CONCERN FOR SAFETY AND WELFARE

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| Preston  Preston and South Ribble  Safeguarding Officer For T.V.C  Useful Contacts  KIDSCAPE Parent Helpline (Mon-Fri 10-4pm) 0845 1205 204  Parentline Plus 0808 8002 222  NSPCC Helpline 24 hour helpline 0800 8005 000  Childline 0800 1111  Lancashire Local Authority Designated Officer Tim Booth Tel: 01772 536694 Email: tim.booth@lancashire.gov.uk | 01772 538700  07795541141  07771589712 |
| USEFUL WEBSITES  www.everychildmatters.org  www.nspcc.org.uk  [www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk)  www.activelancashire.org.uk |  |

**THE CHILDREN ACTS** 1989 AND 2004 The Children Act 2004 provides county councils (social care services departments) and others with powers and duties to protect children.

There are a number of general principles, which need to be borne in mind when considering any part of the legal framework. The child’s welfare is of paramount importance.

Under section 47 of the Children Act 1989, a Local Authority (i.e. Children’s Services Social Care) must make enquiries regarding a child’s welfare (investigate) where:

The Authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child living, or found in their area, is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. The enquiries will enable Lancashire County Council to decide whether they should take any specific action to safeguard and/or promote the child’s welfare.

It is very important that all investigations into such matters are conducted in accordance within Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board Policy and Procedures and in a manner that will not prejudice any further action such as a criminal prosecution. For this reason, if it is noted that something may need further investigation, the individual must not attempt to investigate the matter themselves but must immediately contact the appropriate agencies. All investigations will be carried out by the Police / Social Care and will be in accordance with Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board guidelines.

**THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT** 1999 The Protection of Children Act 1999 has four principle objectives:

1. To place the previous Department of Health’s Consultancy Index (a list of people who are considered to be unsuitable to work with children) on a statutory basis and to require certain child care organisations to refer the names of anyone considered unsuitable to work with children for inclusion on the new list (called the Protection of Children Act List) 2. To provide rights of appeal against the Protection of Children Act List and the Department for Education and Skills List 3. To require regulated child care organisations to check the names of anyone they propose to employ in posts involving regular contact with children against both Departmental lists and not to employ them if they are listed 4. To allow the Disclosure and Barring Service to act as a central access point for criminal records information and the above two lists

**ADULT SAFEGUARDING**

There are many non-specific statues which include legislation which include measures with the aim of safeguarding of adults such as the Mental Health Act 2005, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, National Assistance Act 198, Public Health Act 1936 and others. Lancashire Sport Partnership will ensure that its policy and procedures follow the guidance given in relevant Government documents, including:  Social Care Institute for Excellence: Safeguarding adults at risk of harm (2011)  No Secrets (2000)

Tanterton Village Centre’s Staff, Volunteers and visitors will know that 5 types of abuse which is in line with Lancashire Sports Partnership view on types of abuse. The types are as follows;

**Physical abuse**

Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms a vulnerable person on purpose.

 Injuring someone by hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking or restraining  Misuse of medication  Poisoning, drowning, suffocating and fabricated or induced illness

**Sexual abuse**

When a vulnerable person is sexually abused, they're forced or tricked into sexual activities. They might not understand that what's happening is abuse or that it's wrong. And they might be afraid to tell someone. Sexual abuse can happen anywhere – and it can happen in person or online.

 Rape, sexual assault or pressuring someone into sexual acts they have not consented to, do not understand or feel powerless to refuse  For children, this may include; grooming, sexual exploitation or activities that involve watching sexual acts whether or not the child is aware of what is happening

**Financial or material abuse**:

Financial abuse in intimate relationships is a way of controlling a person's ability to acquire, use and maintain their own money and financial resources.

 Theft  Fraud  Misuse of property or possessions

**Emotional abuse**:

Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves continual emotional mistreatment. It's sometimes called psychological abuse.

Emotional abuse is often a part of other kinds of abuse, which means it can be difficult to spot the signs or tell the difference, though it can also happen on its own.

 Humiliation  Blaming  Controlling  Coercion  Intimidation  Harassment  Verbal abuse  Withdrawal of services or supportive networks

**Neglect:**

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet basic needs. A person might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put vulnerable people in danger. And it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.

 Failure to meet someone's basic physical and/or emotional needs, for example not providing food, hydration, warmth or shelter resulting in impairment of their health and development  Poor professional practice, withholding medication or ignoring physical care needs.  For children, this may include missing hospital appointments, not protecting from danger or children witnessing domestic abuse

**Discriminatory abuse:**

Discriminatory abuse is when someone treats you unfairly because they think you are different.

