

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Shirley Community Primary School
Shirley Pre-School

21 September 2017

INTRODUCTION

Shirley Community Primary School and Shirley Pre-School fully recognises the responsibility it has under section 175 (*Section 157 for Independent Schools and Academies*) of the Education Act 2002 to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This responsibility is more fully explained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges “Keeping Children Safe in Education” (September 2016). All staff must be made aware of their duties and responsibilities under part one of this document (set out below).

Staff should read the above document together with Annex A of Keeping Children Safe in Education and “What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March 2015).

Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families all staff in school have a responsibility to:

- Identify concerns early to prevent them from escalating
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- Identify children who may benefit from early help
- Know what to do if a child tells them he/she is being abused or neglected
- Follow the referral process if they have a concern

(See Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016, p6)

This policy sets out how the school’s governing body discharges its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are pupils at the school. Our policy applies to all staff, paid and unpaid, working in the school including governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, office staff as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child. Concerned parents/carers may also contact the school and its governors.

It is consistent with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

There are four main elements to our policy:

PREVENTION through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and the creation and maintenance of a whole school protective ethos

PROCEDURES for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse. The definitions of the four categories of abuse are attached (see Appendix A)

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN those who may have been abused or witnessed violence towards others.

PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

1.0 PREVENTION

- 1.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult help to protect children.
- 1.2 The school will therefore:
 - 1.2.1 establish and maintain an environment where children feel safe in both the real and the virtual world and are encouraged to talk and are listened to
 - 1.2.2 ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty and their concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon as appropriate
 - 1.2.3 include in the curriculum activities and opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safer from abuse both in the real and the virtual world and information about who to turn to for help
 - 1.2.4 Include in the curriculum material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care and parenting skills

*(Note: The following section (1.2.5) is for **nursery, primary and special schools** which are using P.S1 - Healthy and Safer Lifestyles Unit from the Cambridgeshire PSHE Service Personal Development Programme - further information from Education Child Protection Service).*

- 1.2.5 We use P.S1 - Healthy and Safer Lifestyles Unit from the Cambridgeshire PSHE Service Personal Development Programme. This Unit reinforces essential skills for every child. Self esteem and confidence building, thinking independently and making assessments of risk based on their own judgements are encouraged throughout the Unit.

(Note: Advice and resources on the teaching of personal safety skills at KS3 and KS4 is available from the PSHE Service or from the Education Child Protection Service.)

2.0 PROCEDURES

- 2.1 We will follow the procedures set out in the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board "Inter-Agency Procedures". A copy of these procedures can be found on the LSCB website: <http://cambridgeshirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>
- 2.2 **The Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection are the Co-Headteachers: Angela Leach and Hannah Kidney.**
- 2.3 **The following members of staff have also received the Designated Person training: Claire Fonseca, Anastasia Sanders, Jane Taylor, Suzanne Wernham, Anita Kozicz.**
- 2.4 **The nominated governors for Safeguarding and Child Protection are: Reverend Ruth Adams, Angela Mason-Bell, Karl Grenz.**

- 2.4.1 Governing bodies, proprietors and management committees should appoint a senior member of staff, from the leadership team, to the role of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL). The DSLs should take lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.
- 2.4.2 The DSLs should have the appropriate status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post. They should be given the time, funding, training, resources and support to provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. (See Keeping Children Safe in Education, Annex B)
- 2.4.3 The activities of the DSLs can be delegated to appropriately-trained deputies (Designated Personnel, DP).
- 2.4.4 The lead responsibility for child protection remains with the DSLs and cannot be delegated.
- 2.4.5 The DSLs and DPs should undergo the two day training provided by the Education Child Protection Service
- 2.4.6 This training should be updated **every two years**.
- 2.4.7 In addition to the formal training set out above the DSLs and DPs should refresh their knowledge and skills e.g. via bulletins, meetings or further reading at **least annually**.
- 2.4.8 Governing bodies should also ensure that every member of staff, paid and unpaid, and the governing body knows who the Designated Personnel are and the procedures for passing on concerns from the **point of induction**.

Notices are placed in every classroom, staff and activity places. The Safeguarding Notice Board by the school office has named photographs of Safeguarding, Child Protection and Prevent trained staff and Governors with named Safeguarding and Child Protection responsibilities.

- 2.4.9 Keeping Children Safe in Education states “During term time the designated safeguarding leads (Or a deputy) should always be available (during school or college hours) for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. Whilst generally speaking the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) would be expected to be available in person, it is a matter for individual schools and colleges to define what “available” means”.

From the notices placed in every classroom, staff and activity places, and from the named photographs on the Safeguarding Board by the school office, staff would be able to identify a Safeguarding trained member of staff to discuss any concerns, in the event of the Safeguarding Leads’ absence.

