

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.



Little 1 Nursery

1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection

(Including managing allegations of abuse against a member of staff)

Little 1 Nursery is dedicated to the support, development and promotion of high-quality care and education for the benefit of our children, families and community to ensure the rights and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. We are committed to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare through building a safer organisational culture.

Definition of abuse

“Child abuse is **when a child is intentionally harmed by an adult or another child** – it can be over a period of time but can also be a one-off action. It can be physical, sexual or emotional and it can happen in person or online. It can also be a lack of love, care and attention – this is neglect” **NSPCC**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, in relation to this policy, is defined as:

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

(Working together to safeguard children, 2018)

Child protection is an integral part of safeguarding children and promoting their overall welfare. In this policy, child protection shall mean:

- The activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering, significant harm.

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Ensure all staff, students and volunteers have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their duties and are confident to implement these policy and procedures on an ongoing basis to support them in promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.
- Develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct
- Ensure all staff are able to identify the signs and indicators of abuse, including the softer signs of abuse, and know what action to take
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate.

- This policy applies to all children up to the age of 18 years whether living with their families, in state care, or living independently (*Working together to safeguard children*, 2018).

Staff and volunteers

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL has overall responsibility for the Safeguarding children and child protection policy and procedures. It is their role to ensure that the policy and procedures are implemented to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. They are responsible for coordinating safeguarding and child protection training for staff across the organisation.

There is always at least one designated person on duty during the opening hours of the setting. The designated persons receive comprehensive training at least every two years and update their knowledge on an ongoing basis, but at least once a year. They in turn support the ongoing development and knowledge of the staff team with regular safeguarding updates.

The role of the DSL

The role of the DSL is to:

- Monitor and update the Safeguarding children and child protection policy and procedures in line with new legislation and to ensure it is effective. This will be done by making sure that everyone understands the correct procedures during their individual annual review
- Ensure updates and new legislation are reflected in our services as soon as they are known
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff, students, volunteers, children and parents who have child protection concerns
- Ensure detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals
- Review all written safeguarding reports
- Assess information provided promptly, carefully and refer as appropriate to external agencies
- Provide signposting to other organisations
- Consult with statutory child protection agencies and regulatory bodies where required
- Make formal referrals to statutory child protection agencies or the police, as required.

In addition, the DSL is required to:

- Keep up-to-date with good practice and national requirements for safeguarding and child protection
- Provide information on safeguarding and child protection for the setting
- Raise awareness of any safeguarding and child protection training needs and implement where necessary
- Retain up-to-date knowledge of the role of the local safeguarding partnership arrangements and local child protection procedures.

The DSL does not investigate whether or not a child has been abused or investigate an allegation or disclosure. Investigations are for the appropriate authorities, usually the police and social services.

- Our designated person (a member of staff) who co-ordinates child protection issues is:

Beth Henery, Becky Mirza, Gemma Marchant and Ella Worthington

- Our designated officer (member of the management team) who oversees this work is:

Beth Henery, Becky Mirza, Gemma Marchant and Ella Worthington

- We ensure all staff are trained to understand our safeguarding policies and procedures and parents are made aware of them too.

- It is the responsibility of every staff member, student and volunteer to report any breaches of this policy to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- All staff have an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues.
- We provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children.
- Applicants for posts within the provision are clearly informed that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- Candidates are informed of the need to carry out 'enhanced disclosure' checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (Previously Criminal Record Bureau) before posts can be confirmed.
- Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information.
- We abide by Ofsted requirements in respect of references and Disclosure and Barring Service (Previously Criminal Record Bureau) checks for staff and volunteers, to ensure that no disqualified person or unsuitable person works at the provision or has access to the children.
- We record information about staff qualifications, and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed including:
 - the DBS reference number;
 - the date the disclosure was obtained; and
 - details of who obtained it.
- We inform all staff that they are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders or reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment with us).
- Volunteers do not work unsupervised.
- We abide by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) requirements in respect of any person who is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have led to dismissal for reasons of child protection concern.
- We have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the setting.
- We take security steps to ensure that we have control over who comes into the provision so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children.
- We take steps to ensure children are not photographed or filmed on video for any other purpose than to record their development or their participation in events organised by us. Parents sign a consent form and have access to records holding visual images of their child.

