

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN AN ADULT SETTING

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REVIEWED BY	Mariana Philipova
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Policy Statement

This organisation is aware of its obligations under the *Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) 2010* to protect and safeguard children who, whilst not patients, sometimes accompany residents, their representatives or families, and are be present during delivery of the service.

Please Note: at no time do staff act *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent), as defined under the *Children Act 1989*.

The Policy

This policy sets out the responsibilities of staff in relation to any allegation of abuse involving children that may be witnessed by staff whilst in the employ of this organisation. We are committed to working in partnership with other multi-agency partners in order that the protection and safeguarding of children is consistent with current policy and guidance.

Defining 'Child Abuse'

'Child abuse' is a term used to describe ways in which either children or young people are harmed, usually by adults but increasingly by their peers. Often these are people they know and trust. It refers to damage done to a child's or young person's physical, mental or emotional health. Children or young people can be abused within or outside of their family, at school, at play and within any environment such as extra-curricular activities, participation with youth organisations and the like. Abusive situations arise when adults or peers misuse their power over children or young people.

TYPES OF ABUSE	
Physical	Where children's bodies are hurt or injured
Emotional	This is where children do not receive love and affection. They may be frightened by threats or taunts, or be given responsibilities beyond their capabilities.
Sexual	This is where adults (and sometimes other children) use children to satisfy sexual desires.
Neglect	This is where adults fail to care for children and protect them from danger, seriously impairing their health and development.
SIGNS OF ABUSE: The following signs MAY indicate abuse; however, it is important not to jump to conclusions, as there could be other explanations:	
Physical	Unexplained or hidden injuries that lack evidence of medical attention, children may also exhibit a "frozen stare" when they are in the vicinity of the abuser (this also applies to all groups of abused children).
Emotional	Often children revert to younger behaviour, nervousness, sudden underachievement, attention-seeking, running away from home, stealing and lying.
Sexual	Often children are pre-occupied with sexual matters, as evidenced by words, play, drawings, display sexually provocative behaviour with adults, disturbed sleep, nightmares, bed wetting, secretive relationships with adults and children, stomach pains with no apparent cause.
Neglect	Appearing ill-cared for and unhappy, being withdrawn or aggressive, or having lingering injuries or health problems.
Self-Harm	Deliberate or systematic abuse of the person, usually covert but signs of a physical nature such as scarring are usually noticed. Alopecia may be present.

Bullying

Bullying is not always easy to define, as it can take many forms and take place over a period of time. The main types are physical (hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (threats, name calling) and emotional (isolating and individual from activities and games); all types can be characterised by:

- ✘ Deliberate hostility and aggression towards a victim.
- ✘ A victim who is weaker and less powerful than the bully or bullies.
- ✘ An outcome that is always painful and distressing for the victim.

Bullying behaviour may also include:

- ✘ Other forms of violence.
- ✘ Sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing.
- ✘ Tormenting, ridiculing, humiliation.
- ✘ Racial taunts, graffiti, gestures.
- ✘ Unwanted physical contact or abusive or offensive comments of a sexual nature.

Emotional and verbal bullying is more common than physical violence, it can also be difficult to cope with or to prove.

What to do if you Suspect or Witness Abuse:

The following action should be taken by someone who has concerns about the welfare of a child or young person.










NON-ACTION IS NOT AN OPTION!!!

Child abuse can and does occur outside the family setting, and abuse that takes place within a public setting is rarely an isolated event. It is crucial that people are aware of this possibility and that all allegations are treated seriously and appropriate actions taken.

When staff are providing a service to adults they should ask whether there are children in the family and consider whether the children need help or protection from harm. Children may be at greater risk of harm or in need of additional help in families where the adults have mental health problems, misuse substances or alcohol, are in a violent relationship, have complex needs or learning disabilities

Disclosure

If a child or young person should engage any member of staff in a disclosure information exchange they should do the following:




-  React calmly so as not to frighten the child or young person;
-  Tell the child or young person that they are not to blame and that they are right to tell someone of their problems;
-  Take seriously what the child or young person says;
-  Avoid leading the child or young person and keep any questions to the absolute minimum to ensure a clear understanding of what has been said;
-  Re-assure the child or young person; however, do not promise confidentiality or outcomes that might be not be kept to in the light of further developments;
-  Record in full what has been seen and heard as soon as possible;
-  Report concerns to the managers / on-call managers out of hours immediately;

The manager will then take advice from the Children's Safeguarding Service. They will make the initial referral to the appropriate agency. All managers will be aware of their roles and responsibilities using the guidance issued by the local authority. Confidentiality should be maintained on a strictly 'need to know' basis, and relevant documents stored in a secure location. Advice will be given to the manager in regards to any actions which are deemed necessary.

It can be more difficult for some children to disclose abuse than for others, e.g. disabled children and vulnerable adults will have to overcome additional barriers. Those working with these groups need to be especially vigilant and give extra thought to how to respond.

Allegations against Staff:




If a member of staff has concerns, or receives a complaint or allegation about another member of staff who has:

-  behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child;
-  possibly committed a criminal offence against, or in relation to a child;
-  behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may be unsuitable to work with children;

then you must immediately report to your line manager who will telephone the Children's Safeguarding Service. The Safeguarding and Allegations Officer will advise you on the action to take next. If a concern is raised outside of office hours, and you think a referral to social services is required you should contact the Emergency Duty Team and inform either the Children's Safeguarding Service or Local Authority (LA) Designated Officer (LADO) at the first available opportunity during working hours.

The LA, East Sussex Children's Safeguarding Team Tel No: 01323 464 222









The LADO is a specific dedicated role within the local authority where the allegation concerns an employee. They should be used in respect of all cases in which is alleged that an employee has;

-  Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
-  Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or,
-  Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they worked regularly or closely with children is unsuitable to work with children

A staff member is a person whose work brings them into contact with children in their setting. It therefore, applies to all adults whether paid or working in a voluntary capacity including supply/ agency workers on or off premises or sites.

Recording of Information, Suspicions or Concerns

Information passed to the Social Services Department or to the police must be as informative as possible, as it may be used in any subsequent legal action; hence there is the necessity for making a factual, detailed record of the following:

-  The child or young person's name, address and date of birth.
-  The nature of the allegation.
-  A description of any visible bruising or other injuries.
-  The child's or young person's account, in their own words if possible, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
-  Any observation made by yourself.
-  Any times, locations, dates or other relevant information.
-  A clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.
-  Your knowledge of and relationship to the child or young person.

Whenever possible, referrals to Social Services Department should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours and the appropriate Statutory Notification completed and sent to the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Keep a record of the name and designation of the social services member of staff or police officer to whom concerns were passed, and record the time and date of the call-in case any follow-up is needed.

Related Policies
Adult Safeguarding
Duty of Candour
Notifications
Position of Trust
Supervision