- 2.4.10 Governing bodies should ensure that DSLs and DPs take advice from a child protection specialist when managing complex cases. The Designated Personnel have access to professional consultations with staff working in the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) is also available. Contact numbers are found in Appendix B.
- 2.4.11 Governing bodies should consider having a nominated governor for safeguarding and child protection who has undertaken appropriate training
- 2.4.12 Governing bodies should ensure every member of staff and every governor knows:

- the name of the designated person/s and their role
- how to identify the signs of abuse and neglect
- how to pass on and record concerns about a pupil
- that they have an individual responsibility to be alert to the signs and indicators of abuse and for referring child protection concerns to the DSL/DP
- that they have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn
- where to find the Inter – Agency Procedures on the LSCB website

2.4.13 Governing bodies should ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction. The training should be regularly updated. In addition all staff members should receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required **but at least annually**

2.4.14 Governing bodies should ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing policies

2.4.15 Governing bodies should ensure that parents are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out these duties in the school *information booklet*.

2.4.16 Governing bodies should ensure that this policy is available publicly via the school website www.shirley.cambs.sch.uk.

2.4.17 Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, the school and the provider will have clear procedures about managing safeguarding concerns between the two agencies.

You should set out here what those procedures are:

Where pupils are educated off site or in alternative provision, and there is not a member of the school staff present, the school has the following procedures in place:

- Should a designated person at Shirley Primary School need to contact the place where pupils are being educated off site, they will use the contact details on the risk assessment which is left with the school office on the day of the visit
- Shirley school shares the name of the safeguarding lead with the adults supervising the activity off site so that they know who to contact should a safeguarding issue arise

2.5 Liaison with Other Agencies

The school will:

- 2.5.1 work to develop effective links with relevant services to promote the safety and welfare of all pupils
- 2.5.2 co-operate as required, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015, with key agencies in their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and providing written reports at child protection conferences and core groups

2.5.3 notify the relevant Social Care Unit immediately if:

- it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently);
- there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan
- there is any change in circumstances to a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan

2.6 Record Keeping

The school will:

- 2.6.1 keep clear, detailed, accurate, written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to Social Care immediately
- 2.6.2 ensure all records are kept securely, separate from the main pupil file, and in a locked location
- 2.6.3 ensure all relevant child protection records are sent to the receiving school or establishment when a pupil moves schools in accordance with the Education Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance
- 2.6.4 make parents aware that such records exist except where to do so would place the child at risk of harm.
- 2.6.5 All actions and decisions will be led by what is considered to be in the best interests of the child.

2.7 Confidentiality and information sharing

- 2.7.1 Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with the Data Protection Act 1998 principles. The Data Protection Act does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.
- 2.7.2 Child protection records are subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act, 1998. This means that a parent, or young person of sufficient age and understanding, may make a request to see the child protection record. If any member of staff receives a request from a pupil or parents to see child protection requests, they will refer the request to the Designated Safeguarding Leads or Co-Headteachers.
- 2.7.3 The Designated Safeguarding Leads will take advice from the Information Governance Team and together a decision will be made about what information to share. This decision will consider the balance between the potential risk to the child and the principle of working openly and honestly with parents.

The school will:

- 2.7.4 ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately. If in any doubt about confidentiality, staff will seek advice from a senior manager or Social Care as required.

(See “Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers”, DfE 2015)

- 2.7.5 ensure that the Co-Headteachers or Designated Safeguarding Leads will only disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a ‘need to know’ basis.
- 2.7.6 make all staff aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children
- 2.7.7 ensure staff are clear with children that they cannot promise to keep secrets.

2.8 Communication with Parents/Carers

The school will:

- 2.8.1 ensure that parents/carers are informed of the responsibility placed on the school and staff in relation to child protection by setting out its duties in the school information booklet/website.
- 2.8.2 undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of another agency unless the circumstances preclude this action. If the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk of harm to the child, advice will be sought from Social Care. *(Further guidance on this can be found in the Inter-agency Procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board)*
- 2.8.3 Particular circumstances where parents **may not** be informed include any disclosure of sexual abuse or physical abuse where the child has an injury.
- 2.8.4 record what discussions have taken place with parents on the Log of Concern about a Child’s Welfare or if a decision has been made not to discuss it with parents, record the reasons why.

