



**Quality
Protects Children
Ltd**

Policy No: 03-092	Authorised: Gary Shillcock	Date: January 2021
SAFEGUARDING		

This Policy defines the procedures to be followed where it is alleged or suspected, or has been discovered, that a child has been abused by a third party. There are additional specific procedures which address allegations being made against a staff member, use of the internet, and whistle-blowing.

1. PRINCIPLES OF CHILD PROTECTION / SAFEGUARDING:

1.1 The Management of the Home is committed to the following principles regarding the abuse of a child:

1.1.1 It is recognised that abuse can and does occur in society, and that this may take the following forms:

- verbal abuse / threats
- racial / sectarian abuse
- financial abuse
- emotional / psychological abuse
- sexual abuse / harassment
- physical abuse / violence
- cyber abuse

1.1.2 The fundamental responsibility of the Home is to ensure the welfare and protection of the child, and **THAT EVERY CHILD IN OUR CARE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ABUSE**. It is therefore our policy that any staff member who does not possess a valid and current *DBS* Disclosure Certificate is never left alone with a child.

1.2 All staff will receive appropriate training at the Induction stage regarding the abuse of a child. This training will focus upon the following elements:

1.2.1 The types of abuse; see 1.1.1 above.

1.2.2 The source of the abuse, which can arise as follows:

- abuse by a third party - unknown.
- abuse by a third party - a member of staff of the Home.
- self-inflicted abuse.

(This Policy is concerned with handling abuse or suspected abuse by a third party).

1.2.3 The handling of suspected and / or alleged abuse, which will focus on 4 issues:

- familiarisation with the signs of abuse.
- providing comfort, support and reassurance to the child / young person.
- establishing a clearly defined reporting procedure to management (see 3. below).
- ensuring that the child / young person and family members where appropriate are familiar with the Complaints Procedure, and how to use it.

2. INVOLVEMENT:

2.1 Where abuse is suspected, or alleged by a child / young person or advocate, this will be reported immediately to the Home Manager, who will review the evidence and take the appropriate action. Such action may include the involvement of the *Local Safeguarding Children Board*, and in all cases issues and concerns are dealt with in the strictest confidence.

2.2 Where suspected abuse is linked with allegations of malpractice by a staff member, *Policy Nos 03-093*



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(Allegations against a Staff Member) and 01-017 (Whistle-blowing) will be invoked.

3. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES:

3.1 *Physical Injury:*

3.1.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- scratches / cuts / bite marks / pinch marks inconsistent with normal play activities
- burns / scalds inconsistent with explanations offered
- bruises in body areas not usually harmed through normal play activities
- bruises indicative of slaps, punches, being squeezed or violently shaken
- bruises suggesting the use of straps or sticks
- nervous / fearful watchfulness; fear of physical contact by adults
- unexplained fractures

3.1.2 Actions to be taken – seek medical attention

- alert manager / manager on-call
- inform social worker/ EDT
- inform police as a crime has been committed.
- notify family if applicable and safe

Per 2.1 of this Policy

3.2 *Sexual Abuse:*

3.2.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- scratching / soreness / unexplained rashes in the genital areas
- stained / bloodstained underclothes
- bruises on inner thighs and buttocks
- discomfort when sitting or walking
- constant wetting or soiling of clothing
- suggestion of undue sexual awareness through play, drawings or the use of inappropriate words

3.2.2 Action to be taken: – seek medical attention

- alert manager / manager on-call
- inform social worker/ EDT
- inform police as a crime has been committed.
- notify family if applicable and safe

3.3 *Emotional Abuse:*

3.3.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- undue aggression or withdrawal
- constant wetting or soiling of clothing
- poor language development / speech disorders such as stammering or stuttering
- inability to relate to adults and other children
- telling lies



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- tantrums beyond the age where they would be expected as normal development
- 3.3.2 Action to be taken: make a log and keep the observations running.
Share concerns immediately with manager
Keep social worker fully informed and up to date

Per 2.1 of this Policy.

