexualised drawings and play
- Sudden poor performance
- Poor self esteem
- Withdrawal
- Running away
- Reluctance to return home
- Difficulty in forming relationships
- Confusing affectionate displays
- Poor attendance - repeated infections etc
- Eating disorder, depression, self-harm or suicide attempts
- Deterioration in health or appearance including weight loss
- Unexplained possession of money or goods such as mobiles (child exploitation)
- Fear or anxiety

This is not an exhaustive list

### **Current Safeguarding Issues**

The following Safeguarding issues are all considered to be child Protection issues and should be referred immediately to the most relevant agency. The issues featured below are linked to guidance and local procedures which can be found on the South West Child Protection Procedures at [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)

Some members of our communities hold beliefs that may be common within particular cultures but which are against the law of England. CEDA does not condone practices that are illegal and which are harmful to children. Examples of particular practices are:

### **Child Exploitation and E-Safety**

Children and young people can be exploited and suffer bullying through their use of modern technology such as the internet, mobile phones and social networking sites. In order to minimise the risks to our children and young people CEDA will ensure that we have in place appropriate measures such as security filtering, and an acceptable use policy linked to our Technology and Social Media Policies. We will ensure that staff are aware of how not to compromise their position of trust in or outside of the setting and are aware of the dangers associated with social networking sites. Our Technology and Social Media Policies will clearly state that mobile phone, camera or electronic communications with a child at our setting is not acceptable other than for approved

setting business. Where it is suspected that a child is at risk from internet abuse or cyber bullying we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

### **Forced Marriage**

CEDA does not support the idea of forcing someone to marry without their consent.

### **Under-age Marriage**

In England, a young person cannot legally marry until they are 16 years old (without the consent of their parents or carers) nor have sexual relationships.

### **Genital mutilation/female circumcision**

This is against the law, yet for some communities it is considered a religious act and cultural requirement. It is illegal for someone to arrange for a child to go abroad with the intention of having her circumcised. If any of the above areas of concern is brought to the attention of CEDA we will report those concerns to the appropriate agency in order to prevent this form of abuse taking place.

### **Ritualistic Abuse**

Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children). What should never be considered is the use of any physical or psychological violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is abusive and will result in the criminal conviction of those using this form of abuse even if the intention is to help the child.

### **Sexually Active under Eighteen years old**

It is acknowledged by those working with young people that most young people under the age of 18 will have an interest in sex and sexual relationships. The Protocol for Sexually Active Young People under 18 years old has been designed to assist those working with children and young people to identify where these relationships may be abusive, and the children and young people may need the provision of protection or additional services.

### **Safeguarding Disabled Children**

Disabled children have exactly the same human rights to be safe from abuse and neglect, to be protected from harm and achieve the Every Child Matters outcomes as non-disabled children. Disabled children do however require additional action. This is because they experience greater risks and 'created vulnerability' as a result of negative attitudes about disabled children and unequal access to services and resources, and because they may have additional needs relating to physical, sensory, cognitive and/or communication impairment (Safeguarding Children, DCSF, July 2009) CEDA will ensure that disabled children in our care are listened to and responded to appropriately where they have concerns regarding abuse. In order to do this we will ensure that our

staff and volunteers receive the relevant training to raise awareness and have access to specialist staff in the event they have concerns regarding abuse of a child.

### **Safer Recruitment and Selection**

It is a requirement for all agencies to ensure that all staff recruited to work with children and young people are properly selected and checked. At CEDA we will ensure that we have a member on every recruitment panel who has received the appropriate recruitment and selection training. That all of our staff are appropriately qualified and have the relevant employment history and checks to ensure they are safe to work with children in compliance with the Key Safeguarding Employment Standards.

### **County lines**

County lines is when criminals from larger cities expand their drug networks to other areas of the country – usually rural and suburban areas.

The crime is called county lines because dealers use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs. These criminals often exploit vulnerable adults and children to move and store drugs and money and regularly use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

County lines activity can still be exploitation even if it appears to be consensual. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Vulnerable adults and children who use drugs, are in financial difficulty, have disabilities or have mental health problems are at greatest risk of being exploited by county lines gangs. These adults are groomed through offers of 'free' drugs, causing them to accumulate debts which can only be paid off by participating in county lines activities (also known as debt bondage).

Sometimes drug dealers will take over the home of a vulnerable person – this is known as cuckooing.