3.0 SUPPORTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- 3.1 We recognise that abuse or witnessing violence may have an adverse impact on those children which may last into adulthood without appropriate intervention and support.
- 3.2 This school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may become withdrawn.
- 3.3 We recognise that some vulnerable children may develop abusive behaviours and that these children may need to be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.
- 3.4 **The school will support the pupil through:**
 - 3.4.1 Curricular opportunities to encourage self-esteem and self-motivation
 - 3.4.2 An ethos that actively promotes a positive, supportive and safe environment and values the whole community

- 3.4.3 The school's behaviour policy will support vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self worth. The school will ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred
- 3.4.4 Liaison with other agencies which support the pupil such as Social Care, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service or Early Help Teams
- 3.4.5 A commitment to develop productive and supportive relationships with parents/carers
- 3.4.6 Recognition that children living in a home environment where there is domestic abuse, drug or alcohol abuse or mental health issues are vulnerable and in need of support and protection; they may also be young carers
- 3.4.7 Monitoring and supporting pupil's welfare, keeping records and notifying Social Care in accordance with the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board "Inter - Agency Procedures"
- 3.4.8 When a pupil who is subject to a child protection plan leaves, information will be transferred to the new school immediately. The Child Protection Chair and Social Work Unit will also be informed
- 3.4.9 When a child is missing from education, the school will follow the procedure as set out in Cambridgeshire's Children Missing Education guidance and inform the Education Welfare Officer and Social Care if a child is subject to a Child Protection Plan or there have been ongoing concerns.

3.5 Substance Misuse and Child Protection

- 3.5.1 The discovery that a young person is misusing legal or illegal substances or reported evidence of their substance misuse is not necessarily sufficient in itself to initiate child protection proceedings but the school will consider such action in the following situations:

When there is evidence or reasonable cause:

- to believe the young person's substance misuse may cause him or her to be vulnerable to other abuse such as sexual abuse
- to believe the pupil's substance related behaviour is a result of abuse or because of pressure or incentives from others, particularly adults
- where the misuse is suspected of being linked to parent/carer substance misuse.

3.6 Children of Substance Misusing Parents/Carers

- 3.6.1 Misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is strongly associated with Significant Harm to children, especially when combined with other features such as domestic violence.
- 3.6.2 When the school receives information about drug and alcohol abuse by a child's parents/carers they will follow appropriate procedures.
- 3.6.3 This is particularly important if the following factors are present:

- Use of the family resources to finance the parent's dependency, characterised by inadequate food, heat and clothing for the children
- Children exposed to unsuitable caregivers or visitors, e.g. customers or dealers
- The effects of alcohol leading to an inappropriate display of sexual and/or aggressive behaviour
- Chaotic drug and alcohol use leading to emotional unavailability, irrational behaviour and reduced parental vigilance
- Disturbed moods as a result of withdrawal symptoms or dependency
- Unsafe storage of drugs and/or alcohol or injecting equipment
- Drugs and/or alcohol having an adverse impact on the growth and development of the unborn child

3.7 Domestic Abuse

- 3.7.1 Where there is Domestic Abuse in a family, the children/young people will always be affected; the longer the violence continues, the greater the risk of significant and enduring harm, which they may carry with them into their adult life and relationships.
- 3.7.2 Domestic Abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or 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. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.
- 3.7.3 This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.
- 3.7.4 Schools are ideally placed to offer appropriate support, alongside other agencies, whether families are in crisis, or whether there are early signs of potential abuse.

3.8 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- 3.8.1 "FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways". (Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation, April 2016).
- 3.8.2 The age at which FGM is carried out varies enormously according to the community. The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman's first pregnancy.
- 3.8.3 FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and is illegal in most countries, including the UK.
- 3.8.4 It is a statutory duty for teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. (Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation, April 2016)
- 3.8.5 The school takes these concerns seriously and staff will be made aware of the possible signs and indicators that may alert them to the possibility of FGM. Any indication that FGM

is a risk, is imminent, or has already taken place will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy.

- 3.8.6 The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make appropriate and timely referrals to Social Care if FGM is suspected. In these cases, parents will not be informed before seeking advice. The case will still be referred to Social Care even if it is against the pupil's wishes.

3.9 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- 3.9.1 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.
- 3.9.2 Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organised crime involving gangs and groups.
- 3.9.3 It is important to recognize that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of this abuse and may not recognise it as abuse.
- 3.9.4 Young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and so procedures are in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.
- 3.9.5 Schools will complete the LSCB Child Exploitation Checklist and refer to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) if there is a concern that a young person may be at risk.