3.4 *Neglect:*

3.4.1 Signs and symptoms will include:

- inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- poor standards of personal hygiene / unwashed, dirty clothing
- constant hunger
- underweight for their age / emaciation
- constant tiredness / listlessness
- untreated medical conditions

- Actions to be taken:
- make a log and keep the observations running.
 - Share concerns immediately with manager
 - Keep social worker fully informed and up to date

Other issues of abuse include:

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.” (DfE, 2017).

A common feature of sexual exploitation is that the child often doesn't recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and doesn't see themselves as a victim. The child may initially resent what they perceive as interference by staff, but staff must always act on their concerns, as they would for any other type of abuse.

All staff are made aware of the indicators of sexual exploitation and all concerns are reported immediately to the Manager of the home. The home must make a MARF (multi-agency referral form) referral found on the local children's safeguarding board website for the authority that the home is situated in and then liaise closely with the CSE and Shield teams, these differ depending on area and the staff must be aware who the CSE coordinator is for their authority. Staff must notify social worker or EDT and parents/ significant other where appropriate.

29.7 CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of 'county lines' activity. County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and



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money. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities. The child often does not see themselves as a victim, believing the gang members are acting out of friendship and may resist interference by staff.

However, staff must act on their concerns and follow procedure, reporting all concerns to the Manager in the first instance who will offer further advice and guidance. If staff are worried that a child is at immediate risk of harm they should contact the police. Please also refer to the guidance on the local children's safeguarding board for the area where the home is situated.

29.8 FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

FGM is the collective name given to a range of procedures involving the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. The practice, which is most commonly carried out without any anaesthetic, can cause intense pain and distress and long-term health consequences, including difficulties in childbirth.

FGM is carried out on girls of any age, from young babies to older teenagers and adult women, so staff are trained to be aware of risk indicators. Many such procedures are carried out abroad and staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns expressed by female children on our care about going on a long holiday during the summer vacation period. There are also a number of medical symptoms including problems urinating, incontinence, frequent UTI, menstrual problems, kidney problems, cysts and abscesses.

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. Any person found guilty of an offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is liable to a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment or a fine, or both.

Section 5B of the 2003 Act introduces a mandatory reporting duty which requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. The duty came into force on 31 October 2015. Staff must report any concerns to the police immediately and to their manager.

29.9 FORCED MARRIAGE AND HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

A forced marriage is a marriage in which a female (and sometimes a male) does not consent to the marriage but is coerced into it. Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse.

A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage. In an arranged marriage, which is common in several cultures, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.

Children may be married at a very young age abroad and well below the age of consent in England. Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns raised by a young person about being taken abroad and not be allowed to return to England.

Since June 2014 forcing someone to marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture. For example, honour based violence might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- want to get out of an arranged marriage



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- want to get out of a forced marriage
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour based violence however it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include:

- domestic abuse
- threats of violence
- sexual or psychological abuse
- forced marriage
- being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- assault

Any concerns of this nature should be reported to the manager and the police immediately.

29.10 RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

The government defines extremism as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Some children are at risk of being radicalised: adopting beliefs and engaging in activities which are harmful, criminal or dangerous. Islamic extremism is the most widely publicised form and schools should also remain alert to the risk of radicalisation into white supremacy extremism. (See LHS 2.4 Anti-terrorism and radicalisation policy). Staff receive training to help to identify signs of extremism.

The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers, published in June 2015. This non-statutory departmental advice is for governing bodies, Head teachers / Principals, Designated Safeguarding Leads and school staff. The document clarifies what the *prevent* duty means for schools and what actions are necessary to demonstrate compliance with the duty. It also provides sources of information, advice and support.

If a member of staff has any concerns, they should contact the manager in the first instance. However, any member of staff can contact children's social care if they are concerned about a child or speak to the police by dialing the non-emergency number, 101 or the Anti-Terrorist Hotline, 0800 789 321. The local authority or police might suggest a referral to Channel, a programme aimed at stopping young people being drawn into terrorism.

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), 2018.

All of the above would require a notification to Ofsted without delay.