### **Common signs that someone is being exploited include those listed below.**

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and that warning signs will show themselves differently in each person. It is important to explore all concerns over someone's behaviour and personal circumstances and to consider whether they could be signs of exploitation

- becoming more secretive, aggressive or violent
- meeting with unfamiliar people
- persistently going missing – someone may go missing from their home or local area when they are trafficking drugs along 'deal lines'



- leaving home without explanation or staying out unusually late
- loss of interest in school, college or work and decline in performance
- suspicion of physical assault or unexplained injuries – including 'DIY injuries', (knife and puncture wounds) which are signs of punishment for drug-related debts
- using language relating to drug dealing, violence or gangs
- carrying a weapon
- associating with a gang
- becoming isolated from peers and social networks
- having a friendship or relationship with someone who appears older or controlling
- using drugs, especially if their drug use has increased
- unexplained acquisition of money, drugs or mobile phones.

### **Honour Based Violence**

Honour based violence is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. It is important to be alert to signs of distress and indications such as self-harm, absence from setting, infections resulting from female genital mutilation, isolation from peers, being monitored by family, not participating in setting activities, unreasonable restrictions at home. Where it is suspected that a child/young person is at risk from Honour based violence CEDA will report those concerns to the appropriate agency in order to prevent this form of abuse taking place.

### **Trafficked Children**

Child trafficking involves moving children across or within national or international borders for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation includes children being used for sex work, domestic work, restaurant/ sweatshop, drug dealing, shoplifting and benefit fraud. Where CEDA is made aware of a child is suspected of or actually being trafficked/exploited we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

### **Domestic Abuse**

The Government defines domestic abuse as "Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality".

Staff need to understand what is required of them if children are members of the household where domestic abuse is known or suspected to be taking place. Our policy includes action to be taken regarding referrals to the Police and Children and Young People's Services and any action to be taken where a member of staff is the alleged perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse. At CEDA we will follow our safeguarding policy and report any suspected concerns regarding Domestic Abuse to the relevant agency.

If staff need further advice regarding concerns about domestic abuse they can call 01392 382233

### **Private Fostering**

Private fostering is an arrangement made between the parent and the private foster carer, who then becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.

A privately fostered child means a child under the age of 16 (18 if a disabled child) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than:

- A parent.
- A person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility.
- A close relative.
- A Local Authority.

For more than 28 days and where the care is intended to continue. It is a statutory duty for us at CEDA to inform the Local Authority where we are made aware of a child or young person who may be subject to private fostering arrangements.

### **Concealed Pregnancies**

The concealment of a pregnancy represents a challenge for professionals in safeguarding the welfare and the wellbeing of the foetus (unborn child) and the mother. There is no national agreed definition of what constitutes a concealed pregnancy, however a coordinated multi-agency approach is required once the fact of a pregnancy has been established; this will also apply to future pregnancies where there has been a previous concealed pregnancy.

Where there is a strong suspicion that a pregnancy is being concealed, it may be necessary to share this information with other agencies, irrespective of whether consent to disclose can be obtained. Every effort should be made to encourage the (young) person to obtain medical advice. If this is unlikely a referral should be made to Children's Social Care. An open assessment or previous referral to MASH and/or contact other agencies known to have involvement with the young person must also be established so that a fuller assessment of the available information and observations can be made.

### **Fabricated and Induced Illnesses**

Fabricated or Induced Illness is a condition whereby a child suffers harm through the deliberate action of her/his main carer and which is attributed by the adult to another cause.

Concerns will be raised for a small number of children when it is considered that the health or development of a child is likely to be significantly impaired or further impaired by the actions of a carer or carers having fabricated or induced illness. Where there is a suspicion of FII, CEDA will refer to the local authority as outlined in this safeguarding policy.

### **Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**

At CEDA we recognise that the service users we work with are vulnerable individuals who have the potential to be radicalised or influenced by violent extremism. Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. Children should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology and extremist Animal Rights movements.

If CEDA identify concerns about a child or young person they should report them to the designated safeguarding lead in their organisation, who will discuss these concerns with the police.

### **Historical Abuse**

Allegations of child abuse are sometimes made by adults or children many years after the abuse has occurred. There are many reasons for an allegation not being made at the time including fear of reprisals, the degree of control exercised by the abuser, shame or fear that the allegation may not be believed. The person becoming aware that the abuser is being investigated for a similar matter or their suspicions that the abuse is continuing against other children may trigger the allegation. CEDA has a duty to take these allegations as seriously as any other must be report these to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for the area in which the alleged abuse took place/where the professional worked, and the LADO procedures must be followed.

### **What to do if you are concerned**

The Data Protection Act 2018 is not a barrier to information sharing where doing so is necessary to safeguarding children at risk.

If a child makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, it is important that you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling you.
- Do not investigate or ask leading questions.
- Let them know that you will need to tell someone else.
- Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret.
- Inform your Safeguarding Designated Officer as soon as possible.

- Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position using the setting safeguarding record log forms.

If you are concerned that a member of staff or adult in a position of trust poses a danger to a child or young person or that they might be abusing a child or young person you should report your concerns to the Safeguarding Designated Officer. Where those concerns relate to the Safeguarding Designated Officer however, this should be reported to the CEO or Chair of Trustees using the settings 'Whistle blowing' policy.

