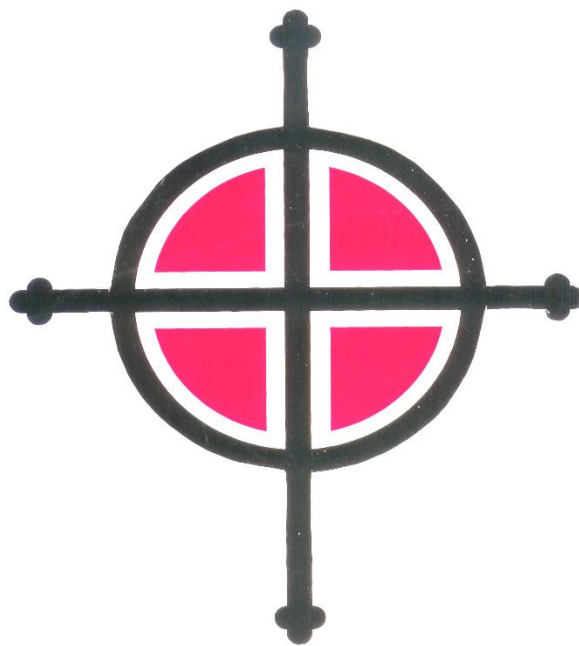


# SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES



## St Philip Westbrook C of E Aided Primary School

Date of Review	Action
OCT 2016	Updated and approved
FEB 2017	Updated Prevent contact details & FGM report and responsibilities
JULY 2017	Updated LADO contact details
SEPT 2017	Updated Deputy DSL information, & initial concern form
DEC 2017	Updated reference to Mobile Phone Policy
SEPT 2018	Updated Prevent contact details & Safeguarding Team & Concern Form
SEPT 2018	Updated with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 information
SEPT 2019	Updated with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 information

## **Safeguarding Team**

Members of the safeguarding team are:

Head Teacher/DSL Jacqueline Wightman

Deputy Head Teacher/Deputy DSL Angela Deakin

SEND Leader / Deputy DSL Mrs E Lydon

The Safeguarding Team meet once a month in order to discuss the wellbeing of the children being monitored on the school Vulnerable List and to add onto or move children on the list according to their level of need. Arrangements can be made to offer Early Support to families in need, to address issues that may impact on children's wellbeing and engagement in school and to cascade information on a need to know basis to staff involved with the children in order to maximize the support given to individual children. In this way the members of the Senior Leadership Team know about current safeguarding concerns and are able to act effectively when issues arise on a day-to-day basis.

Jacqueline Wightman Designated Safeguarding Lead can be contacted through the School Office.

Tel: 01925-445391 or email [stphilips\\_primary\\_head@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:stphilips_primary_head@warrington.gov.uk) with any safeguarding queries or concerns.

## CONTENTS

### Part One: Safeguarding Policy

Section	Page Number
Introduction to the policy	4
Links to other policies	4
Key Principles	5
Our responsibility to children	5
Statutory duties and the legal framework	6
Safer Recruitment	7
What is safeguarding?	7
Listening to children: capturing the child's voice	7
The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	8
What does the DSL do?	8
The Safeguarding Team Approach to safeguarding children	9
Meet our Safeguarding Team	10
Key functions of the safeguarding team	10
The role of the Governing Body	10
The role of the Safeguarding Governor	11
Managing allegations against members of staff who work with children	11
What we do if there are concerns about a child	11
Expectations of all staff who work with children	13
Child Protection Procedures	13
Whistleblowing	13
Safeguarding Training	13
Dealing with a disclosure of abuse from a child	14
Record keeping and confidentiality	15

### Part 2: The key procedures-responding to concerns about a child

Section	Page
Early Help for children and families	16
Working with parents & carers	17
What is abuse?	17
Physical abuse	17
Neglect	18
Emotional abuse	18
Sexual abuse	19
Children and the court system	20
Children missing from education	20
Children with family members in prison	20
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	21
Child criminal exploitation	21
Domestic abuse	22
Homelessness	22
So called 'honour based' violence	23
Forced marriage	23
Preventing radicalisation	24
Channel	25
Peer on peer abuse	27
Parenting capacity	27
Bullying	27
Substance misuse	27
Faith abuse	28
FGM	28

Sexting	31
Private Fostering	31

### Part 3: Appendices

	Page number
Appendix 1: Initial Concern Form	34
Appendix 2: Early Help	36
Appendix 3: Preventing Violent Extremism – Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)	44
Appendix 4: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): additional information	45
Appendix 5: CSE Risk assessment and screening tool	46
Appendix 6: Bullying & Cyberbullying: additional information	51
Appendix 7: Domestic Violence & Abuse: DASH Risk Assessment tool	52
Appendix 8: Additional Information in relation to non-accidental injury: spotting the signs	56

### Section One: Safeguarding information for all staff

#### Introduction to the Purpose of this Policy and Procedure document

The purpose of this policy is to provide absolute clarity for all staff at St Philip Westbrook CE Aided Primary School on our shared responsibilities in safeguarding our pupils. This Policy and procedure document aims to help professionals understand what they need to do, and what they can expect of one another, to safeguard children. It focuses on core legal requirements, making it clear what individuals should do to keep children safe and how it is managed practically at St Philip Westbrook CEAPS. It outlines the procedures staff should follow if they have any concerns about a child. Early Years is also covered by this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, all policies have been written with reference to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

#### Links with other Policies

This safeguarding policy has obvious links with the wider safeguarding agenda and specifically all policies that make up the safeguarding suite of documents. Including the following policies: Attendance

Anti-Bullying

Behaviour

Disclosure and Barring checks

E-Safety Policy

First Aid

Health and Safety

Managing Allegations LADO Fiona Cowen 443101 / Beki Byron 443102)

Missing Children (LA Contact Officer Dave Samson 01925 442261)

Mobile Phone Policy

Meeting the Needs of Pupils with Medical Conditions

Recruitment and vetting

SEND

Staff Conduct

Whistleblowing (NSPCC helpline is 0800 0280285)

This Policy is compliant with the Warrington Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) multi agency safeguarding procedures, available on <http://warringtonlscb.org>

## Key Principles

Everyone who works with children - including teachers, teaching assistants, midday assistants, office staff, learning coaches, pastoral staff, caretakers, and all other roles at St Philip Westbrook CofE Aided Primary School including volunteers and governors - have a responsibility in keeping children safe. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

Safeguarding children is a shared responsibility, and it is acknowledged that no single professional or agency can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. It is recognised that school staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide early help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating.

Our staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*. Our school works with Social Care, the Police, Health Services and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

St Philip Westbrook CEAPS is committed to working together with all relevant agencies to ensure that children and families are able to receive the right help at the right time and that appropriate action is taken swiftly to protect children from harm.

### We believe that:

- All children and young people have the right to be protected from harm;
- Children and young people need to be safe and to feel safe in school;
- Children and young people need support which matches their individual needs, including those who may have experienced abuse;
- All children and young people have the right to speak freely and voice their values and beliefs;
- All children and young people must be encouraged to respect each other's values in line with our British values and the Christian values of the school;
- All children and young people have the right to be supported to meet their emotional, and social needs as well as their educational needs – a happy healthy sociable child and young person will achieve better educationally;
- Schools can and do contribute to the prevention of abuse, victimisation, bullying, exploitation, extreme behaviours, discriminatory views and risk taking behaviours; and
- All staff and visitors have an important role to play in safeguarding children and protecting them from abuse.

### Our responsibility to children

This policy will make clear the expectation and responsibility that all staff at St Philip Westbrook CEAPS have to contribute to safeguarding our pupils/students and promote their welfare. This policy supports the school's aims and in terms of Safeguarding aims to:

- Support the child's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence, enabling them to reach their full potential in line with our mission statement of 'Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly';
- Ensure our environment and ethos enables children and young people feel safe, valued and respected, and feel confident knowing how to approach adults if they are in difficulties, believing they will be effectively listened to,
- Raise the awareness of all staff of the need to safeguard children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse (Reference Appendices 1 and 2)
- Provide a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm, and ensure we, the school, contribute to assessments of need and support packages for those children,
- Emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff,
- Develop a structured procedure within the school which will be followed by all members of the school community in cases of possible abuse,

- Support children who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan,
- Develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies, especially the Police and Social Care,
- Ensure that all staff working within our school who have substantial access to children have been checked as to their suitability through a safe recruitment process, including verification of their identity, qualifications, and a satisfactory DBS check (according to guidance), and a central record is kept for audit.

**All staff can contribute to supporting our pupils by:**

- Identifying and protecting the most vulnerable,
- Identifying individual needs where possible,
- Designing plans to meet those needs,
- Including appropriate work within the curriculum,
- Implementing child protection policies and procedures,
- Working in partnership with pupils/students, parents and agencies.

**Statutory Duties and the legal framework that underpins this policy**

This policy and procedure document has been developed in accordance with the principles established in the following legal and statutory framework:

- The Children Acts (1989) and the additions to the Act (2005)
- The Education Act (2002)
- The Equality Act (2010)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1991)
- The Local Safeguarding Children’s Board, Multi Agency Safeguarding procedures. In this area via the Warrington Safeguarding Children’s Board (WSCB) it is the Pan Cheshire Safeguarding Procedures.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- ‘What to do if you are worried a child is being abused’ Advice for Practitioners (2003).
- ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (2019) Part 1.
- Staff Code of Conduct

The Governing body takes seriously its responsibility under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children (Keeping Children Safe 2018).

All staff will be required to read Part 1 of this document and records will be held to reflect this.

This can be achieved by creating an environment where pupils feel safe and are safe to learn and where adults are responsive to the needs of children and take appropriate action if there are concerns about a child. This Policy will provide detail and clarity in Part 2 of the document about how our school fulfils this statutory duty and what the specific arrangements are.

**Safer Recruitment**

The school pays full regard to ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019’. Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and

undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and completing checks in relation to Prohibition Orders.

### **What is safeguarding?**

At the St Philip Westbrook CE Aided Primary School, we recognise that all adults, including temporary staff, volunteers, trainees and governors, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child's welfare is our paramount concern. At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies.