We promote:

- Always listening to children
- Children developing independence and autonomy as appropriate for their age and stage of development
- Safe and secure environments for children
- Tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures and communities
- British values

- Providing intervention and help for children and families in need.

Responding to suspicions of abuse

We have a duty to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention. If in any doubt about what constitutes a safeguarding concern, refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If there is a concern, never do nothing (Laming, 2009), always do something, including sharing information with any relevant agencies. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

- We acknowledge that abuse of children can take different forms - physical, emotional, and sexual, as well as neglect.
- Also in other forms such as;
 - Fabricated or induced illness (FII)
 - Female genital mutilation (FGM)
 - Breast ironing or breast flattening
 - Domestic abuse
 - Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and Child criminal exploitation (CCE)
 - County Lines
 - Cuckooing
 - Child trafficking and modern slavery
 - Forced marriage
 - Honour based abuse (HBA)
 - Child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB)
 - Extremism and radicalisation
- When children are suffering from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or may be experiencing neglect, this may be demonstrated through:
 - significant changes in their behaviour;
 - deterioration in their general well-being;
 - their comments which may give cause for concern, or the things they say (direct or indirect disclosure);
 - changes in their appearance, their behaviour, or their play;
 - unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect; and
 - any reason to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting.
- We take into account factors affecting parental capacity, such as social exclusion, domestic violence, parent's drug or alcohol abuse, mental or physical illness or parent's learning disability.
- We are aware of other factors that affect children's vulnerability such as abuse of disabled children, fabricated or induced illness, child abuse linked to beliefs in spirit possession, sexual exploitation of children such as through internet abuse and Female Genital Mutilation that may affect or may have affected children and young people using our provision.
- See bruising protocol 2010 4LSCB procedures regarding paediatric assessment within 4 hours.
- We also make ourselves aware that some children and young people are affected by gang activity, by complex, multiple or organised abuse, through forced marriage or honour based

violence or may be victims of child trafficking. While this may be less likely to affect young children in our care we may become aware of any of these factors affecting older children and young people who we may come into contact with.

- Where we believe a child in our care or known to us may be affected by any of these factors we follow the procedure for reporting child protection concerns.
- Where such evidence is apparent, the child's key person makes a dated record of the details of the concern and discusses what to do with member of staff who is acting as the 'designated person'. The information is stored on the child's personal log.
- We refer concerns to the local authority children's social care department and co-operate fully in any subsequent investigation.

NB In some cases this may mean the police or another agency identified by the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

- We take care not to influence the outcome either through the way we speak to children or by asking questions of children.
- We take account of the need to protect young people aged 16-19 as defined by the Children Act 1989. This may include students or school children on work placement, young employees or young parents. Where abuse is suspected we follow the procedure for reporting any other child protection concerns. The views of the young person will always be taken into account, but the setting may override the young person's refusal to consent to share information if it feels that it is necessary to prevent a crime from being committed or intervene where one may have been or to prevent harm to a child or adult. Sharing confidential information without consent is done only where not sharing it could be worse than the outcome of having shared it.

Sharing low-level concerns

On occasion, inappropriate, problematic or concerning behaviour by staff or other adults is observed but does not meet the threshold for significant harm. This may be classed as a 'low-level' concern, although this does not mean that it is insignificant.

We define a low-level concern as:

- Any concern, no matter how small, that an adult working with children may have acted in a way that is inconsistent with our Staff behaviour policy, including inappropriate behaviour outside of work
- A concern that may be a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' and does not meet the harm threshold or is serious enough to refer to the LADO.