4.0 Peer on Peer Abuse

- 4.1 Peer on peer abuse can manifest itself in many ways. This can include sexual bullying, being coerced to send sexual images, sexual assault and teenage relationship abuse. There are clear links with sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.
- 4.2 This form of abuse will not be tolerated and victims will be appropriately supported. Any indication that a child has suffered from peer on peer abuse will be dealt with under the child protection procedures outlined in this policy.
- 4.3 Consideration will always need to be given to the welfare of both the victim(s) and perpetrator(s) in these situations.
- 4.4 The school will include within the curriculum, information and materials that support children in keeping themselves safe from abuse including abuse from their peers and online.
- 4.5 Additional guidance on sexting can be found in "Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people" published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS)

5.0 Prevention of Radicalisation

- 5.1 Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.
- 5.2 The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Shirley Community Primary School and Shirley Pre-School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.
- 5.3 The Counter-terrorism and Security Act, 2015 places a duty on authorities (including schools) 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. These duties should be seen alongside schools' duties to promote British values as a means of "building children's resilience to radicalisation".
- 5.4 Staff in schools should be made aware of this duty.
- 5.5 When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead.
- 5.6 See also "The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", June 2015, Department for Education and "Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales", July 2015, HM Government

6.0 PREVENTING UNSUITABLE PEOPLE FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

- 6.1 The school will operate safer recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to Part three of the government guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2016).
- 6.2 **The following members of staff have undertaken Safer Recruitment training:**
Level 3: Angela Leach, Hannah Kidney, Suzanne Wernham
Level 1: Claire Fonseka, Kirsty Morris, Harriet Owen.
- 6.3 Any allegation of abuse made against a member of staff will be reported straight away to the Co-Head Teacher or Principal. In cases where the Co-Head Teachers or Principal is the subject of an allegation, it will be reported to the Chair of Governors. (See Allegations flowchart Appendix C.) The school will follow the procedures set out in Part four of Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- 6.4 Under Section 75 of the Childcare Act, 2006 individuals are disqualified from childcare provision if they have committed certain specified offences. Staff may also be disqualified

“by association” if they are living or working in the same household as a person who is disqualified. This applies to any member of staff employed in early years childcare (up to the age of 5) or later years childcare (up to the age of 8) in nursery, primary or secondary school settings or the management of such settings. Staff should sign a self-declaration form to confirm that they are not “disqualified by association”. A record of self-declaration should be kept on the school’s Single Central Record.

- 6.5 The school will consult with the Local Authority Named Senior Officer in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff and adhere to the relevant procedures set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016 and the school's Personnel Manual from EPM Ltd.*
- 6.6 The Named Senior Officer(s) will liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) ensuring that all allegations are reported to the LADO within one working day. Following consultation with the LADO, the Named Senior Officer will advise on all further action to be taken. Please note that the Co-Head Teacher or Chair of Governors should **not** seek to interview the child/ren or members of staff involved until advice has been sought. Doing so may compromise any police interviews that may be necessary.
- 6.7 The school will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff is no longer employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.
- 6.8 Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly, and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.
- 6.9 Consideration must be given to the needs of the child and a recognition that a child may make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events do happen.
- 6.10 The school will ensure that all staff, paid and unpaid, are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents/carers as advised within the Local Authority’s Code of Conduct. As part of the Induction process, all staff will receive guidance about how to create appropriate professional boundaries (in both the real and virtual world) with all children, especially those with a disability or who are vulnerable.
- 6.11 All staff have signed to confirm that they have read a copy of the Local Authority’s Code of Conduct, Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (October 2015).
- 6.12 The school will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under 18 are unlawful and could result in legal proceedings taken against them under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Abuse of Trust).
- 6.13 The school will ensure that communication between pupils and adults, by whatever method, are transparent and take place within clear and explicit professional boundaries and are open to scrutiny.

7.0 OTHER RELATED POLICIES

7.1 Physical Intervention and/or the Use of Reasonable Force (*reference – DfE, use of reasonable force – Advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies*)

Anti-Bullying
Health and Safety
Online Safety and Acceptable Use
Intimate Care Policy
Whistleblowing
Complaints procedure
Behaviour

7.2 Use of Mobile Phones Policy

7.2.1 This is a requirement for all Nursery or primary schools with EYFS but any school may wish to adopt the policy.

7.2.2 Our policy on use of mobile phones, cameras and sharing of images is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually. It is recognised that personal mobile phones have the potential to be used inappropriately and therefore the school has developed a policy to outline the required protocol for all staff, students, volunteers and parents/carers.

For Nursery and Primary Schools – Section 3 – The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

8.0 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We recognise that, statistically, children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and disabilities are most vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with complex and multiple disabilities and/or emotional and behavioural problems should be particularly sensitive to indicators of abuse.

The school has pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties and/or challenging behaviours. The school will support staff to decide appropriate strategies that will reduce anxiety for the individual child and raise self-esteem as part of an overall behaviour support plan agreed with parents/carers.

For Primary and Special schools

As part of the PSHE curriculum staff will teach children personal safety skills commensurate with their ability and needs. Children will be taught personal safety skills such as telling and who to tell, good and bad touches and good and bad secrets. The content of lessons will be shared with parents/carers so that these skills can be supported at home.

The school has pupils who may have communication difficulties and we are aware that they are vulnerable to abuse because they are unable to express themselves to others. Instead such children will often exhibit changes in behaviours or signs and indicators of abuse recognised by staff with a good knowledge of the child.

