

# The Family & Community Group

## Safeguarding Procedures

***“The Family & Community Group is committed to ensure that safety and welfare of all children and young people in their care”***

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children’s health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part.

The The Family & Community Group takes a child-centred approach based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

- The following procedures are to be used when working in The Family & Community Group Clubs and Provisions.
- As a member of staff, it is essential that you always adhere to the The Family & Community Group Code of Conduct.

- All disclosures and concerns must be shared with the lead on your provision and the lead on safeguarding for the The Family & Community Group.
- To adhere to the The Family & Community Group's Whistle Blowing Policy.

The Family & Community Groups Safeguarding Lead – Rebecca Driscoll – **07749782575**

If Rebecca Driscoll is unavailable please contact David Cornish, The Family & Community Group's Chair – **07749782880**

**If you have concerns in relation to any of the following then you must speak to the lead on your provision.**

### **Definitions and indicators of Child Abuse & Neglect:**

#### **1. Physical Abuse**

This may involve hitting, shaking, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or caregiver fabricates or induces an illness in a child whom they are looking after.

#### **Indicators:**

Bruising to parts of the body  
Burns & scalds  
Bone fractures  
Aggressive behaviour  
Withdrawn, timid behaviour

#### **2. Emotional Abuse**

It may involve conveying to the child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or only valued in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, for example by witnessing domestic abuse in the home or being bullied, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

#### **Indicators:**

Aggressive behaviour

Withdrawn, timid behaviour  
Failure to make, and, or maintain relationships  
Low self esteem  
Lack of self confidence

## **Definitions and indicators of Child Abuse & Neglect:**

### **3. Sexual Abuse**

Involves forcing or enticing to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical contact or non contact activities.

#### **Indicators:**

School phobia  
Withdrawn behaviour  
Inappropriate sexual knowledge  
Sexualised behaviour  
Pregnancy  
Promiscuity  
Some physical signs, bruising and soreness

### **4. Neglect**

This 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. It may involve a parent or caregiver failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

#### **Indicators:**

Poor health & hygiene, leading to a failure to thrive.  
Inadequate clothing for the weather conditions  
Lack of love and attention  
Lack of protection and supervision

## The Family & Community Group Guidelines

### If a child discloses information you must follow these guidelines:

- Show you are listening and you take their allegations seriously.
- Encourage them to talk without prompting or asking leading questions.
- Don't interrupt when they are recalling events or make them repeat their account.
- Explain what actions you must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- Do not promise to keep what you have been told secret or confidential, as you have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know. Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust.
- Write down as soon as you can on the **Red** concern sheet, and no later than 24 hours, what you have been told using the exact words if possible.
- Report your concerns to **Rebecca Driscoll** on **07749782575** who is the designated officer responsible for child protection. If she is not available then contact **David Cornish** on **07749782880**.
- If you suspect that a child is being abused or neglected, or a child tells you that they are being abused, please report your concerns to **Torfaen Social Service** on **01495 762200** (email [socialcarecalltorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:socialcarecalltorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk)) (or **0800 328 4432** for out of office emergencies) and tell them it is a child protection referral. If the child is at immediate risk of harm, telephone the police.
- Ensure that your concerns are immediately reported and pass on the **Red** concern sheet, do not delay.
- Do not confront the alleged abuser.

- Do not worry that you may be mistaken. You will always be taken seriously by senior staff. It is better to have discussed it with somebody with the experience and responsibility to make an assessment.

### **Further Information and Resources**

#### **4Children**

Offers Aiming Higher a government recognised quality assurance scheme.

[www.4children.org.uk/whatwedo/view/node/160](http://www.4children.org.uk/whatwedo/view/node/160)

#### **Children Act 2004**

Legislates for children and young people and provides a national framework for change.

[www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040031.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040031.htm)

#### **Fair Play for Children**

PlayAction Guide on Child Protection in Playwork.

[www.arunet.co.uk/fairplay/child\\_p.htm](http://www.arunet.co.uk/fairplay/child_p.htm)

#### **NSPCC**

Offers online child protection resources. A particularly useful one is *Stop check: A step-by-step guide for organisations to safeguard children* (2006). London: NSPCC.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/InformNSPCC](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/InformNSPCC) has also produced *Safe Communities: A toolkit to protect children and young people*. London: NSPCC.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/toolkit](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/toolkit)

#### **Quality in Play**

A quality assurance scheme for out-of-school play and childcare provision to ensure quality play opportunities for children. [www.londonplay.org.uk](http://www.londonplay.org.uk)

#### **Working Together to Safeguard Children**

A DfES guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/workingtogether](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/workingtogether)

#### **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline**

The NSPCC Child Protection Helpline is a free 24-hour service that provides counselling, information and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse. Telephone: 080 8800 5000 Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**Reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

**By Cornish, D & Driscoll, R**