We encourage a culture of openness, trust and transparency, with clear values and expected behaviour, monitored and reinforced by all staff. Where staff do have a concern they must disclose that concern to management. All concerns or allegations, however small, will be shared and responded to. All concerns will be shared with the DSL, or other nominated person, as in our reporting procedures. We encourage concerns to be shared as soon as reasonably practicable and preferably within 24 hours of becoming aware of it. However, it is never too late to share a low-level concern.

It is not expected that staff will be able to determine whether the behaviour in question is a concern, complaint or allegation before sharing the information. If the DSL is in any doubt as to whether the information meets the harm threshold, they will consult the LADO.

Occasionally a member of staff may find themselves in a situation which could be misinterpreted or appear compromising to others. If this occurs, staff are encouraged to self-report to the DSL. Equally, a member of staff may have behaved in a manner which, on reflection, falls below the standards set in our Staff behaviour policy. If this occurs, staff are encouraged to self-report to the DSL. We encourage staff to be confident to self-refer and believe it reflects awareness of our standards of conduct and behaviour.

When the DSL receives the information, they will need to determine whether the behaviour:

- Meets, or may meet, the harm threshold (and so contact the LADO)
- Meets the harm threshold when combined with previous low-level concerns (and so contact the LADO)
- Constitutes a 'low-level' concern
- Is appropriate and consistent with the law and our Staff behaviour policy.

The DSL will make appropriate records of all information shared on our software, including:

- With the reporting person
- The subject matter of the concern
- Any relevant witnesses (where possible)
- Any external discussions such as with the LSP (Local Safeguarding Partnerships) or LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)
- Their decision about the nature of the concern
- Their rationale for that decision
- Any action taken.

This constitutes a record of low-level concern. We retain all records of low-level concerns on our software. These records are kept confidential and held securely, accessed only by those who have appropriate authority. Records will be retained at least until the individual leaves their employment. If the low-level concern raises issues of misconduct, then appropriate actions following our Disciplinary procedures will be taken.

The nursery aims to:

- Keep the child at the centre of all we do, providing sensitive interactions that develop and build children's well-being, confidence and resilience. We will support children to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe, healthy and develop positive relationships.
- Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), isolated families and vulnerabilities in families, including the impact of toxic trio on children and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to act in the best interest of the child, maintaining professional curiosity around welfare of children, sharing information, and seeking help that a child may need at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local and/or national procedures, including thorough annual safeguarding updates.
- Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by Hampshire County Council.
- Ensure that information is shared only with those people who need to know in order to protect the child and act in their best interest
- Ensure that staff identify, minimise and manage risks while caring for children
- Take any appropriate action relating to allegations of serious harm or abuse against any person working with children including reporting such allegations to Ofsted and other relevant authorities

- Ensure parents are fully aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures when they register with the nursery and are kept informed of all updates when they occur
- Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate and make sure it complies with any legal requirements and any guidance or procedures issued by **Hampshire County Council**.

Monitoring children's attendance

As part of our requirements under the statutory framework we are required to monitor children's attendance patterns to ensure they are consistent and no cause for concern.

We ask parents to inform the nursery prior to their children taking holidays or days off, and all incidents of sickness absence should be reported to the nursery the same day so the nursery management are able to account for a child's absence.

If a child has not arrived at nursery within 1-2 hours of their normal start time, the parents will be contacted to ensure the child is safe and healthy. If the parents are not contactable then the emergency contacts numbers listed will be used to ensure all parties are safe. Staff will work their way down the emergency contact list until contact is established and we are made aware that all is well with the child and family.

If contact cannot be established then we would assess if a home visit were required to establish all parties are safe. If contact is still not established, we would assess if it would be appropriate to contact relevant authorities, including the police, in order for them to investigate further.

