

Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm. As adults and/or professionals or volunteers, everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children – and in particular protecting them from significant harm - depends upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise.

Individual children, especially some of the most vulnerable children and those at greatest risk of social exclusion, will need co-ordinated help from health, education, children's social care, and quite possibly the voluntary sector and other agencies, including youth justice services.

For those children who are suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, joint working is essential, to safeguard and promote welfare of the child(ren) and – where necessary – to help bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against children. All agencies and professionals should:

- ✓ be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect;
- ✓ be alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;
- ✓ share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the child's needs and circumstances;
- ✓ contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the child's welfare;
- ✓ take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans; and
- ✓ work co-operatively with parents unless this is inconsistent with ensuring the child's safety.

Definitions of abuse and neglect

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (*eg*: rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts.

They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate

ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Staff/ trustee / volunteer awareness

All users of space2grow will be made aware of this policy as part of their initial induction process and there will be regular briefings and updates.

Reviewing the Policy and Procedure

This policy and procedure will be reviewed every year, this will include checking telephone numbers, accuracy of personnel details, and any updates required by a change in local or national policy.

Procedures

What to do if you have concerns about a child or young person:

You may have concerns because of something you have seen or heard, or a child may choose to disclose something to you. If a child discloses information to you, you should:

- ✓ Do not promise confidentiality, you have a duty to share this information and refer to Children's Services Single Point of Access.
- ✓ Listen to what is being said, without displaying shock or disbelief.
- ✓ Accept what is said.
- ✓ Reassure the child, but only as far as is honest, don't make promises you may not be able to keep *eg: 'Everything will be alright now', 'You'll never have to see that person again'.*
- ✓ Do reassure and alleviate guilt, if the child refers to it. For example, you could say, *'You're not to blame'.*
- ✓ Do not interrogate the child; it is not your responsibility to investigate.
- ✓ Do not ask leading questions (*eg: Did he touch your private parts?*), ask open questions such as *'Anything else to tell me?'*
- ✓ Do not ask the child to repeat the information for another member of staff.
- ✓ Explain what you have to do next and who you have to talk to.
- ✓ Take notes if possible or write up your conversation as soon as possible afterwards.
- ✓ Record the date, time, place any non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child (do not paraphrase).
- ✓ Record statements and observable things rather than interpretations or assumptions.

Whatever the nature of your concerns, please discuss them with space2grow's designated safeguarding lead or space2grow's lead trustee for safeguarding. All space2grow session leaders have a current DBS in place as well as undergoing safeguarding training - Safeguarding Essentials (Level 1) V1:

space2grow designated safeguarding lead - Kate Newton

- **Phone:** 07963 044899
- **Email:** info@space2grow.space

space2grow lead trustee for safeguarding – Nicola Chinn

- **Phone:** 07740 739894

- **Email:** info@space2grow.space

If you still have concerns, you should contact the Children's Services 'Single Point of Access' between 9am to 5pm on Monday to Friday.

- **Phone:** 0300 470 9100
- **Email:** cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

For people with hearing or speech impairments:

- **Text line:** 07527 182861
- [Sign Language Video Relay Service](#)

During evenings, weekends and bank holidays, the [Emergency Duty Team](#) is available:

- **Phone:** 01483 517898
- **Email:** edt.ssd@surreycc.gov.uk

For people with hearing or speech impairments:

- **Text line:** 07800 000388
- **Text relay** (a speech-to-text translation service): 18001 01483 517898

In extreme cases where you feel a child's life is in danger you should dial 999 immediately.

What information will you need when making a referral?

You will be asked to provide as much information as possible. Such as the child's full name, date of birth, address, school, GP, languages spoken, any disabilities the child may have, details of the parents. Do not be concerned if you do not have all these details, you should still make the call.

You should follow up the verbal referral in writing, within 48hrs.

Change Record

Date of Change:	Changed By:	Comments:
29/01/20	Nicola Chinn	Policy approved by the Trustees
30/1/21	Nicola Chinn	Reviewed and reissued
21/1/22	Nicola Chinn	Reviewed and reissued
23/1/23	Nicola Chinn	Reviewed and reissued
14/3/23	Nicola Chinn	Reviewed and updated with Surrey County Council Children's Services Single Point of Access information.
24/3/23	Nicola Chinn	Updated with space2grow safeguarding leads information
29/2/24	Kate Newton	Updated with DBS & safeguarding training details