Where necessary, the school will provide additional training to staff in the use of Makaton, PECS or other communication systems. Supervision by senior managers will be vigilant to create a protective ethos around the child.

We promote high standards of practice, including ensuring that disabled children know how to raise concerns, and have access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate.

9.0 GOVERNING BODY CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

9.1 The governing body fully recognises its responsibilities with regard to child protection and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It aims to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in school are effective and comply with the law and government guidance at all times.

It will:

- Nominate a governor for safeguarding and child protection who will take leadership responsibility for the school's safeguarding arrangements and practice and champion child protection issues
- ensure an annual report is made to the full governing body, and copied to the Education Child Protection Service. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay
- ensure that this Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is annually reviewed and updated and shared with staff. It will be made available on the school website.
- Ensure that children's exposure to potential risks while using the internet is limited by having in place age appropriate filtering and monitoring systems.
- Ensure children's wishes and feelings are taken into account where there are safeguarding concerns.

9.2 Extended Schools and Before and After School Activities (on or off school site)

9.2.1 If the governing body provides extended school facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school's arrangements for child protection as written in this policy shall apply.

9.2.2 Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, either on or off school site, the governing body will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children and child protection and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.

This Policy applies to Shirley Community Primary School and Shirley Pre-School.

This policy was ratified on 21 September 2017

and will be reviewed on an annual basis, or more often if required by updates from Cambridgeshire ECPS

Signed by the Co-Headteachers

Chair of Governors

Designated Safeguarding Leads Angela Leach

..... Hannah Kidney

Four categories of abuse

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

Neglect - 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.

It may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

It may involve the neglect of or lack of responsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

It also includes parents or carers 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
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

Emotional Abuse - Is the persistent emotional maltreatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to a child that they are:

- Worthless
- Unloved
- Inadequate
- Valued only insofar as they meet another person's needs

It may include:

- not giving the child opportunities to express their views
- deliberately silencing them
- 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate

It may also feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children including:

- interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability
- overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning
- preventing participation in normal social interaction.

It may involve:

- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger
- The exploitation or corruption of children

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment although it may occur alone

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.

This may involve:

- physical contact including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex)
- non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- non-contact activities involving:
 - children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images,
 - children in watching sexual activities
 - or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
 - grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Useful Contacts

Education Child Protection Service – ECPSGeneral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Early Help Hub (EHH) Tel: 01480 376666

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – referrals and professional consultation Tel: 0345 045 1362

Emergency Duty Team (Out of hours) Tel: 01733 234724

Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit Tel: 101

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Tel: 01223 727967
Janet Farr
Lyn Chesterton

Named Senior Officer for allegations
Education Adviser - Chris Meddle Tel: 01223 703564
Education Adviser – Diane Stygal Tel: 01223 507115

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board – Safeguarding Inter-Agency Procedures
<https://www.cambslscb.co.uk/>

Relevant Documents

“Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children” (March, 2015)

“Keeping children safe in education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges” (Sep 2016)

“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners” (March, 2015)