All staff believe that our school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical, spiritual and moral development of the individual child. We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our children by providing children with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection. Children at our school are encouraged to talk freely to any member of staff if they are worried or concerned about something. We value each child as an individual ensuring that their viewpoints, concerns, opinions and confidences are listened to and acted upon

At St Philip Westbrook CE Aided Primary School, we provide activities and learning opportunities through the curriculum, especially through P.S.H.E. (Personal Social Health Education) that will enable our children to understand safeguarding issues relating to physical and emotional safety and work towards equipping them with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to develop essential life skills. Children are helped to acquire the strategies which enable self protection and to understand the importance of protecting others.

Safeguarding children is the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm, and it is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this Policy as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

(Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018))

### **Listening to children: Capturing the child's voice**

Effective safeguarding systems are child centred. Failings in safeguarding systems are too often the result of losing sight of the needs and views of the children within them, or placing the interests of adults (potentially the child's parents) ahead of the needs of children.

Children want to be respected, their views to be heard, to have stable relationships with professionals built on trust and for consistent support provided for their individual needs. This should guide the behaviour of professionals. Anyone working with children should see and speak to the child; listen to what they say; take their views seriously; and work with them collaboratively when deciding how to support their needs. A child-centred approach is supported by:

- The Children Act (1989) (as amended by section 53 of the Children Act 2004).
- The Equality Act 2010
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1991)

Whilst professionals can NOT promise confidentiality, they must do the right thing in all cases. No child or group of children must be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access effective services which meet their particular needs; which includes child protection action and the offer of 'Early Help'.

### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) was specified in the Children Act (2005) which stated that every organisation must have a "named person" for safeguarding children and young people. The DSL therefore must be a member of the Senior Leadership Team within schools and Academies. The DSL role is one of great importance, with this member of staff being a champion of safeguarding and a source of support for all school staff.

It is key that all staff know who the DSL is and ensure that all concerns about a child are shared with the DSL immediately.

**The name of the Designated Safeguarding Lead for  
St Philip Westbrook CEAPS is Mrs Jacqueline Wightman  
Telephone number: 01925 445391**

### **What does the DSL do?**

- Lead responsibility for dealing with safeguarding and child protection concerns at the school and should be available at all times during the school day. This may mean having a deputy or team approach.
- Should act as source of support, advice and expertise within school when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies.
- The DSL will be trained to a high level, which includes both single agency and multi-agency training (Level 3). This must be updated at least every two years; good practice is that the DSL updates their training on an annual basis.
- The DSL will recognise how to identify signs of abuse and will make an appropriate judgement on what action to take. This will be based on the information that the DSL is presented with by staff.
- The DSL will assess the appropriateness of completing an early help assessment (e.g. CAF, TAF or ECAF) or whether the threshold has been met for social care statutory social work services.
- The DSL will access regular training and network events to keep as up to date as possible with changes in legislation and or statutory guidance.
- The DSL will ensure that the schools safeguarding policy is embedded and available to all staff and volunteers at the point of induction. If the policy is reviewed the DSL will share the new updates with all staff to ensure that all staff know what is expected of them.
- The DSL will champion safeguarding and keep all staff up to date with current procedure and practice. This will help to familiarise all staff with their own role within safeguarding.
- The DSL will ensure all new staff and volunteers have induction training covering safeguarding and child protection and are able to recognise and report any concerns immediately if they arise. The induction will cover the 'basic awareness session' and the 'no delay' principle.
- The DSL will keep detailed accurate secure written contemporaneous records. Each child will have an individual file labelled either child protection or early help. Chronologies will be help for each child and they will be clear, concise and factual (E.g. dated, concern, initialled, action taken). Files will



hold copies of all referrals and relevant multi agency meetings and plans. Files will be reviewed and quality assured as part of the s157/s175 audit process.

- The DSL will deliver whole school staff safeguarding training to all staff; recommended on a yearly basis as part of INSET. This should include briefings on specific topics such as CSE, FGM, Radicalisation and Private Fostering.
- The DSL should be aware of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and how it operates. This should include access to the LSCB website and to practitioner training events.
- The DSL will participate in multi-agency meetings and contribute effectively either verbally or by way of a written report.
- The DSL will attend Child Protection Case Conferences and contribute to discussions at the conference and will make a formal recommendation at the meeting in respect of a child protection plan.
- The DSL will contribute to social work assessments e.g. The Combined Assessment when required and requested to do so. This will include the sharing of information about attendance, attainment and any other concerns that have been identified as well of any strengths that the family/ child has.
- The DSL will develop the Vulnerability Risk Register (VRR) to identify the vulnerable children at the school. This confidential register will be reviewed regularly to ensure that the DSL knows who the vulnerable children are. This may be reviewed as part of safeguarding team meetings. This should automatically include children in care, children on a child protection plan and children in need. It may also include children receiving early help (have a CAF or family support plan), young carers, children with medical needs, children at risk of CSE, children who have emotional and mental health difficulties, children who self-harm etc. The categories on this register will be determined by the needs of the school community.
- The DSL will monitor the attendance, development and wellbeing of children who are subject to a child protection plan and children in care.
- The DSL will champion safeguarding in school- promoting effective communication both internally and with external agencies on all matters relating to child protection.
- The DSL will complete a s157/ s175 Audit on an annual basis, at the request of the Local Authority to ensure that there are effective systems in place to keep children safe.
- Where appropriate the DSL will identify staff to be part of a Safeguarding Team, to ensure that there is always a member of staff present in school who can take a lead role in safeguarding children in the DSLs absence. The DSL will take the lead responsibility within the safeguarding team.

### **The Safeguarding Team Approach to Safeguarding Children**

This is considered to be the best practice to managing safeguarding at school level. Practically, there is always cover for absence and a number of professionals trained to know what to do if there were concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child. It also encourages a culture of working collaboratively and making decisions together, with the child at the heart of the teams practice. The team approach is supportive to the DSL, who will as a result of a team structure, no longer works in isolation and take the sole responsibility for safeguarding.

Importantly, the DSL leads the safeguarding team and on a day to day basis decision will be made by the DSL. Team members need to be clear of their role within the team and what is expected from them. De briefing and reflective practice is an important part of safeguarding practice and should be routinely built into safeguarding team meetings.

## **Meet the Safeguarding Team at St Philip Westbrook CE Aided Primary School**

St Philip Westbrook CEAPS operate a safeguarding team approach with a split focus on both early help and child protection.

Mrs Angela Deakin and Mrs Emily Lydon take on the role of Deputy DSL in the Headteacher's absence and provide advice and support to staff and refer any concerns in accordance with this policy.

### **Key Functions of the Safeguarding Team**

The DSL will lead the safeguarding team and allocate tasks to safeguarding team members. The DSL will have management oversight of the safeguarding work completed by the safeguarding team. Below is a list of the some of the tasks that the DSL may ask team members to undertake:

- Complete 'early help' assessments e.g. CAF, TAF or ECAF, contribute to Combined Assessments, complete DASH risk assessments (in relation to Domestic Abuse), complete CSE screening tool.
- Make contact with Children's Social Care when there is an identified child protection issue.
- Make referrals to appropriate statutory and non-statutory services for support.
- Support to children and their families by taking the Lead Professional role.
- Attend and deliver Safeguarding Training (whole school training)
- Challenge practice and decision in line with the LSCB Escalation Policy
- Have a thorough understanding of the thresholds for support from Children's Social Care e.g. Children in Need of protection and children in need of care
- Support each other (De Briefing opportunities and reflective learning opportunities)
- Champion and know who your vulnerable children are. The Vulnerability Risk Register should be reviewed at Safeguarding Team meetings on a regular basis.

### **The Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body are the accountable body for ensuring the safety of the school

The governing body will ensure that:

- The school has a Safeguarding Policy which outlines Child Protection procedures in accordance with the multi-agency procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board;
- There is a policy for staff behaviour as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- The school operates, "Safer Recruitment" procedures and ensures that appropriate checks are carried out on all new staff and relevant volunteers; the school operates safer recruitment procedures by ensuring that there is at least one person on every recruitment panel that has completed Safer Recruitment training,
- the school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers and to make a referral to the LADO and DBS if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns, or would have had they not resigned,
- There is a named member of the school or Senior Leadership Team who takes on the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL);
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead attends appropriate annual training and works with WSCB.
- The Head Teacher, Governing Body members and all other staff who work with children undertake annual training to ensure that they are able to carry out their duty to safeguard all the children at our school.
- Temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangements for safeguarding children and their responsibilities;
- The school remedies any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to its attention without delay;
- The school has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff/volunteers and if an allegation is made against the Headteacher the Chair of Governors (Kate Strickland-Wright) will liaise directly with the Local Authority Designated officer (LADO).

- The governing body reviews its policies/procedures in relation to safeguarding children on an annual basis and this is available on the school website or by request. This includes all policies that make up the safeguarding suite of documents.
- The Governing Body considers how children may be taught about safeguarding. This is part of a broad and balanced curriculum covering relevant issues through personal social health and economic education (PSHE) and/or for maintained schools through sex and relationship education (SRE).

## **The Role of Safeguarding Governor**

The governor responsible for safeguarding children will play an essential role in ensuring children in the school are kept safe from harm. The safeguarding governor plays an important role in ensuring oversight and scrutiny of safeguarding policy, procedure and practice on behalf of the full governing body.

The Nominated Governor for child protection at St Philip Westbrook CEAPS is Mrs June Dunning. Contact via school 01925 445391

The Nominated Governor is responsible for liaising with the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) over all matters related to safeguarding issues. The role is strategic rather than operational – they will not be involved in concerns about individual children. It is not the role of the link governor to supervise the DSL; the link governor should offer support and appropriate challenge. However, the nominated governor for safeguarding will want to be reassured that systems for safeguarding children are in place and embedded into practice. This could be achieved by holding a termly meeting between the DSL and the nominated governor.

## **Allegations Against Members of Staff Who Work with Children**

There is a separate specific policy for **Managing Allegations against members of staff who work with children**, which is part of the safeguarding suite of documents. Find a brief summary of actions that should be taken should an allegation be made.

If an allegation is made, or information is received which suggests that a person may be unsuitable to work with children, the member of staff receiving the allegation or aware of the information, will immediately inform the Headteacher.

