

Stower Vale Pre-School

SAFE GUARDING CHILDREN POLICY (Child Protection)

Stower Vale Pre-School and its entire staff have a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society. The staff may be the first people in whom children confide in about abuse. All staff attend training in safeguarding children & young people & will be asked to read this document.

Our primary responsibility is the welfare and well being of all children in our care, in accordance with the Childcare Act 2006 & EYFS Welfare Requirements. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents/carers and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention.

The Pre-School has a duty to report any suspicions of abuse to the Local Authority which has a duty to investigate such matters. The Pre-School will follow the procedures set out in the Local Authority Safeguarding Children Document, and as such will seek their advice on all steps taken subsequently, this covers the Children's Act 2004. All Referrals will be made by the children's social care and the police and they will inform the parent's unless the child/children are at risk, or any other concerns.

Staff must: Report any concerns they have to the Pre-School's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) Claire Rainger or the Deputy DSL Karon James.

- Give comfort & support to child as appropriate.
- Do not use leading questions or force the child to talk.
- Maintain confidentiality at all times.
- Record clearly & accurately what has been seen & heard.
- Ensure that conduct of staff is exemplary, and does not put child in danger or bring setting in to disrepute.

Staffs personal mobile telephones must be kept in the locked filing cabinet at all times and on silent and out of sight. Under no circumstances will photos be taken of the children other than on the pre-school camera or hudl. Please see Mobile phone policy.

Photographs of the children in the local press or Pre-school website will not be published without permission from the child's parents/carers. Parents/carers may take photographs of their children during events at Pre-school, but will be asked not to include these on social networking sites if these include other children unless they have the parents/carers permission. Please see camera and taking photos policy.

1. Physical Abuse

Action will be taken under this heading if the staff has reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning, where there is a definite knowledge, or reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Procedure

- a) Any sign of a mark/injury to a child when they come into Stower Vale Pre-School will be discussed with the parent, and the parent will be asked to countersign a record. Parents/carers will have been informed of this procedure when they join the setting.
- b) Any mark/injury will be clearly recorded by written description & use of a body map if appropriate.
- c) If there appears to be a discrepancy or query, or the injury is discovered after the parent/carer leaves and/or the child discloses the name of the person causing the injury, this matter will be referred to the CSC who may notify the police if there is concern that the child may be in danger of significant harm. We would then follow their advice.

2. Sexual Abuse

Action will be taken under this heading if the staff team have witnessed occasions where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play drawing or had an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour.

Procedure

- a) The observed instances will be reported by the designated member of staff for child protection liaison.
- b) The matter will be referred to CSC who may notify the police. If there is any concern that the child is in danger of significant harm. We would then follow their advice.

3. Emotional Abuse

Action will be taken under this heading if the staff team have reason to believe that there is severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection.

Procedure

- a) The concern will be discussed with the parent/carer by the designated member of staff for child protection liaison.
- b) Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records. (Discussion will take place unless it is believed that this would place the child at risk of significant harm).
- c) If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances, the matter will be referred to the CSC who may notify the police if there is concern that the child is in danger of significant harm.

4. Neglect

Action will be taken under this heading if the staff team have reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child (for example, by exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation) which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Procedure

- a) The concern will be discussed with the parent/carer by the designated member of staff for child protection liaison.
- b) Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records. (Discussion will take place unless it is believed that this would place the child at risk of significant harm).
- c) If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstance CSC will be notified, who may notify the police if there is concern that the child is in danger of significant harm.

5. Bullying.

Action will be taken under this heading if the staff team have reason to believe that there has been persistent unwanted, offensive, humiliating undermining behaviour towards an individual or the group.

- a) The concern will be discussed with the parent/carer by the designated member of staff for child protection liaison.
- b) Such discussion will be recorded and the parent/carer will have access to such records. (Discussion will take place unless it is believed that this would place the child at risk of significant harm).
- c) If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances the CSC will be notified, who may then notify the police if there is concern that the child is in danger of significant harm.

Prevent Duty and British Values

From 1 July 2015 all schools and child care providers must have regard to the statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Paragraphs 57-76 of the guidance are concerned specifically with schools and childcare providers, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have **“due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”**. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

Children and young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. These can include through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet via Social media

or other websites. This can put a young person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to lead to the child or young person suffering significant harm'.

The above info is extracted from info found at

http://pandorsetscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_sg_ch_extremism.html?zoom_highlight=PREVENT+DUTY#Definition where further info can be found.

Staff at Stower Vale Pre-school focus on children's personal, social and emotional development, ensuring children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children, value other's views, know about similarities and differences between themselves and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes, thus promoting British Values within the setting.

Wider forms of abuse can include:-

- **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. (*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015*)
- **Female genital mutilation (FGM)** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child and adult protection structures, policies and procedures ([dorsetlscb.co.uk/working with children/female-genital-mutilation](http://dorsetlscb.co.uk/working-with-children/female-genital-mutilation))
- **Honour-based violence (HBV)** Honour based violence is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and / or community by breaking their honour code.
It can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Women, men and younger members of the family can all be involved in the abuse.
- **Forced Marriage (FM)**
A forced marriage (FM) is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised or abuse is used to force them to do so. It is recognised in the UK as a form of domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights (www.gov.uk, *Guidance, updated 10th May 2018*).

If staff are concerned about harmful behaviours by influential people in a child's life the following support agencies will be contacted:-

Dorset Policy Safeguarding Referral Unit
Tel: 01202/01305 222229
Email: sru@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Allegation against a member of staff or volunteer

All staff will hold enhanced DBS disclosures, and any allegation made against a member of staff will be thoroughly investigated. Allegations of serious harm or abuse will be reported without delay to Ofsted and the local child protection agency's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Patrick Crawford – Tel: 01305 221122

Early Years Advice Line

Tel: 01305 228425

Contact for children with allocated Social Worker

Children's Services
North Dorset Office
Bath Road
Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1DR
Tel: 01258 472652 (out of hours 01202 657279)
Email: northdorsetchildcare@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk

All new referrals:-

Single point of contact (SPOC): 01202 228866

Can also request to speak to a Practice Manager to request a 'consultation' if you want to discuss a concern about a child in confidence without mentioning the child's/family name.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): Email: MASH@dorsetcc.gcsx.gov.uk

Agreed by.....

Authorised Signatory.....

Date.....

Date of review: one year