Where a child is part of a child protection plan, or during a referral process, any absences will immediately be reported to the Local Authority children's social care team to ensure the child remains safe and well.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosures

- Where a child makes comments to a member of staff that gives cause for concern (disclosure), observes signs or signals that gives cause for concern, such as significant changes in behaviour; deterioration in general well-being; unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect, that member of staff:
 - listens to the child, offers reassurance and gives assurance that she or he will take action;
 - does not question the child;
 - makes a written record that forms an objective record of the observation or disclosure that includes:
 - the date and time of the observation or the disclosure;
 - the exact words spoken by the child as far as possible;
 - the name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time; and
 - the names of any other person present at the time.
- These records are signed and dated and kept in the settings concerns folder which is kept securely and confidentially, and /or on Nursery In A Box.
- The manager acting as the Designated Person is informed of the issue at the earliest opportunity.
- Where the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership stipulates the process for recording and sharing concerns, we include those procedures alongside this procedure and follow the steps set down by the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Making a referral to the local authority social care team

- We keep a copy of this document alongside procedures set down by our Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership which we follow.
- ***Informing parents***
- Parents are normally the first point of contact. We discuss concerns with parents to gain their view of events unless we feel this may put the child in greater danger.
- We inform parents when we make a record of concerns on Nursery In A Box and that we also make a note of any discussion we have with them regarding a concern.
- If a suspicion of abuse warrants referral to social care, parents are informed at the same time that the referral will be made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board does not allow this, for example, where it is believed that the child may be placed in greater danger.
- This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser. In these cases the social workers will inform parents.

Liaison with other agencies

- We work within the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership guidelines.
- We have the current version of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' for parents and staff and all staff are familiar with what to do if they have concerns.
- We have procedures for contacting the local authority on child protection issues, including maintaining a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of social workers, to ensure that it is easy, in any emergency, for the setting and social services to work well together.
- We notify the registration authority (Ofsted) of any incident or accident and any changes in our arrangements which may affect the well-being of children or where an allegation of abuse is made against a member of staff (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on our premises or elsewhere). Notifications to Ofsted are made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made.

Allegations against staff

- We ensure that all parents know how to complain about the behaviour or actions of staff or volunteers within the provision, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, which may include an allegation of abuse.
- We respond to any inappropriate behaviour displayed by members of staff, or any other person working with the children, which includes:

- inappropriate sexual comments;
 - excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities, or
 - Inappropriate sharing of images.
- We follow the guidance of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership when responding to any complaint that a member of staff, or volunteer within the provision, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, has abused a child.
 - We respond to any disclosure by children or staff that abuse by a member of staff or volunteer within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, may have taken, or is taking place, by first recording the details of any such alleged incident.
 - We refer any such complaint immediately to the local authority's social care department to investigate. We also report any such alleged incident to Ofsted and what measures we have taken. We are aware that it is an offence not to do this.
 - We co-operate entirely with any investigation carried out by children's social care in conjunction with the police.
 - Where the management team and children's social care agree it is appropriate in the circumstances, the director/owner will suspend the member of staff on full pay, or the volunteer, for the duration of the investigation. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place, but is to protect the staff as well as children and families throughout the process.

Whistle Blowing;

- Whistleblowing is the term used when a worker passes on information concerning wrongdoing. All safeguarding allegations, internal or external, current or historical, must be passed on the DSL. We will cooperate fully with the authorities involved and follow any guidance given.
- We believe keeping children safe is the highest priority and if, for whatever reason, concerns cannot be reported to the DSL or deputy DSL, concerns can be reported anonymously to the NSPCC, the police or the LA social services safeguarding children team.

Whistle blowing definitions;

- That a criminal offence has been committed or is being committed or is likely to be committed
- That a person has failed, is failing or is likely to fail to comply with any legal obligation to which they are subject (e.g. EYFS, Equalities Act 2010)
- That a miscarriage of justice has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur
- That the health or safety of any individual has been, is being, or is likely to be endangered
- That the environment, has been, is being, or is likely to be damaged
- That information tending to show any of the above, has been, is being, or is likely to be deliberately concealed.

Whistle blowing Procedure;

Where you reasonably believe one or more of the above circumstances listed above has occurred, you should promptly disclose this to your manager so that any appropriate action can be taken. If it is inappropriate to make such a disclosure to your manager (i.e. because it relates to your manager)

you should speak to Local Authority Designated Officer 01962 876364 or Ofsted on 0300 123 1231 or email; whistleblowing@ofsted.gov.uk

NSPCC whistleblowing advice line is available. Staff can call 0800 0280285 – 08:00 to 20:00, Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 18:00 at weekends. The email address is: help@nspcc.org.uk.