The Headteacher on all such occasions will discuss the content of the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and where appropriate the HR business partner.

If the allegation made to a member of staff concerns the Headteacher, the person receiving the allegation will immediately inform the Chair of Governors who will consult the LADO and HR business partner, without notifying the Headteacher first.

The school or will comply with local safeguarding children's board procedures in respect of managing all allegations against members of staff who work with children.

## **Child Protection Procedures**

### **What we do if there are concerns about a child?**

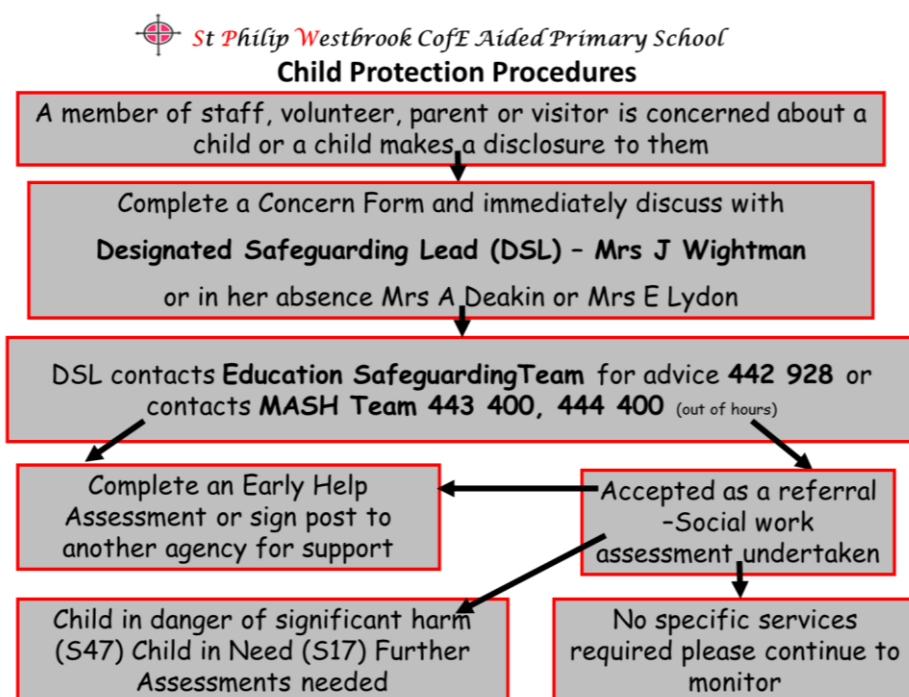
If any school staff have a concern about a child they MUST notify the DSL without delay, or in the absence of the DSL a member of the safeguarding team. It is of significant importance that this is completed immediately, with 'no delay' so that appropriate action can be taken as quickly as possible. It is not acceptable to leave this until later in the day or at a more convenient time. Staff members will be held accountable for not taking swift action.

Staff must complete a referral form (**Concern Form Appendix 1**) and give the completed form to the DSL. The form will capture all the relevant information about the concerns. This is evidence based practice and will support the DSL in making an assessment of what action needs to be taken.

Inevitably verbal conversations may sometimes supersede the completion of the referral form (**Concern Form Appendix 1**) and in some cases urgent action may be taken at a fast pace e.g. medical treatment, urgent contact with children’s social care or the police. It is important to always prioritise the safeguarding of a child, however, there should be recognition that contemporaneous record keeping is an important feature of safeguarding practice and should be prioritised by all staff to ensure that child protection and early help case files are up to date and accurate.

It is the responsibility of all staff to complete the referral form for the DSL (**Concern Form Appendix 1**) should that member of staff have concerns about a child or following a disclosure. This procedure should be followed without exception. The concern form must be handed to the DSL or the Deputy DSL. If the DSL or the Deputy DSL cannot be found, then a phone call must be made to them for advice. If the DSL or Deputy DSL cannot be located the person with the concern must contact the Education Safeguarding Team 01925 442928 or Children’s Social Care 01925 443400.

Staff can find a copy of the Initial Concern Form at the back of this policy in Appendix 1. However, copies of the form will be stored in the school office and each classroom. The DSL will ensure that all members of staff should have paper or electronic copies of this form available to them.



**We recognise that we MUST refer and MUST NOT investigate. Any member of staff can make a referral and does not need to wait for the DSL or Deputy DSL in an emergency.**

## Expectations of Staff at St Philip Westbrook CE Aided Primary School

All adults who work with children will:

- Read and follow the procedures written within this Safeguarding Policy;
- Read Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe 2018 and sign that they have read it;
- Be subject to Safer Recruitment processes and checks, whether they are new staff, supply staff, contractors, volunteers, governors, visitors etc. Adults who work with children are responsible for providing all information to complete DBS Checks and Prohibition Order checks and share information in respect of disqualification by association (where applicable).
- Be supportive to the development and implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Family Support Plans, Child in Need plans, Child in Care plans and Child Protection plans;
- Be alert to the signs and indicators of possible abuse (**See Part Two for definitions and indicators**);
- Take swift action if there are concerns about a child, following procedures written within this policy. Record concerns using the Initial Concern Form (**Appendix 1**) and give the record to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Jacqueline Wightman; in the absence of the DSL give to Mrs Angela Deakin or Mrs E Lydon.
- Deal with a disclosure of abuse from a child in line with Part Two of the policy - you must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately, and provide a written account on an Initial Concern Form (**Appendix 1**) as soon as possible;

### Whistleblowing

Please see the separate and specific policy in relation to Whistleblowing, which is part of the safeguarding suite of documents. Find a brief summary of actions that should be taken should a member of staff have concerns about the behaviour of a colleague or concerns related to policy and practice. The key principles are that all staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of child protection and safeguarding, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues. All concerns or allegations against an adult who works with children, must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school, who will then progress the referral to the LADO – F.Cowen or B.Byron 01925 442079.

### Safeguarding Training

All staff will receive basic training as part of their induction, this will be delivered by the DSL. New staff will be provided with the safeguarding suite of documents, including the Safeguarding Policy. All staff should ensure that they are familiar with the procedures written within this policy. All staff can gain advice and support from the DSL who is the lead member of staff for safeguarding.

Annual Safeguarding update training will be part of whole school INSET training days and will provide useful updates on key themes such as CSE and Radicalisation. This training will be delivered by the DSL and/or Safeguarding Team members.

The DSL and Deputy DSLs will receive annual training and regular updates from the LA. The DSL will attend multi-agency training on an annual basis and participate in local (single agency) networks to share good practice, reflect and learn together and to keep up to date.

The named governor for safeguarding should also update their training on annually. Evidence of safeguarding training must be made available as part of any safeguarding inspection or audit.

## Dealing with a disclosure of abuse from a child

Children often will choose who they talk to, when they have something that is worrying them or happening to them. Children may have thought long and hard about telling an adult, and will have chosen the adult specifically as they have trust in that person to do the right thing.

Disclosing something upsetting and traumatic may be very difficult and distressing for both the child and the adult. Listening to and supporting a child who has been abused can also be traumatic for the adults involved. Support for you will be available from your Designated Safeguarding Lead. These guidance notes may help you if you are ever in this situation. Remember, the child chose you and it is a privileged position to be in, it's a position where you can make a difference to a child's situation.

A golden rule is that you don't ever promise confidentiality and be open and honest with the child at all times.

### Guidance for you to consider

- ✓ Stay calm and listen to what the child is saying
- ✓ Do consider the environment that you are in with the child, is it appropriate? Do other staff members know where you are?
- ✓ Ask open ended questions and record what is being said in the child's own words.
- ✓ Encourage the child to talk but reassure the child that they have done the right thing in speaking to you
- ✓ Reassure the child that you believe them. Children very rarely lie about abuse; but s/he may have tried to tell others and not been heard or believed.
- ✓ Tell the child that it is not her/his fault.
- ✓ Listen and remember and make notes and if appropriate, share your notes with the child to recap what has been said.
- ✓ Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you by clarifying the facts.
- ✓ The child for telling you. Communicate that s/he has a right to be safe and protected.
- ✓ Be aware that the child may retract what s/he has told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- ✓ At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell (The DSL) and why that person needs to know.
- ✓ As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. (**Use Initial Concern Form - Appendix 1**) to do this.

### Do Not

- ✗ Do not ask "leading questions" or press for information.
- ✗ Do not investigate.
- ✗ Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment or share your opinion on what has happened.
- ✗ Do not swear.
- ✗ Make inappropriate comments about the alleged offender
- ✗ Never enter into a pact of secrecy with the child. Assure the child that you will try to help but let the child know that you will have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why (The DSL).
- ✗ Do not tell the child that what s/he experienced is dirty, naughty or bad.
- ✗ Make physical contact with the child. Whilst the child may seek out physical contact, remember that this may place you in a vulnerable position and also an abused child may not want physical comfort e.g. a hug.

If you have concerns about a child, or notice something may be wrong, ask the question "Are you OK?" Children have told us that they want adults to:

**Be Vigilant:** they want to have adults notice when things are troubling them.

**Understanding and action:** they want adults to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon

**Stability:** to be able to develop an on-going stable relationship of trust with those helping them

**Respect:** to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not

**Information and engagement:** to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans

**Explanation:** to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response

**Support:** to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family

**Advocacy:** to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views

Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

## **Record Keeping and Confidentiality**

Good, up to date record keeping of concerns and action taken is essential for two main reasons:

- It helps schools and academies identify causes for concern at an early stage. Often it is only when a number of seemingly minor issues are considered as a holistic picture, that a safeguarding or child protection concern becomes clear;
- It helps schools monitor and manage its safeguarding practices. Furthermore, in any inspection it will be important to provide evidence of robust and effective safeguarding policy and practice

A record of concern, suspicion or allegation should be made at the time or as soon as possible after the event. It is not usually advisable to make a written record whilst a child is disclosing abuse, as it may deter the child from speaking. However, it is important that events are recorded in the child's own words and as soon as possible, to ensure absolute accuracy.

Records should be factual, using the child's own words in cases where a disclosure is made. Professional opinion can be given, but needs to be supported by stating the facts and observations upon which the opinions are based. It is important to remember that what is recorded can be shared with all appropriate agencies and potentially the child's parents. (Except where doing so, would place a child at risk of significant harm in the case of parents (See DES circular 17/89)).