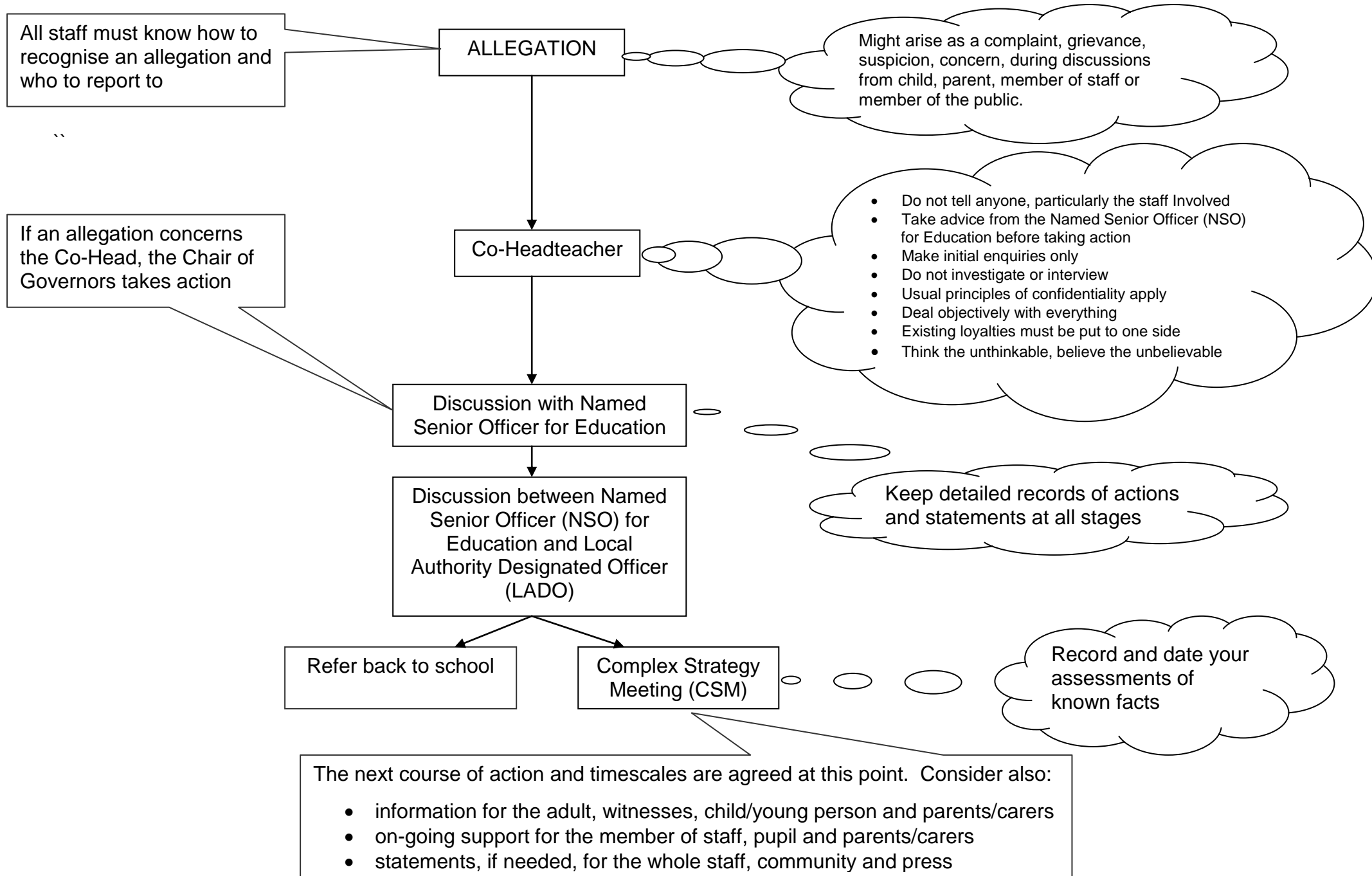
“Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” (March, 2015)

Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in education settings (October 2015)

“Sexting in schools and colleges: Responding to incidents and safeguarding young people” published by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) – September 2016

Managing an Allegation Against a Member of Staff in your Establishment

Appendix C



Cambridgeshire Escalation Policy - Resolution of Professional Disagreements in Safeguarding Work

This policy was revised in October 2013 in response to the findings from LSCB case reviews in Cambridgeshire and Working Together

What is Escalation?

Escalation is the course of action that should be taken by professionals where there are concerns that the child or young person's safety is compromised and the current action of other agencies does not support effective safeguarding of the child or young person.

Contents

1. **Key Principles**
2. **Policy**
3. **Escalation Policy for Professionals with Safeguarding or Child Welfare Concerns**
Flowchart

1. Key Principles

- It is every professional's responsibility to safeguarding children and to act in their best interests. This means that they should 'problem solve' where required in order to support effective multi-agency safeguarding work.
- It is also the responsibility of all professionals to present a challenge to the actions and decisions of other agencies where they believe they have evidence to suggest that the child's development or their safety may be compromised.
- Robust professional challenge can be facilitated through consistent communication and information sharing between agencies, and through clear plans for children and families. Professionals should know who in the multi-agency network is involved with the child, young person and their family.
- The aim must be to resolve a professional disagreement at the earliest possible stage, as swiftly as possible, always keeping in mind that the child and young person's safety and welfare is paramount.

2. Policy

The Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Board is clear that there must be respectful challenge whenever a professional or agency has a concern about the **action or inaction** of another. Similarly agencies/professionals should not be defensive if challenged. Practitioners and managers should always be prepared to review decisions and plans with an open mind and revise decisions in the light of new information.

1. Problem resolution is an integral part of professional cooperation and joint working to safeguard children;
2. Professional disagreement requires resolution in a constructive and timely fashion;
3. At no time must professional disagreement distract from ensuring the child is safe. The child's welfare and safety must remain paramount throughout.
4. Differing opinions could arise in a number of areas, but are most likely to arise as a result of differing views of thresholds, lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities, the need for action and communication. Examples where the concerns about the child should prompt action are given below although this list is not exhaustive.
 - A referral is not considered to meet eligibility criteria for assessment by Children's Social Care, for example, several low level concerns;
 - A professional is concerned about the action and inaction of another professional in relation to a child or family member.
 - There is disagreement between professionals as to the course of action in an open case. Examples of this might include whether there should be an Initial Child Protection conference, or whether a case should be closed
 - There is disagreement over the sharing of information and/or provision of services;
 - Disagreements over the outcome of any assessment and whether the appropriate plan is in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

The aim should be to resolve difficulties at practitioner level between agencies if necessary with the involvement of their supervisors or managers, engaging in open discussion with colleagues in other agencies.