 Comments based on a person's race, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation

RESPONDING TO SIGNS OR SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE Commitment to working with parents and carers is important when having concerns about a vulnerable person’s well-being. Therefore, in most situations, it would be important to talk to parents or carers to help clarify any initial concerns. For example, if a child seems withdrawn, there may be a reasonable explanation. He/she may have experienced an upset in the family such as parental separation or divorce or bereavement.

There are circumstances where there is a greater risk to the victim of abuse if such concerns were shared (e.g. where a parent or carer may be responsible for the abuse or not able to respond to the situation appropriately). In these situations or where concerns still exist, any suspicion, allegation or incident of abuse must be reported as soon as possible and recorded. Parents should not be contacted if the concern is about sexual abuse. This will be done by social care and/or the police at the appropriate time.

RECORDING AND REPORTING ALLEGATIONS If a child, young person or vulnerable adult says or indicates that he or she is being abused or information is obtained which gives concern that abuse is taking place, you should respond immediately and take the allegation seriously. Other workers such as care workers, nurses, doctors, and social workers, are also expected to report any concern of abuse or neglect under their professional code of conduct and relevant legislation or guidance such as the Care Standards Act (2000).

The relevant safeguarding officer may be informed of situations where there is uncertainty about whether or not the allegation constitutes abuse or not and therefore are unclear about what action to take. There may be circumstances where allegations are about poor practice rather than abuse but those responsible should always consult the safeguarding Officer or gain advice from social care, the police or the NSPCC if there is any doubt. Sometimes it may be one of a series of incidents which when added together cause concern.

**ONCE AN ALLEGATION IS MADE** When the nature of the allegation or suspicion is clear, the following steps must be taken:

**1. Make a full record** of what had been said, heard and/or seen as soon as possible, information should include the following. The Safeguarding Incident Report Form (Appendix VI) should be used where possible:

 Name of alleged victim.  Age of alleged and date of birth.  Home address and telephone number.  Is the person making the report expressing their own concerns or those of someone else? In the latter case, also include the other person’s details.  What is the nature of the allegation? Include dates, times and special factors and other relevant information.  Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.

 A description of any visible bruising or other injuries.  Witnesses to the incidents.  The alleged victim’s account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising or injuries have occurred.  Have the parents/carers/guardians been contacted?  If so, what has been said?  Has anyone else been consulted? If so record details.  If it is not the vulnerable person making the report has they been spoken to? If so what was said?  Has anyone been alleged to be the abuser? Record details.

**2. Inform the relevant safeguarding officer. (Liz Soole)**

**3. Once the relevant safeguarding officer has been informed**, it is their responsibility to refer to the social care Department by telephone and confirm it in writing within one day. The Relevant safeguarding officer is to report allegations and/or suspicions of abuse to social care; and if there are issues of poor practice this must be reported to the appropriate organisation or Governing Body.

**4. Reporting the matter to the police or social care** department should not be delayed by attempts to obtain more information. Wherever possible, referrals telephoned to the social care department should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours by the relevant safeguarding officer. A record should also be made of the name and designation of the social care member of staff or the police officer to whom the concerns were passed, together with the time and date of the call, in case any follow-up is needed. A copy of this information may be sent to the NGB and LA Officer as appropriate.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality is a key issue in safeguarding work. Whilst information should not be shared freely, it must be shared with appropriate agencies to ensure that vulnerable people are not left unprotected. Decisions on who needs to be informed should be taken by the relevant safeguarding officer after discussion with social care.

 Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information  Be open and honest  Seek advice  Share with consent where appropriate  Consider safety and well-being  Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure  Keep a record

**USING PHOTOGRAPHS ON PUBLICATIONS**

Tanterton Village Centre will be actively encouraging the media to attend and report on the event to help raise the profile of any activities within the area.

Tanterton Village Centre will ensure the following guidelines are adhered to minimise the potential for misuse:

 Images on the website and within publications/videos will never use the full name of any child.

 Personal information about the person will not be included in the picture (e.g. e-mail address, postal address, telephone, etc.)

 If a young person is named in the text, a photograph of that child will not be included with the article.

 Group or class images may be used with general labels.

 Only images of children and young people who are suitably dressed for the activity will be used to reduce the risk of such images being used inappropriately.

 The images will reflect sport as a fun activity.

**Bullying**

The Centre has a written constitution, which includes what is acceptable and proper behaviour for all members, of which the Anti-Bullying is one part.

The Centre’s Welfare Officer will raise awareness about bullying and harassment and why it matters and, if the issues of bullying or harassment arise they will consider meeting with members to discuss the issue openly and constructively.