Expressing an opinion as to whether the child is telling the truth is not helpful and can prejudice how a case proceeds. All records should be dated and signed with the name of the signatory clearly printed and filed in chronological order. Concerns should be logged contemporaneously and in chronological order. It is advisable that each child's file has a running chronology that is kept up to date.

All recorded child protection concerns must be passed to the DSL following completion of the Initial Concern Form (Appendix 1) as soon as possible. The DSL will need to make a professional judgement about what action needs to be taken.

All records of child protection concerns, disclosures or allegations are to be treated as sensitive information and should be kept together securely and separately from the child's general school records and stored until the child's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As a guide, the pupil's child protection or early help file should contain:

- any concerns recorded by staff
- Any child protection information received from previous schools or other agencies
- Copy of any internal or external referrals and correspondence
- Copies of any referrals from the DSL to Children's Social Care
- In the case of a child subject to a Child Protection Plan, notes of any Child Protection case conference or Core Group meetings etc.
- Where a case is ongoing, keep a record of any actions and discussions etc. which will form a 'running chronology' for future reference.

If any information is removed from a file for any reason, a dated note must be placed in the file indicating who has taken it, why and when.

When a child changes school, a copy of the child protection file should be sent to the new school, under separate cover, directed to the receiving school's DSL. Our school will keep a copy of the file securely with archived documents. A handover meeting or telephone conversation will take place.

## **Section Two: The key procedures and responding to concerns about a child**

This section will make clear the procedure that all staff should follow, should you have concerns about a child. It will also explore what abuse is in detail and define some of the signs and symptoms. It is important that staff read through this section and familiarise themselves with the potential warning signs that a child is at risk.

**Practice Reminder:** The action that ALL staff and volunteers should take, if there are concerns about a child is to follow the procedure written in this policy, which is to pass the concerns to the DSL and complete and Initial Concern Form with a written record of the concern. (Appendix 1)

### **Early Help for children and their families**

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later when situations can be more complex. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life. Part of a School and academies safeguarding procedures should include effective ways to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs for individual children and families.

This requires all professionals, including those in schools and academies to understand their role in identifying emerging problems and to share information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment.

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- Identify children and families who would benefit from early help;
- Undertake an assessment of the need for early help (E.g. CAF, TAF or ECAF); and
- Provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.

Schools and academies should, in particular, be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- Has special educational needs;
- Is a young carer;
- Is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour;



- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence; and/or
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect.

All professionals working in educational establishments have a responsibility to identify the symptoms and triggers of abuse and neglect, to share that information and work together to provide children and young people with the help they need. **All concerns should be shared with the DSL and an Initial Concern Form should be completed (Appendix 1)** and see **Appendix 2** for Warrington Borough Council's Early Help offer.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and safeguarding team members should be trained in 'early help' and be confident in taking on the Lead Professional role, which includes completing an 'early help assessment' and coordinating a Family Support Plan where appropriate.

### **Working with parents and carers**

In general, the DSL will discuss any child protection concerns with parents / carers before approaching other agencies, and will seek their consent to making a referral to another agency e.g. Children's Social Care. The exception to this principle is when the concern is either a physical or sexual nature and implicates a family member or if doing so would place the child at risk of significant harm.

In addition, Parents / carers will be informed about our Safeguarding policy through the School website.

### **What is Abuse?**

#### **Abuse**

Abuse is a form 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 others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Physical Abuse  
Neglect  
Emotional Abuse  
Sexual Abuse

#### **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which 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.

The following may be indicators of physical abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Multiple bruises in clusters, or of uniform shape;
- Bruises that carry an imprint, such as a hand or a belt;
- Bite marks;
- Round burn marks;
- Multiple burn marks and burns on unusual areas of the body such as the back, shoulders or buttocks;
- An injury that is not consistent with the account given;
- Changing or different accounts of how an injury occurred;
- Bald patches;
- Symptoms of drug or alcohol intoxication or poisoning;
- Unaccountable covering of limbs, even in hot weather;

- Fear of going home or parents being contacted;
- Fear of medical help;
- Fear of changing for PE;
- Inexplicable fear of adults or over-compliance;

### **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, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The following may be indicators of neglect (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Constant hunger;
- Smelly (through poor hygiene or clothing)
- Stealing, scavenging and/or hoarding food;
- Frequent tiredness or listlessness;
- Frequently dirty or unkempt;
- Often poorly or inappropriately dressed for the weather;
- Poor school attendance or often late for school;
- Poor concentration;
- Affection or attention seeking behaviour;
- Illnesses or injuries that are left untreated;
- Failure to achieve developmental milestones, for example growth, weight;
- Failure to develop intellectually or socially;
- Responsibility for activity that is not age appropriate such as cooking, ironing, caring for siblings;
- The child is regularly not collected or received from school; or
- The child is left at home alone or with inappropriate carers

### **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a 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 (including cyberbullying), 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, although it may occur alone.

The following may be indicators of emotional abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- The child consistently describes him/herself in very negative ways – as stupid, naughty, hopeless, ugly;
- Quiet, withdrawn and nervous
- Over-reaction to mistakes;
- Delayed physical, mental or emotional development;
- Sudden speech or sensory disorders;
- Inappropriate emotional responses, fantasies;
- Neurotic behaviour: rocking, banging head, regression, tics and twitches;

- Self-harming, drug or solvent abuse;
- Fear of parents being contacted;
- Running away;
- Compulsive stealing;
- Appetite disorders - anorexia nervosa, bulimia; or
- Soiling, smearing faeces, enuresis.

N.B.: Some situations where children stop communication suddenly (known as “traumatic mutism”) can indicate maltreatment.

**Sexual abuse:** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue in education.

The following may be indicators of sexual abuse (this is not designed to be used as a checklist):

- Sexually explicit play or behaviour or age-inappropriate knowledge;
- Anal or vaginal discharge, soreness or scratching;
- Reluctance to go home;
- Inability to concentrate, tiredness;
- Refusal to communicate;
- Thrush, persistent complaints of stomach disorders or pains;
- Eating disorders, for example anorexia nervosa and bulimia;
- Attention seeking behaviour, self-mutilation, substance abuse;
- Aggressive behaviour including sexual harassment or molestation;
- Unusual compliance;
- Regressive behaviour, enuresis, soiling;
- Frequent or open masturbation, touching others inappropriately;
- Depression, withdrawal, isolation from peer group;
- Reluctance to undress for PE or swimming; or
- Bruises or scratches in the genital area.

### ***Sexual abuse by young people***

The boundary between what is abusive and what is part of normal childhood or youthful experimentation can be blurred. The determination of whether behaviour is developmental, inappropriate or abusive will hinge around the related concepts of true consent, power imbalance and exploitation. This may include children and young people who exhibit a range of sexually problematic behaviour such as indecent exposure, obscene telephone calls, fetishism, bestiality and sexual abuse against adults, peers or children.

### ***Developmental sexual activity***

Developmental sexual activity encompasses those actions that are to be expected from children and young people as they move from infancy through to an adult understanding of their physical, emotional and behavioural relationships with each other. Such sexual activity is essentially information gathering and experience testing. It is characterised by mutuality and of the seeking of consent.

### ***Inappropriate sexual behaviour***

Inappropriate sexual behaviour can be inappropriate socially, inappropriate to development, or both. In considering whether behaviour fits into this category, it is important to consider what negative effects it has on any of the parties involved and what concerns it raises about a child or young person. It should be recognised that some actions may be motivated by information seeking, but still cause significant upset, confusion, worry, physical damage, etc. It may also be that the behaviour is “acting out” which may derive from other sexual situations to which the child or young person has been exposed.

If an act appears to have been inappropriate, there may still be a need for some form of behaviour management or intervention. For some children, educative inputs may be enough to address the behaviour.

Abusive sexual activity included any behaviour involving coercion, threats, aggression together with secrecy, or where one participant relies on an unequal power base.

**Practice Reminder:** The action that ALL staff and volunteers should take, if there are concerns about a child is to follow the procedure written in this policy, which is to pass the concerns to the DSL and complete and Initial Concern Form with a written record of the concern. (Appendix 1)

### **Children and the court system**

Children are sometimes required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two age appropriate guides to support children 5-11-year olds and 12-17 year olds. The guides explain each step of the process and support and special measures that are available. There are diagrams illustrating the courtroom structure and the use of video links is explained. Making child arrangements via the family courts following separation can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. This can be stressful for children. The Ministry of Justice has launched an online child arrangements information tool with clear and concise information on the dispute resolution service. This may be useful for some parents and carers.

### **Children missing from education**

All staff should be aware that children going missing, particularly repeatedly, can act as a vital warning sign of a range of safeguarding possibilities. This may include abuse and neglect, which may include sexual abuse or exploitation and child criminal exploitation. It may indicate mental health problems, risk of substance abuse, risk of travelling to conflict zones, risk of female genital mutilation or risk of forced marriage. Early intervention is necessary to identify the existence of any underlying safeguarding risk and to help prevent the risks of a child going missing in future. Staff should be aware of their school's or college's unauthorised absence and children missing from education procedures.

**CME Dave Samson** [dsampson@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:dsampson@warrington.gov.uk) 01925 442261

### **Children with family members in prison**

Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

### **Child sexual exploitation (CSE)**

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. Like all forms of child sex abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse.

Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of child sexual exploitation:

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant;
- children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

### **Child criminal exploitation: county lines**

Criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity: drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been

trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism should be considered.

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can affect any vulnerable adult over the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

### **Domestic abuse**

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological;
- physical;
- sexual;
- financial; and
- emotional

Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result. Domestic abuse affecting young people can also occur within their personal relationships, as well as in the context of their home life.

### **Homelessness**

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity. Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include household debt, rent arrears, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour, as well as the family being asked to leave a property.

Whilst referrals and or discussion with the Local Housing Authority should be progressed as appropriate, and in accordance with local procedures, this does not, and should not, replace a referral into children's social care where a child has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a new legal duty on English councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to meaningful help including an assessment of their needs and circumstances, the development of a personalised housing plan, and work to help them retain their accommodation or find a new place to live.