5. It should be recognised that differences in status and/or knowledge and experience may affect the confidence of some workers in making a challenge. All professionals **they should always seek the advice and support of the safeguarding lead in their organisation (see list below)**
6. Attempts at resolution must be within a time frame which clearly protects the child or children; for example, differences of opinion concerning the possible non-accidental injury of an infant/young child must be resolved immediately;
7. If unresolved, the problem should be referred to the worker's own line manager, who will discuss with their opposite number in the other agency. Some examples of agencies working primarily with children and families are given below:
 - Social Worker – Consultant Social Worker – Group Manager – Head of Service – Service Director
 - Early Help Service Worker– Team Manager– District Manager -Head of Service – Children Service Assistant Director – Service Director
 - Health Visitor - Locality Safeguarding Children Nurse and the Locality Lead for the HV's geographical area – Named nurse for Safeguarding, Cambridgeshire Community Services – Chief Nurse
 - Midwife - Supervisor of Midwives and/or Named Midwife for Safeguarding Children Acute Trust;
 - GP - NHS Named Doctor and/or Named Nurse Safeguarding Children – Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding (Clinical Commissioning group);
 - Paediatric Staff - sister and/or Names Nurse Safeguarding Children for Acute Trust;
 - Hospital Doctor - Named Doctor and/or Named Nurse Safeguarding Children Acute Trust;
 - CAMHS / Community Mental Health Team - Named Professional Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (Mental Health Trust);
 - Member of school staff - Designated Person for Child Protection – Lead Designated Person for Child Protection/Headteacher – Education Child Protection Service – Education Safeguarding Manager. The Lead Designated Person for Child Protection/Headteacher *should* seek advice from the Education Child Protection Service and if it remains unresolved discuss with the Education Safeguarding Manager.

- Police- within the specialist Child Abuse Investigation team, the management tree is Detective Constable (DC) – Detective Sergeant (DS) – Detective Inspector – Detective Chief Inspector – Detective Superintendent, Public Protection

In the case of service working with adults, the manager of the professional / service involved should be the first point of contact.

Specifically for key services:

For Addaction (Adult alcohol treatment service) that is the manager of the service – Director of Operations (Lead for Safeguarding)

For Inclusion (Adult drug treatment service) that is the manager of the service – Named nurse for Stafford and South Staffs Foundation Trust (provider of service)

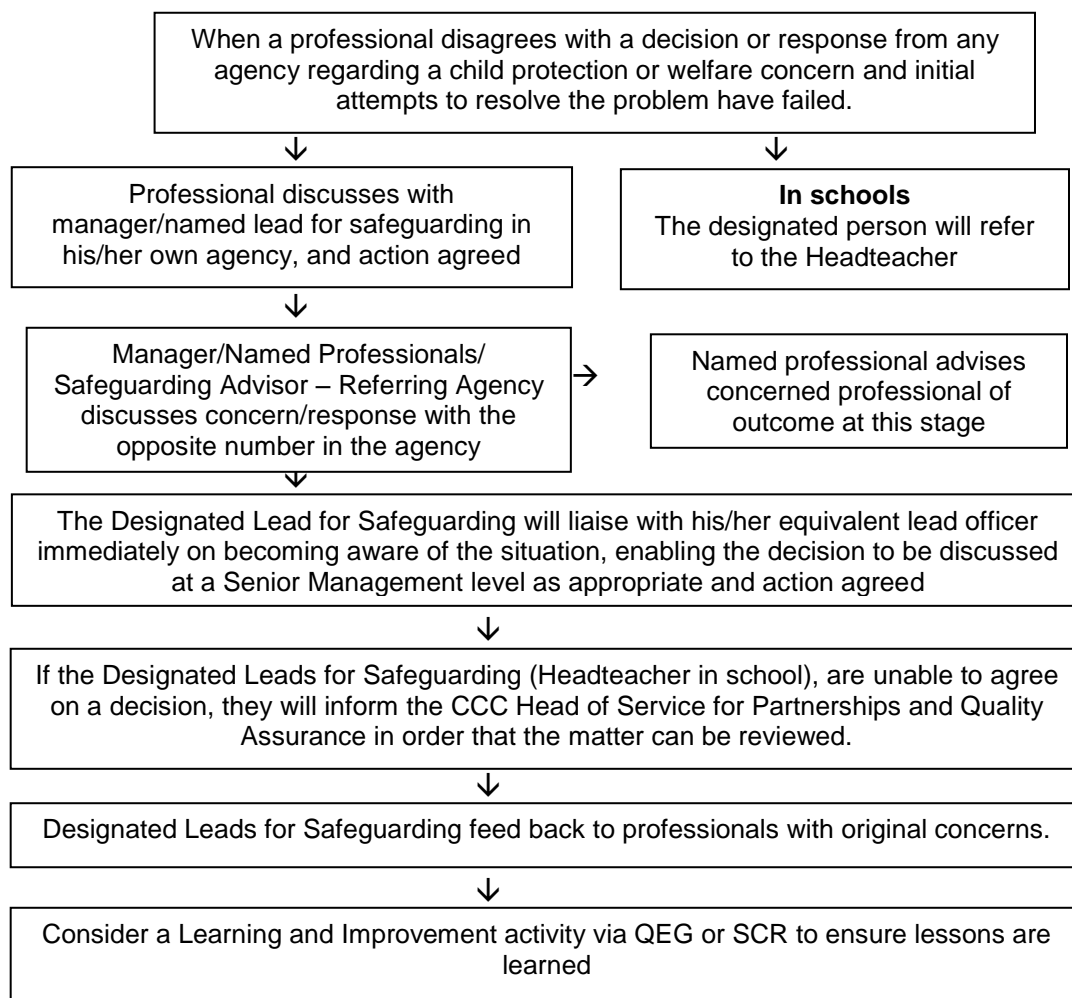
NB – Appendix one provides the names and contacts of the key named safeguarding roles named in the agencies above for resolution of difficulties at a more senior level.