### **Good practice which supports the prevention of abuse**

It is not only important to recognise and know what to do if abuse is disclosed or suspected but also to create a culture where abuse is not accepted or tolerated and where people feel able to raise concerns. At CEDA, we have a range of policies in place which set out the expectations of staff (see policy list later).

In addition to the policies, processes are in place that allow open and honest discussions and provide clear guidance including staff Supervision, regular team meetings, rigorous risk assessments, training, regular liaison with families and a multi disciplinary approach.

All staff supporting users should read the individual's support and care plan, risk assessments, protocols and other relevant documentation in order to appropriately deliver care and support.

**It is expressly stated that personal mobile phones or recordable devices are not to be used to capture images of children under any circumstances.** This is considered an act of gross misconduct and any person found to have inappropriate images in their possession will be reported to the police. Where CEDA has permission to capture images this must be done on CEDA devices (not CEDA mobile phones) and the images only used in line with our Images and Footage policies and agreements.

### **Managing Allegations – see also the Procedures for managing allegations of abuse**

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against members of staff or volunteers that are working or may come into contact with children and young people whilst in our setting. Allegations will usually be that some kind of abuse has taken place. This could include inappropriate behaviour displayed by members of staff or other persons working with the children such as inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements their role and responsibilities, inappropriate sharing of images. They can be made by children and young people or other concerned adults. Allegations are made for a variety of reasons:

- Abuse has actually taken place.
- Something has happened to the child that reminds them of a past event – the child is unable to recognize that the situation and people are different; Children can misinterpret your language or your actions.
- Some children recognise that allegations can be powerful and if they are angry with you about something they can make an allegation as a way of hitting out.
- An allegation can be a way of seeking attention.

If an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust whether they be members of staff or volunteers this should be brought to the immediate attention of the SDO who will advise the CEO and the Chair of Trustees. In the case of the allegation being made against the SDO this will be brought to the immediate attention of the CEO or the Chair of Trustees.

The SDO/Chair of Trustees/CEO will need to discuss with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) the nature of the allegations made against the adult, in order for the appropriate action to be taken. This may constitute an initial evaluation meeting or strategy discussion depending on the allegation being made. The process will be:

- Refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) immediately and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Consider safeguarding arrangements of the child or young person to ensure they are away from the alleged abuser.
- Contact the parents or carers of the child/young person if advised to do so by the LADO.
- Consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation.
- Advise Ofsted of allegation within 14 days of the allegation
- Ensure that the appropriate disciplinary procedures are followed including whether suspending a member of staff from work until the outcome of any investigation if this is deemed necessary.
- Act on any decision made in any strategy meeting.
- Advise the Independent Safeguarding Authority where a member of staff has been disciplined or dismissed as a result of the allegations being founded.

## **Training**

All members of staff and volunteers will have access to whole setting safeguarding training at least every three years. We will also, as part of our induction, issue information in relation to our Safeguarding policy and any policy related to safeguarding and promoting our children/young people's welfare to all newly appointed staff and volunteers.

Our Safeguarding Designated Officer will undertake further safeguarding training, Group 3 DSCB Multi-agency Safeguarding course or Group 3 Refresher Courses, in addition to the whole setting training. This will be undertaken at least every three years which updates their awareness and understanding of the impact of the wide agenda of safeguarding issues. This will support both the SDO to be able to better undertake their role and support the setting in ensuring our safeguarding arrangements are robust and achieving better outcomes for the children in our setting. This includes taking part in multi-agency training in addition to safeguarding training.

Our Trustees will have access to safeguarding training and our Named Trustees for Safeguarding will also undertake additional awareness training at least every three years. They will also be advised to undertake additional training to support their employers' role in Handling Allegations against adults who work with children and young people, including our staff and volunteers.

Our safeguarding arrangements are reported on an annual basis to our Trustees and our Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually, in order to keep it updated in line with local and national guidance/legislation. We are able to arrange for our policy to be made available to parents whose first language is not English, on request.

### **CEDA specific issues**

It has been recognised that there are some risks that are specific to CEDA and its environment.

**Den Building:** It has been recognised that there are some risks around the use of dens and play particularly where there are concealed areas. Whilst we want to encourage co-operative play staff should ensure that den building is never left unsupervised and children in the dens should always be visible. Staff should discourage den building where the intention is to build secretive or concealed areas.

**Age gaps:** At CEDA there will be occasions where children with a range of ages attend our clubs and may potentially be in the same groups. This can be for a variety of reasons but interactions between children and young people of significant age differences should be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that the play is appropriate for both parties. Any concerns should be reported immediately to the senior team leader.