The new duties shift focus to early intervention and encourage those at risk to seek support as soon as possible, before they are facing a homelessness crisis. In most cases school and college staff will be considering homelessness in the context of children who live with their families, and intervention will be on that basis. However, it should also be recognised in some cases 16 and 17 year olds could be living independently from their parents or guardians, for example through their exclusion from the family home, and will require a different level of intervention and support.

Children's services will be the lead agency for these young people and the designated safeguarding lead (or a deputy) should ensure appropriate referrals are made based on the child's circumstances. The department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published joint statutory guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/ or require accommodation.

### **So-called 'honour-based' violence**

So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV. Actions If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBV or who has suffered from HBV, they should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). As appropriate, they will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with police and children's social care.

Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers<sup>12</sup> that requires a different approach (see page 28).

### **Forced marriage**

Forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. A lack of full and free consent can be where a person does not consent or where they cannot consent (if they have learning disabilities, for example). Nevertheless, some communities use religion and culture as a way to coerce a person into marriage. Schools and colleges can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage. The Forced Marriage Unit has published statutory guidance and Multi-agency guidelines, with pages 35-36 of which focus on the role of schools and colleges. School and college staff can contact the Forced Marriage Unit if they need advice or information: Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email [fm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gov.uk).

## **Preventing radicalisation**

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach. Extremism<sup>14</sup> is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology.

Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised.

As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a referral to the Channel programme.

## **The Prevent duty**

All schools and colleges are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard<sup>16</sup> to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty should be seen as part of schools' and colleges' wider safeguarding obligations. Designated safeguarding leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, especially paragraphs 57-76 which are specifically concerned with schools (and also covers childcare). The guidance is set out in terms of four general themes: Risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, and IT policies.

The department has published advice for schools on the Prevent duty. The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support.

There is additional guidance: Prevent duty guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales that applies to colleges. Educate Against Hate, a website launched by the Her Majesty's Government has been developed to support and equip school and college leaders, teachers, and parents with information, tools and resources (including on the promotion of fundamental British values) to help recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. The platform provides information on and access to training resources for teachers, staff and school and college leaders, some of which are free such as Prevent e-learning, via the Prevent Training catalogue.

## **Indicators that a child may be being subjected to extremist views / radicalisation.**

- Use of inappropriate racist / violent / intolerant language in conversation and play.
- Disclosure of extremist / terrorist behaviour by child with regard to family members.
- Any behaviour suggesting that a child may be being exposed to intolerant or extremist views.

## **What staff should do if we suspect a child is being subjected to extremist views or radicalisation.**

- Take the issue seriously and recognise the potential risk of harm to the victim.



- Gather as much information as possible about the victim.
- Do not disclose information to any family members or those with influence within the community as this may alert them to the school's concerns and may place a child in danger.
- Report any suspicion of extremist views to DSL or the Prevent officer.

### **Important contact information**

The Local Prevent Officer can be contacted on: **01606 363119 or Mob:07989 664750**

Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for St Philip Westbrook CEAPS is the DSL, Mrs Jacqueline Wightman. Please see explanatory notes about the role of the SPOC in Appendix 3.

**Channel is a partnership approach to support individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists. For more information, advice and support contact the local Channel Co-ordinator:**

**Email:** [Brendan.crilley@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Brendan.crilley@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

### **Useful Definitions**

**Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and or extremism leading to terrorism.

**Extremism** is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy (2010) 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

There is no such thing as a "typical extremist" those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

### **Indicators of vulnerability include**

- Identity Crisis – the pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
- Personal Crisis – the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet Aspirations – the pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
- Special Educational Need – the pupil may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

#### **More critical risk factors could include**

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

#### **What action should be taken if there are concerns?**

- It is everyone's duty under to report any suspicions. Pass concerns to the DSL/SPOC.

#### **Channel**

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Guidance on Channel is available at: Channel guidance, and a Channel awareness e-learning programme is available for staff at: Channel General Awareness.

The school's or college's designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Channel referral. As a Channel partner, the school or college may be asked to

attend a Channel panel to discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required.

### **Peer on peer abuse**

Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm; sexting and initiating/hazing type violence and rituals.

### **Parenting Capacity: When there are Concerns**

Research and experience indicates that the following responses from parents may suggest a cause for concern across all four categories:

- Delay in seeking treatment that is obviously needed;
- Unawareness or denial of any injury, pain or loss of function (for example, a fractured limb);
- Inconsistent explanations offered, several different explanations or the child is said to have acted in a way that is inappropriate to her/his age and development;
- Reluctance to give information or failure to mention other known relevant injuries;
- Frequent presentation of minor injuries;
- A persistently negative attitude towards the child;
- Unrealistic expectations or constant complaints about the child;
- Alcohol misuse or other drug/substance misuse;
- Parents request removal of the child from home; or
- Mental health issues which prevent the parent from meeting the child's basic needs
- Violence between adults in the household.
- Failure to protect the child from known 'risky' persons
- Failure to prioritise the child's needs above that of their own.

### **Bullying**

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyberbullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously a school's first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical. Staff should recognise this as a potential child protection issue and follow the school's **Anti Bullying Policy**.

See **Appendix 4** for links to additional information in respect of preventing and responding to bullying and cyberbullying.

### **Substance Misuse**

Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school's 'early help' offer and through referral to local drug and alcohol services.

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. Schools can have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug or alcohol misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between pupils who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

- Schools and Academies should provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the [FRANK](#) service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.
- To include this support for children as part of the 'early help' offer from the school.

## **Faith Abuse**

Faith abuse is where certain kinds of child abuse are linked to faith or belief. This includes: belief in concepts of witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs), the evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context); ritual or muti murders where the killing of children is believed to bring supernatural benefits or the use of their body parts is believed to produce potent magical remedies; and use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

Child abuse can also occur in culture or faith contexts in general, this can include female genital mutilation, forced marriage, excessive physical punishment or abuse relating to gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, disability or other differences recognised within social or cultural beliefs. Abuse in any culture or faith context is not acceptable and is child abuse. School staff should follow the procedures and share any concerns with DSL and complete and Initial Concern Form (Appendix 1), if it is suspected that a child is at risk of this type of abuse.

## **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

## **FGM mandatory reporting duty for teachers**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils or students, but the same definition of what is meant by "to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out" is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

Teachers and staff must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school's or college's designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) and involve children's social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through

disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures.

Female Genital Mutilation occurs mainly in Africa and to a lesser extent, in the Middle East and Asia. Although it is believed by many to be a religious issue, it is a cultural practice. There are no health benefits. Communities particularly affected by FGM in the UK include girls from: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Eritrea, Yemen, Indonesia and Afghanistan. In the UK, FGM tends to occur in areas with larger populations of communities who practice FGM, such as first-generation immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. These areas include: London, Cardiff, Manchester, Sheffield, Northampton, Birmingham, Oxford, Crawley, Reading, Slough and Milton Keynes.

It involves procedures that intentionally alter/injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

4 types of procedure:

Type 1 Clitoridectomy – partial/total removal of clitoris

Type 2 Excision – partial/total removal of clitoris and labia minora

Type 3 Infibulation entrance to vagina is narrowed by repositioning the inner/outer labia

Type 4 all other procedures that may include: pricking, piercing, incising, cauterising and scraping the genital area.

### **Key Points**

- It is NOT a religious practice
- Occurs mostly to girls aged from 5 – 8 years old; but up to around 15
- Criminal offence in UK since 1985
- Offence since 2003 to take girls abroad
- Criminal penalties include up to 14 years in prison

### **Reasons for this Cultural Practice Include**

- Upholds family honour
- Cultural identity – An initiation into womanhood
- Gender Identity – Moving from girl to woman – enhancing femininity
- Sexual control – reduce the woman's desire for sex
- Hygiene/cleanliness – un mutilated women are regarded as unclean

### **Risk Factors Include**

- low level of integration into UK society
- mother or sister who has undergone FGM
- girls who are withdrawn from PSHE

- a visiting female elder from the country of origin
- being taken on a long holiday to the family's country of origin
- talk about a 'special' event or procedure to 'become a woman'

### **High Risk Time: Be Aware**

This procedure often takes place in the summer, as the recovery period after FGM can be 6 to 9 weeks. Schools should be alert to the possibility of FGM as a reason why a girl in a high risk group is absent from school or where the family request an 'authorised absence' for just before or just after the summer school holidays. Although, it is difficult to identify girls before FGM takes place, where girls from these high risk groups return from a long period of absence with symptoms of FGM, advice should be sought from the police or social services.

### **Post-FGM Symptoms Include**

- difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
- unusual behaviour after a lengthy absence
- reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
- asking for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

### **Longer Term Problems Include**

- difficulties urinating or incontinence
- frequent or chronic vaginal, pelvic or urinary infections
- menstrual problems
- kidney damage and possible failure
- cysts and abscesses
- pain when having sex
- infertility
- complications during pregnancy and childbirth
- emotional and mental health problems

**Practice Reminder: The duty is a personal duty which requires the individual professional who becomes aware of the case to make a report; the responsibility cannot be transferred. This report must be made immediately direct to the Police. The staff member must then notify the DSL after they have contacted the Police to ensure the DSL retains an oversight of safeguarding concerns.**

## Sexting

Sexting is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video on their mobile phone, usually in a text message.

When people talk about sexting, they usually refer to sending and receiving:

- naked pictures or 'nudes'
- 'underwear shots'
- sexual or 'dirty pics'
- explicit 'rude' text messages or videos.

If pupils are 'sexting' indecent images of someone under the age of 18, they may be committing a criminal offence under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 Criminal Justice Act 1988. This means, it is a crime to:

- Take an indecent photograph or allow an indecent photograph to be taken;
- To make an indecent photograph (and this includes downloading or opening an image that has been sent);
- To distribute or show such an image;
- To possess with the intention of distributing images;
- To possess such images.

Whether someone is charged is decided by the Crown Prosecution Service. Generally, children are not prosecuted. HOWEVER children and young people need to be aware that they may be breaking the law. Although unlikely to be prosecuted, children and young people who send or possess the images may be visited by Police and on some occasions media equipment e.g. computers and mobile phones could be removed.

The key factor to highlight is that the real harm in relation to 'sexting' is that those in the photographs may become victims should the images be shown to others.