8. Failure to resolve disagreements between Line Managers must be further escalated, by the Line Managers concerned. Senior Managers will, if and as necessary, be required to intervene;
9. At any point in the process that it is required, advice should be sought directly from the Designated Professional, Named Professional in the agency.
10. If there is no resolution, the Independent Chair of the LSCB should be informed in line with the “Resolution of Professional Differences” process
11. A clear record should be kept at all stages, by all parties. In particular this must include written confirmation between the parties about an agreed outcome of the disagreement and how any outstanding issues will be pursued.
12. Any professional can request that a CP Conference is convened by contacting the Service Manager for Safeguarding and Standards Unit.

13.

14. 3. Escalation Policy for Professionals with Safeguarding or Child Welfare Concerns

Flowchart



Allegations of abuse against adults who work or volunteer in a childcare setting

...what to do

Parents should always complain directly to the childcare setting. The setting must inform Ofsted of any complaints or significant incidents and follow the procedure below:

Remember!

Is the child safe?
Record everything.
Do not investigate.

Allegation is made against an
adult who works or volunteers
in a **childcare setting**.

Registered Person contacts the Early Years Named Senior
Officer* 01223 714760 who will notify the LADO.

LADO decides – could this be a child protection case?

**if not contactable, the setting should contact the LADO direct 01223 727967*

Yes

Maybe

No

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures applied.
LADO gathers information and consults with relevant professionals.

No further action
by LADO.

Complex Strategy Meeting (CSM) Process

A complex strategy meeting is a multi agency meeting(s) chaired
by the LADO to exchange information and decide on formal
investigation processes, which may include a police investigation.

Setting investigates as
disciplinary.
Support available from
Early Years and Childcare
Sufficiency Team (01223
507125).

Early Years Named Senior Officer feeds back to LADO.

The DBS Code of Practice requires that the school makes available a copy of its Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders to all job applicants. A model policy statement is given below.

Shirley Community Nursery and Primary School Policy **Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders**

In accordance with the Disclosure and Barring Service Code of Practice this policy is made available to all job applicants at the outset of the recruitment process. The DBS Code of Practice is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-code-of-practice>

- As an organisation which uses the Disclosure and Barring service, the Governing Body of the school complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of conviction or other information revealed.
- We meet the requirements in respect of exempted questions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. A DBS check will therefore be carried out before appointment to any job at the school is confirmed. This will include details of convictions cautions and reprimands, as well as 'spent' and 'unspent' convictions. A criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position.
- We are committed to the fair treatment of applicants on all protected grounds and in relation to all history of offending.
- We promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their competencies, qualifications and knowledge.
- Application forms and recruitment information will contain a statement that job applicants will be required to disclose their criminal record if they are invited to interview and a DBS check will be carried out if they are offered the job. The information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.
- At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the job sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of employment.
- We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the job before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment.
- We ensure that people at the school who are involved in the recruitment process have access to professional advice to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate guidance in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders, e.g. the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily bar you from working at the school. This will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances and background of your offences.

This Policy was adopted by the Resources Committee as a delegated responsibility on behalf of the Governing Body on 1 July 2015

Signed Chair of Resources Committee

Date 1 July 2015