### **Related Setting Policies**

Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children. It also encompasses issues such as child health and safety,

bullying and a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, setting security, drugs and substance misuse, etc. There may also be other safeguarding issues that are specific to the local area or population.

This policy will cross reference to related setting policies and other protocol:

- Procedures for managing allegation of abuse
- Behaviour management and use of physical intervention & seclusion policy
- Anti-bullying
- Confidentiality
- Data protection – including use of mobile phones
- Technology & social media
- Image and footage agreements
- Health and Safety
- Equality and Diversity
- Performance and conduct procedures
- Whistle Blowing
- Managing Allegations
- Recruitment and selection policy
- Equality & Diversity
- Complaints and compliments
- Data Protection
- Protection against allegations of abuse
- Lone Working
- Remote working and portable devices
- Intimate Care
- Performance and Conduct

**Legislation relating to this policy:**

Children Act 1989, 2004

Family and Children Act 2014

Education Act 1996, 2002 (Section 175), 2011

School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education Guidance DfES 2007

Every Child Matters 2003

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2008

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991

Data Protection Act & GDPR Regulations 2018

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012  
SEND code of practice 2014  
Children and Social Work Act 2017  
Manuals are available within the setting:  
What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2006  
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

For further information regarding any child protection procedure, please consult  
[www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)

**Useful Contacts:**

Devon Safeguarding Children Board	<a href="http://www.dscb.info/">www.dscb.info/</a>
South West Child Protection Procedures	<a href="http://www.swcpp.org.uk">www.swcpp.org.uk</a>
Devon Early Years and Childcare Service	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs">www.devon.gov.uk/eycs</a>
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency	<a href="http://www.ceop.org.uk">www.ceop.org.uk</a>
NSPCC Safe (Safe Activities for Everyone) Network	
<a href="http://www.safenetwork.org.uk">www.safenetwork.org.uk</a>	

CYPS area contact numbers:

(9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am – 4pm Friday)

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0345 155 1071

Email: [mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk)

Single point of access regarding social care: 03300 245321

Out of hours for CYPS (Social Care):

5pm -9am and at weekends and public holidays, please contact:

Emergency Duty Service 0345 6000 388

Police Central Referral Unit: 0845 605 1166

If you have concerns about a child but are unsure whether to make a Social Care referral you can call the MASH number above:

Child Protection Chairs and Local Authority Designated Officers for managing allegations against staff:

Allegations against staff: 01392 384964

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – MASH

This is a new initiative which has been developed by Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and partner agencies, supported by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board. Devon's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will provide information sharing across all partners involved in safeguarding – including



statutory, non-statutory and third sector sources. All partners work together to provide the highest level of knowledge and analysis to make sure that all safeguarding activity and intervention is timely, proportionate and necessary.

### **How will it work**

All information within the MASH is collected and decision-making will take place in a timely manner within agreed timescales depending on the priority criteria when the concern is referred to a Hub.

### **HIGH RISK - RED**

- MASH INFORMATION PACKAGE TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 4 HRS AND
- Police & CYPS assessment team receive immediate notification with research to follow

Immediate and serious safeguarding concern requiring action to ensure the safety of the child and possible necessity to secure and preserve physical evidence that might otherwise be lost.

### **MEDIUM RISK - AMBER**

- MASH information package within one working day

There are significant concerns but immediate urgent action is not required to safeguard the child although an investigation under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 is likely.

### **LOW RISK - GREEN**

- MASH information package to be completed within three working days or
- Immediate referral to Early Response Service (Practice Manager, CYPS, decision)

The referrer clearly has concerns about a child's wellbeing. The child may be a child in need as defined by section 17 of Children Act 1989 however there is no information at this stage to suggest an investigation under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 would be required.

### **The MASH:**

- Manages contacts and referrals received from any source (usually CYPS and Police 121A reports)
- Develops a document recording the concern information and all other available information in the Hubs within agreed timescales and an Early Years and Families manager makes an informed decision using all of the available information.
- Develops concern information into an Early Years and Families referral if services are required under section 17 or section 47 of The Children Act 1989
- Liaises with the Early Response Service for children and young people who need services but do not meet The Children and Family Act 2014 threshold

- Provides consultation to agency referrers about thresholds, appropriate action to be undertaken and services.

The Hub contributes to improved outcomes for safeguarding children because it has the ability to swiftly collate and share information held by the various agencies and to provide a multi-agency risk assessment of each case for 'actual or likely harm'.

The above list is not exhaustive and as new policy guidance and legislation develops within the remit of Safeguarding we will review and update our policies and procedures as appropriate and in line with the Devon Safeguarding Children Board and Local Authority.

This policy is reviewed by the board of Trustees annually or when legislation changes.

Last Updated: 18 October 2019