Further information can be found in the Appendices with also link to Child Exploitation Online protection Service. (CEOPS)

**Practice Reminder:** The action that ALL staff and volunteers should take, if there are concerns about a child is to follow the procedure written in this policy, which is to pass the concerns to the DSL and complete and Initial Concern Form with a written record of the concern. (Appendix 1)

## Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is when a child under the age of 16 (18 if they have a disability) goes to live with someone who is not a close relative for 28 days or more. This is a private agreement between a parent and another adult and private foster carers may be from the extended family such as a cousin or great aunt, a friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child or someone previously unknown to the child's family. It is not private fostering when a child is living with a close relative such as a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether blood related or through marriage).

Privately fostered children could include:

- Children or young people who are sent to this country for education, health care by their birth parents from overseas.
- Teenagers living with a friend's family because they do not get on with their own family.
- Children living with a friend's family because their parents study or work involves unsociable hours, which makes it difficult to use ordinary day care or after school care.
- Children staying with another family because their parents have divorced or separated.
- A child from overseas staying with a host family while attending school or overseas students at boarding school who stay with a host family during the holidays.

All professionals have a duty to notify the Local Authority of a private fostering arrangement that comes to their attention, where they are not satisfied that the Local Authority has been or will be notified of the arrangement by the parent or carer. Some of these arrangements may be recent; some may have been in existence for some time as the parent and carer may not be aware that it is a private fostering arrangement, and so not aware of the need to inform the local authority.

**Practice Reminder:** The action that ALL staff and volunteers should take, if there are concerns about a child is to follow the procedure written in this policy, which is to pass the concerns to the DSL and complete and Initial Concern Form with a written record of the concern. (Appendix 1)



# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Safeguarding Concern Form

To be completed by all staff and handed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Wightman, or in her absence Mrs A Deakin or Mrs E Lydon.

Name of Child:	Class:	DOB:
		Age of Child:
<p><b>Nature of Concern or Disclosure from a Child:</b></p> <p>Guidance Notes: Do not investigate any disclosure but you can ask questions to clarify the facts, do not ask leading questions.</p> <p>DO NOT contact parents if there is a disclosure of a physical or sexual nature that implicates a family member.</p> <p>Record exactly what has been said in the child's own words.</p> <p>Reassure the child that they have done the right thing and that you will share this information with the DSL.</p> <p><b><u>PASS THIS FORM TO THE DSL WITHOUT DELAY.</u></b></p>		
Where is the child now?		
Make a note of who else was present when the disclosure was made.		
Does the child require medical attention? Are there any injuries? If so, where, size and nature.		
Actions taken before referral to Designated Safeguarding Lead		
Name of staff member completing the form:	Date of concern:	Name of DSL that concern shared with:
Date and time form given to DSL:	Signature of referrer:	

## For completion by Designated Safeguarding Lead

What the DSL did once the concern was raised? Include the names and roles of people you spoke to and the date.

Include basis for decisions e.g. didn't phone mum to report the incident because suspected sexual abuse.

What has happened next?

Signature of Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Date:

Details added to pupil file and chronology

Date:

## Appendix 2:

### Early Help Offer

WARRINGTON  
Borough Council



# Early Help Division

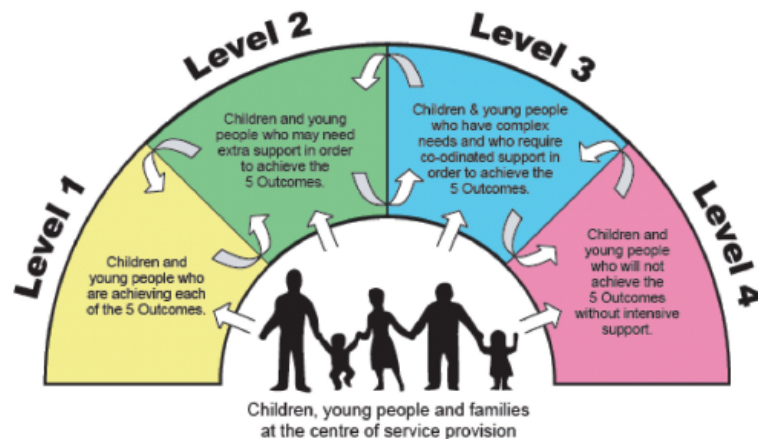


Offering information, advice and support to children, young people and their families as soon as possible in their lives.

Early Help is about identifying problems **early** so that support can be offered to **help** things get better.

Lots of people across Warrington offer early help services to families as part of the Family Support Model.

The Family Support Model sets out 4 levels of help depending on how much support is needed, from universal (Level 1) through to intensive support (Level 4).



Warrington Borough Council's Early Help Division works to these levels of need and offers a wide range of services to help families.

Early Help Division –

## Level 1 – Services for everyone

### Families Information Service (FIS)

The Families Information Service (FIS) provides a wide range of information for all families, carers and young people in Warrington including information on:

- Childcare and early years education
- Funding and financial information
- Clubs and activities in the local area
- Youth services
- Teenage services including teenage pregnancy and sexual health
- Children's Centres
- Family Support Services
- Local Offer.

The aim of the FIS is to provide a free, impartial advice and guidance service, covering all aspects of family life.

The FIS team also runs Warrington's Family Services Directory, a local directory of services for children, young people, families and practitioners who live, play or work in Warrington.

To find out more about FIS and the Family Services Directory:  
Visit us online at [www.warringtonchildren.org](http://www.warringtonchildren.org)  
Email: [fis@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warrington.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01925 443322



offering information, advice and support

## Free Early Years Entitlement (FEYE)

Children who are 3 and 4 years old are entitled to free early education places at local pre-schools, private nurseries, maintained school nurseries and child minders. Each child is entitled to receive up to 15 hours of free early years education per week with a local provider.



To find out which childcare providers are registered to offer this service, contact the Families Information Service.

Visit us online at [www.warringtonchildren.org](http://www.warringtonchildren.org)  
Email us on [feyeteam@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:feyeteam@warrington.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01925 443322

## Children's Centres

Children's Centres are well placed across communities of Warrington to offer services that will improve outcomes for families. All families have access to universal services (level 1). Families identified as needing additional support can access targeted services (level 2).

- Healthcare – such as ante and post natal midwifery, health visitor clinics, breastfeeding support, developmental checks.
- School Readiness activities – such as Fun with Stories, Chatterbox, All Kinds of Play, Ready Steady Nursery.
- Family Learning – such as First Aid, English and Maths, Healthy Eating Cooking activities.
- Information and Advice – such as information about benefits, home safety equipment, volunteering and work ready programmes.
- Early help home visiting – such as targeted new birth visits, joint visits with professionals, 18 month visits to promote 2 year funded placement opportunities, young parents visits and to families with English as additional language.



## Early Years Quality Team

The Early Years Quality Team provides a wide range of information and support to providers of childcare and early years education. The team can offer:

- Information and guidance on early years qualifications
- Support and guidance for providers wishing to register on the Early Year Register
- Targeted support for early years providers who are not yet deemed 'good' by Ofsted
- Targeted support for settings offering funded 2 year old places
- Comprehensive continuous professional development for the early years workforce across Warrington
- Targeted guidance and support to early years providers in implementing the early years SEND pathway
- Implementing Warrington Early Years Strategy by tracking children's development, working in partnership, and by promoting integrated 2 year old health checks.

## Play Team

The Play Team offers a range of childcare services such as:

- Callands before and after school club
- Callands holiday club (depending on demand)
- Mobile crèche service
- Summer play schemes

To find out more information, contact the the Play Development Manager. Tel: 01925 442873  
Email: [ldattani@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:ldattani@warrington.gov.uk)

Early Help Division –

## Level 2 & 3 – Early Help Services

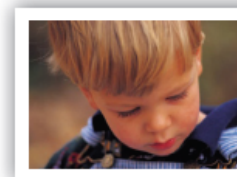
### Free Childcare for 2 year olds

Free childcare for 2 year olds in Warrington can help young children to make new friends, learn through play and have lots of fun.

Access to the free places is limited and children must eligible based on a range of factors such as:

- Parents/Carers are receiving specific benefits
- Child has a current statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan Level 2 and 3 – Early Help Services
- Child attracts Disability Living Allowance
- Child is under the care of the Local Authority or other care arrangements are in place (e.g. special guardianship)
- Child has been adopted or is going through the adoption process. The aim of the FIS is to provide a free, impartial advice and guidance service, covering all aspects of family life.

Children can also be nominated to receive a funded place. Professionals working with a 2 year old, whom they think would benefit from the place, can contact the FEYE team for more information.



To check if a 2 year old may be eligible for a free nursery place or to request an application form, please contact the FEYE team on: Email: [feyeteam@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:feyeteam@warrington.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01925 443322

offering information, advice and support

## 2 year old Outreach

To support children and families who are eligible for a free 2 year old funded nursery place, there is a dedicated Outreach Worker who can support families by:

- Helping families to complete the application form.
- Providing support to choose a suitable setting
- Building strong links between settings and home
- Monitoring the progress of funded children
- Signposting to other early help services.

To access support from the 2 year old Outreach Worker, contact:

Email: [feyeteam@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:feyeteam@warrington.gov.uk)

Tel: 01925 443322

8

## Early Years SEN

Support plus is a set of initiatives that childcare providers can apply for if they are supporting a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Through support plus the early year's team can signpost practitioners onto relevant training and offer advice and funding. Support plus should be considered as part of the graduated approach to the early identification of SEND. Applications for support plus require parental consent and will be considered when settings can demonstrate that they have followed the early years SEN support pathway.

## Warrington SEND, Information Advice and Support Service

This team supports parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), helping parents and young people, up to the age of 25, to make informed decisions. The team offers early help to its service users by providing impartial advice and practical support about:

- Choosing an early years setting or school.
- Making transitions to schools or colleges.
- Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Education Health and Care (EHC) assessments and plans.
- Annual Reviews.
- Disagreement resolution.
- Support with admission appeals, transport and exclusion appeals.
- And much more.

To find out more or to make a referral, contact Warrington SEND, IASS Tel: 01925 442978

Email: [imacdonald@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:imacdonald@warrington.gov.uk)

Website for further info: <http://www.warringtonsendiass.co.uk>

9



## Family Outreach Team

*Working together  
to support families  
to build a safer and  
stronger future*



The Family Outreach Team (FOT) is a dedicated team of workers who support families, providing early help to improve the life chances of children and young people.

The FOT (previously known as the Family Support Service) continues to offer high quality support to families, assessing their needs and co-ordinating interventions designed to help families.

### **A key aspect of the help provided to families includes:**

- Focusing on children under 5 years of age and families with children and young people 0-19 years old who are presenting with complex needs and who are requiring high levels of support and intervention.
- Remaining child and young person focused.
- Offering an early identification of needs through assessment of engagement.

- Co-ordinating services
- Identifying appropriate services
- Supporting parenting strategies
- Being a positive role model
- Being an advocate for children and young people; and
- Improving confidence and self-esteem of children, young people and parents/carers

Access to the service is via referral. To request a copy of the referral form or for further information, contact:

Tel: 01925 442980

Email: [familysupportservice@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:familysupportservice@warrington.gov.uk)  
or [familysupportservice@warrington.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:familysupportservice@warrington.gcsx.gov.uk)

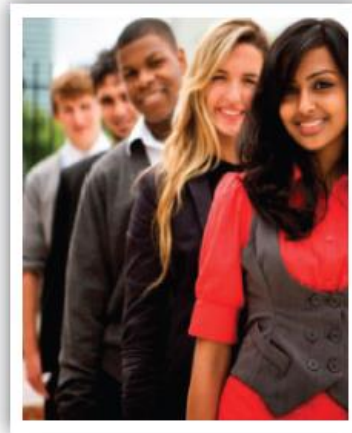


## Brighter Futures Team

This team can help individuals looking to gain new skills and experience. They work with both young people and adults.

Supporting them to:

- Access a range of training opportunities.
- Find employment.
- Gain qualifications.
- Develop new skills through volunteering.
- Learn from each other through mentoring projects.



To find out more about getting help on the journey to a Brighter Future, contact the team on:

Tel: 01925 851029

Email: [brighterfutures@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:brighterfutures@warrington.gov.uk)

Early Help Division –

## Youth Service

Warrington Youth Service offers a range of activities to support the personal and social development of young people aged 13-19. All projects are based on listening to young people and working with them so that they get the best from the activity.



Activities can include sessions based on music, art, dance, sports and discussion and may be offered from any of the Youth Service venues:

- Orford Youth Base
- Mobile Youth Base at various places in the community.
- Community Settings

In addition to targeted activities for young people, the Youth Service also offers one-to-one support. Young people can ask for additional support or professionals may refer a young person to the service. One-to-one support will enable young people to overcome specific difficulties as they work with a dedicated youth worker to set targets and achieve goals. One-to-one work may focus on:

- Building self-esteem and confidence
- Tackling substance misuse
- Offering sexual health advice and support
- Overcoming social, emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Access to one-to-one support is via referral. To request a copy of the referral form or for further information, contact: Tel: 01925 851029

offering information, advice and support

## Early Help - Working with Partners

The Early Help Division works with a range of partners in delivering its support to children, young people and families. Specifically, the division includes two main sections which are responsible for partnership working and which support professionals to:

- Share information
- Develop skills in multi-agency working
- Negotiate and resolve difficulties
- Understand the difference early help services can make.

### CAF and Development Team

This team is responsible for co-ordinating the work of all partners who deliver services as part of the Family Support Model. They deliver early help training, conduct background information checks, audit the quality of assessments and monitor engagement in the Family Support Model across all partners and the Early Help Division. For monitoring purposes and to see if early help is making a difference, the team is also responsible for storing information about children, young people and families who access early help services.

### Complex Families

This team is part of a national programme called 'Troubled Families' that aims to improve how, as partners, we work together to support families as a whole. It will support and encourage partners to work differently. The Complex Families team evaluates these approaches, offers support to identify and resolve barriers, promotes best practice and shapes future service delivery. Programme outcomes will also be monitored by various central government departments to support and shape national agendas.

Early Help Division –

## Find out more!

To find out more about the Early Help Division, please contact the teams on the details below.

### For information, advice and guidance about services to families

Families Information Service  
Visit us online at [www.warringtonchildren.org](http://www.warringtonchildren.org)  
Email: [fis@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warrington.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01925 443322



### For information about CAF and training opportunities in Early Help

CAF and Development Team  
Email: [caf@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:caf@warrington.gov.uk) or [caf.team@nhs.net](mailto:caf.team@nhs.net)  
Tel: 01925 443136 / 443162



### For information about the Complex Families programme

Complex Families Team  
Email: [complexfamilies@warrington.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:complexfamilies@warrington.gcsx.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01925 443301 / 443302



offering information, advice and support

## **Appendix 3: Preventing Violent Extremism- Roles and responsibilities of the single point of contact (SPOC)**

The SPOC for St Philip Westbrook CEAPS is the DSL, Mrs Jacqueline Wightman, who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of St Philip Westbrook CEAPS in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable students pupils into the Channel\* process;
- attending Channel\* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel\* Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

\* **Channel** is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by Cheshire Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to:

Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable pupils; Safeguard pupils who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and Provide early intervention to protect and divert pupils away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.



## Appendix 4:

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) additional information

Multi Agency Safeguarding Procedures <http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/pancheshire>

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-being-sexually-exploited>

What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited Ref: DFE-57517-2012 (Statutory Guidance 2012)

Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation (Statutory Guidance 2009)

<http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/LSCB-Child-Sex-Exploitation-Protocol-November-2013-Generic.pdf>

# Appendix 5: CSE risk assessment and screening tool

RESTRICTED



## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION RISK ASSESSMENT

This screening tool should be used by all professionals working with children aged 10+. Professionals may also decide it is appropriate to use the tool to screen younger children as nationally children as young as 8 years old have been found to be abused in this way. Boys as well as girls are abused through CSE.

This screening tool will help you focus on the specific indicators of sexual exploitation and determine whether further investigations are needed. The tool could be used in supervision, in discussions with parents and carers, with other professionals and with the child.

Many of the indicators of child sexual exploitation are also part of normal teenage behaviours and it is the presence of higher risk factors or multiple other factors which may be indications of child sexual exploitation. **Where a child is aged 13 years old or younger the presence of any one high risk factor must be seen as a potential indicator of sexual exploitation.**

Professionals need to exercise their own judgement when completing the tool.

This includes capturing concerns about which they have some evidence **AND** concerns based on their "gut feelings". Staff should differentiate between the two and explain this in the notes section.

Where child sexual exploitation is suspected the worker should discuss their concerns with their manager and should also inform their agency's lead professional who will be monitoring the bigger picture for any emerging patterns.

Professionals should feel free to use the tool creatively, including as part of awareness raising work with children or in engaging parents and carers in understanding the issues.

Once completed if it confirms concerns you **MUST** make a referral to your local **CSE Operational Group** (using your local area referral form) and should include a copy of the completed screening tool. If the screening tool identifies **High Risk**, you must make a referral to Children Social Care using the standard child protection referral process. (Contacts on back page)

Version Number	Date	Owner	Review Date
V2	February 2014	Ruth Atherton	August 2014

<b>Child's Surname:</b>	<b>Child's forenames:</b>
<b>Dob:</b>	<b>Date completed:</b>
<b>Name and job title of person completing:</b>	<b>Organisation:</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>

When completing the screening tool you must use your own judgement as factors such as the child's age, any additional vulnerabilities, their history, etc., may mean that what for another child would be low level, for that child is high level. Workers should feel free to amend the suggested level using that judgement.

You can either indicate the level of risk using High/medium/low or simply tick the box if the risk element is present (you may wish to use more ticks where the risk is higher).

Remember, this tool is to help you make a professional assessment and you should not feel constrained by the format. Record your rationale in the notes boxes.

<b>Health Domain</b>	<b>Yes No Possib le</b>		<b>Yes No Possib le</b>
Physical injuries such as bruising, suggesting of either physical or sexual assault		Change in appearance, including losing weight, putting on weight	
A sexually transmitted infection (STI), particularly if it is recurring or there are multiple STI's		Evidence of misuse of drugs / alcohol, including associated health problems	
Pregnancy and / or seeking an abortion		Thoughts of or attempted suicide	
Sexually risky behaviour		Eating disorder	
Self-harming		Learning Disability	
Notes			
<b>Behaviour Domain</b>	<b>Yes No Possib le</b>		<b>Yes No Possib le</b>
Sexually offending behaviour		Hostility in relationship with parents / carers and other family members	
Truancy/disengagement with education or considerable change in performance at school		Volatile behaviour, exhibiting extreme array of mood swings or abusive language which is unusual for the child	
Aggressive or violent, including to pets/animals		Detachment from age-appropriate activities	
Becoming angry/ hostile if any suspicions or concerns about their activities are expressed		Physical aggression towards parents, siblings, pets, teachers or peers	
Physical aggression towards parents, siblings, pets, teachers or peers		Secretive behaviour	
Known to be sexually active		Low self-image, low self-esteem	
Young offender or anti-social behaviour		Sexualised language	
Getting involved in petty crime such as shoplifting or stealing			

Notes

<b>Grooming Domain</b>	<b>Yes No Possib le</b>		<b>Yes No Possib le</b>
Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults		Excessive use of mobile phones, including receiving calls late at night	
Reports that the child/young person has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation		Associating with other young people who are known to be sexually exploited, including in school	
Unexplained relationships with older adults		Sexual relationship with a significantly older person	
Phone calls, texts or letters from unknown adults		Mobile phone being answered by unknown adult	
Inappropriate use of the Internet and forming relationships, particularly with adults, via the Internet. Note: adults may pose as peers to entrap the child		Having new mobile phone, several mobile phones and/or SIM cards, especially Blackberry or iPhone (because messages cannot be traced). Always have credit on their mobile phones, despite having no access to money or having no credit so phone can only be used for incoming calls	
Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding		Acquisition of expensive or sexual clothes, mobile phone or other possession without plausible explanation	
Having keys to premises other than those they should have		Possession of money with no plausible explanation	
Recruiting others into sexual exploitation		Seen at public toilets known for cottaging or adult venues (pubs and clubs)	
Adults loitering outside the child/young person's usual place of residence or school		Leaving home/care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothes from older young people)	
Wearing an unusual amount of clothing (due to hiding more sexualised clothing underneath or hiding their body)		Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation	
Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for in spite of having no known home base		Returning after having been missing looking dirty, dishevelled, tired, hungry, thirsty	
Missing for long periods with no known home base and / or homeless		Possession of excessive numbers of condoms	
New contacts with people outside of town			

Notes

<b>Family and Social Domain</b>	<b>Yes No Possib le</b>		<b>Yes No Possib le</b>
A family member or known associate working in the adult sex trade		Unsure about their sexual orientation or unable to disclose sexual orientation to their family	
History of physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse; neglect		Witness to domestic violence at home	
Parental difficulties; drug and alcohol misuse;		Conflict at home around boundaries, including	



mental health problems; physical or learning difficulty. Being a young carer		staying out late	
Living in hostel, B&B or Foyer accommodation		Pattern of street homelessness or sofa surfing	
Recent bereavement or loss		Gang association either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships	
Lacking friends their own age		Living in a gang neighbourhood	

Notes

<b>E Safety Domain</b>	<b>Yes No Possib le</b>		<b>Yes No Possib le</b>
------------------------	-------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through Internet or social networking sites		Concern that inappropriate images of a young person are being circulated via the Internet/phones	
Exchanging inappropriate images for cash, credits or other items		Receiving gifts through the post from someone the young person does not know	
Concern that a young person is being coerced to provide sexually explicit images		Concern that a young person is being bribed by someone for their inappropriate online activity	
Concern that a young person is selling sexual services via the Internet		Accessing dating agencies via mobile phones (e.g. 2 flirt line)	
Unexplained increased mobile phone / gaming credits		Going online during the night	
Being secretive, using mobile phone for accessing websites, etc., more than computers		Unwilling to share / show online or phone contacts	
Concerns that a young person's online friendship has developed into an offline relationship		Concern that a young person is having an online relationship	
Sharing of inappropriate images amongst friends		New contacts with people outside of town	
Spending increasing amount of time on social networking sites including Facebook or on shared gaming sites		Spending increasing amount of time with online friends and less time with friends from school or neighbourhood	
Increased time on webcam, especially if in bedroom			

Notes

<b>Looked After Children Domain</b>	<b>Yes No Possib le</b>		<b>Yes No Possib le</b>
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Living in residential care		Frequently missing from placement	
Multiple placement breakdown		Going missing with other children	

Notes

This should be read in conjunction with the guidance on the front of the risk assessment tool.

Low - Presenting some vulnerability factors but appear to relate to 'normal teenage' behaviour. No statutory intervention required but may benefit from low level monitoring, awareness raising.

Medium - Presenting numerous vulnerability factors but not at immediate risk. Some protective factors present. Would benefit from professional intervention, awareness and prevention work.

High - Child is presenting high number of vulnerability factors, is known to have been exploited and/or groomed. Regularly goes missing and concerns in relation to drugs/alcohol and inappropriate adult associates. Child has disclosed exploitation. Requires statutory intervention to protect.

Submit to the PPU in the relevant area:

[northern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:northern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

[western.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:western.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

[eastern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eastern.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

**[western.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:western.ppu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)**

What is the level of risk for this child?	High
	Medium
	Low

## **Appendix 6:**

### **Bullying and Cyberbullying**

Additional information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

You will find the following useful publications:

Preventing and tackling bullying  
REF: DFE-00292-2013

Supporting Children and young people who are bullied: advice for schools  
REF:DFE-00094-2014

Cyberbullying: Advice for Headteachers and school staff  
REF:DFE-00652-2014

## Appendix 7:

### Domestic Violence and Abuse:

Additional information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

## DASH RISK ASSESSMENT



### DASH 2009 RISK MODEL

(Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and 'Honour Based Violence')

This Risk Assessment forms a baseline assessment only. It is a guide to practitioners to indicate appropriate referral to MARAC and a tool to identify service intervention requirements. Risk assessment is a dynamic process and practitioners should be alert to sudden changes in circumstances which impact on Risk Levels

**IF YOUR CONCERNS RELATE TO AN IMMINENT SERIOUS RISK OR THREAT TO YOUR CLIENT OR FAMILY MEMBERS INFORM THE POLICE WITHOUT DELAY (Emergency 999 or Non Emergency 0845 4580000)**

Name of Client ... ..

<b>CURRENT SITUATION</b> The context and detail of what is happening is very important. The questions highlighted in <b>bold</b> are high risk factors. Tick the relevant box and <b>add comments</b> where necessary to expand.	Yes	No
<b>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury?</b> (Please state what and whether this is the first injury) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Are you very frightened?</b> Comment: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s).....) might do and to whom)</p> <p>Kill:                    Self <input type="checkbox"/>                    Children <input type="checkbox"/>                    Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Further injury or Violence    Self <input type="checkbox"/>                    Children <input type="checkbox"/>                    Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other (please clarify): Self <input type="checkbox"/>                    Children <input type="checkbox"/>                    Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. Do you feel isolated from family/ friends i.e. does (.....) try to stop you from seeing friends/family/Dr or others?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (.....) within the past year?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>7. Is there conflict over child contact? (Please state what)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>8. Does (.....) constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? (Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider: Harassment History. Criminal Damage. Following the victim/ loitering/ turning up unannounced. Aggression, Violence, Harassment or use of any third party).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within 18 months)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>CHILDREN/DEPENDENTS</b> (If no children/dependents, please go to next section)</p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>10. Are there any children, step-children that aren't (...) in the household? Or are there other dependents in the household (i.e.older relative)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>11. Has (...) ever hurt the children/dependents?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>12. Has (...) ever threatened to hurt or kill the children/dependents?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HISTORY</b></p>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<p>13. Is the abuse happening more often?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>14. Is the abuse getting worse?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>15. Does (...) try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? (In terms of relationships, who you see, being 'policed at home', telling you what to wear for example. Consider honour based violence and stalking and specify the behaviour)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>16. Has (...) ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>17. Has (...) ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>18. Has (...) ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>19. Does (...) do or say things of a sexual nature that makes you feel bad or</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>that physically hurt you or someone else?</b> (Please specify who and what) <input type="text"/>		
<b>20. Is there any other person that has threatened you or that you are afraid of?</b> (If yes, consider extended family if honour based violence. Please specify who) <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>21. Do you know if (...) has hurt anyone else?</b> (Children/siblings/elderly relative/stranger. For example. Consider HBV. Please specify who and what)  Children <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member <input type="checkbox"/> Someone from previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>22. Has (...) ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ABUSER(S)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>23. Are there any financial issues?</b> For example, are you dependent on (...) for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>24. Has (...) had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?</b> (Please specify what)  Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>25. Has (...) ever threatened or attempted suicide?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>26. Has (...) ever breached bail/an injunction and/or any agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?</b> (Please specify)  Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Non Molestation/ Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/>  Child contact Arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>27. Do you know if (...) has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?</b> (If yes, please specify)  DV <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other relevant information (from victim) which may alter risk levels. Describe:</b> (consider for example victim's vulnerability – disability, mental health, alcohol/substance misuse and/or the abuser's occupation/interests – does this give unique access to weapons i.e. ex-military, police, pest control)		

Is there anything else you would like to add to this?

In **all** cases an initial risk classification is required:

**28. RISK TO VICTIM:**

**STANDARD**                       **MEDIUM**                       **HIGH**

If your client is at **HIGH RISK** i.e.

**14+ ticks relating to questions 1 – 9 and 13 – 27. OR**

**3 or more Domestic Abuse Incidents in the last 12 months. OR**

**Professional concern (noted above) Refer to local referral pathway**

**Medium and Standard Risk are identified according to professional judgement in each individual case.**

Client Consent Signature: ..... Date: .....

Practitioner Signature: ..... Date: .....

**Referring Practitioner Details:**

Name of Referring Practitioner & Agency .....

Telephone

Mobile

Email Address

## **Appendix 8:**

### **Additional information in relation to accidental and non-accidental Injury**

#### **Bruising**

Children can have accidental bruising, but the following must be considered as non-accidental unless there is evidence or an adequate explanation provided:

- Any bruising to a pre-crawling or pre-walking baby
- Bruising in or around the mouth, particularly in small babies which may indicate force feeding
- Two simultaneous bruised eyes, without bruising to the forehead, (rarely accidental, though a single bruised eye can be accidental or abusive)
- Repeated or multiple bruising on the head or on sites unlikely to be injured accidentally
- Variation in colour possibly indicating injuries caused at different times
- The outline of an object used e.g. belt marks, hand prints or a hair brush
- Bruising or tears around, or behind, the earlobe/s indicating injury by pulling or twisting
- Bruising around the face
- Grasp marks on small children
- Bruising on the arms, buttocks and thighs may be an indicator of sexual abuse

#### **Bite Marks**

Bite marks can leave clear impressions of the teeth. Human bite marks are oval or crescent shaped. Those over 3 cm in diameter are more likely to have been caused by an adult or older child. A medical opinion should be sought where there is any doubt over the origin of the bite.

#### **Burns & Scalds**

It can be difficult to distinguish between accidental and non-accidental burns and scalds, and will always require experienced medical opinion. Any burn with a clear outline may be suspicious e.g.:

- Circular burns from cigarettes (but may be friction burns if along the bony protuberance of the spine)
- Linear burns from hot metal rods or electrical fire elements
- Burns of uniform depth over a large area
- Scalds that have a line indicating immersion or poured liquid (a child getting into hot water is his/her own accord will struggle to get out and cause splash marks)



- Old scars indicating previous burns/scalds which did not have appropriate treatment or adequate explanation
- Scalds to the buttocks of a small child, particularly in the absence of burns to the feet, are indicative of dipping into a hot liquid or bath.

## **Fractures**

Fractures may cause pain, swelling and discolouration over a bone or joint. Non-mobile children rarely sustain fractures. There are grounds for concern if:

- The history provided is vague, non-existent or inconsistent with the fracture type
- There are associated old fractures
- Medical attention is sought after a period of delay when the fracture has caused symptoms such as swelling, pain or loss of movement
- There is an unexplained fracture in the first year of life

## **Scars**

A large number of scars or scars of different sizes or ages, or on different parts of the body, may suggest abuse.