Alternatively, staff can write to: National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH.

- Employees will suffer no detriment of any sort for making such a disclosure in accordance with this procedure. For further guidance in the use of the disclosure procedure, employees should speak in confidence to Becky Mirza.
- Any disclosure or concerns raised will be treated seriously and will be dealt with in a consistent and confidential manner and will be followed through in a detailed and thorough manner
- Any employee who is involved in victimising employees who make a disclosure, takes any action to deter employees from disclosing information or makes malicious allegations in bad faith will be subject to potential disciplinary action which may result in dismissal
- Failure to report serious matters can also be investigated and potentially lead to disciplinary action which may result in dismissal
- Any management employee who inappropriately deals with a whistleblowing issue (e.g. failing to react appropriately by not taking action in a timely manner or disclosing confidential information) may be deemed to have engaged in gross misconduct which could lead to dismissal.
- If you have a concern about a member of staff please contact Rebecca Mirza (Director & DSL) Directly on 02380 273898/ 07813079847

Disciplinary action

- Where a member of staff or volunteer has been dismissed due to engaging in activities that caused concern for the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults, we will notify the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) which is part of the Disclosure & Barring Service of relevant information so that individuals who pose a threat to children (and vulnerable groups), can be identified and barred from working with these groups.

Training

- We seek out training opportunities for all adults involved in the setting to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs and signals of possible physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect and that they are aware of the local authority guidelines for making referrals.
- We ensure that designated persons receive training in accordance with that recommended by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and that all staff are trained at least every two years and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local and/or national procedures, including thorough annual safeguarding updates.
- We ensure that all staff know the procedures for reporting and recording their concerns in the setting.
- Management are Level 3 Safeguarding trained and we endeavour to have all staff complete online training or in house training.

- We raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), breast ironing,, The Prevent Duty, Radicalisation and The Fundamental British Values. This information is given to staff when they are inducted and through summary cards and policy updates.
- ***Induction and probation for staff***
 - As part of our induction process, all new workers will receive basic training on this Safeguarding children and child protection policy so they have the necessary knowledge and skills to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in line with the criteria set out in Annex C of the EYFS
 - Within the first week of induction, all staff will receive a copy of this policy. It is the manager's responsibility to ensure that the new staff member understands it and is able to follow it. All safeguarding training must be completed by the end of the probationary period.
 - All staff are expected to keep their safeguarding knowledge and skills up-to-date and report any concerns they may have.
 - We check the suitability of new recruits by obtaining references, establishing the identity of applicant and conducting criminal records disclosures prior to employment.

Planning

- The layout of the rooms allows for constant supervision.

Curriculum

- We introduce key elements of keeping children safe into our programme to promote the personal, social and emotional development of all children, so that they may grow to be *strong, resilient and listened to* and that they develop an understanding of why and how to keep safe.
- We create within the setting a culture of value and respect for the individual, having positive regard for children's heritage arising from their colour, ethnicity, languages spoken at home, cultural and social background.
- We ensure that this is carried out in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children.
- We build confidence within the children to help protect against peer on peer bullying.
- Staff are vigilant and observe children behaviour and follow our achieving positive behaviour policy.

Support to families

- We believe in building trusting and supportive relationships with families, staff and volunteers in the group.
- We make clear to parents our role and responsibilities in relation to child protection, such as for the reporting of concerns, providing information, monitoring of the child, and liaising at all times with the local children's social care team.
- We will continue to welcome the child and the family whilst investigations are being made in relation to any alleged abuse.
- We follow the Child Protection Plan as set by the child's social care worker in relation to the setting's designated role and tasks in supporting that child and their family, subsequent to any investigation.

- Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child in accordance with the Confidentiality and Client Access to Records procedure and only if appropriate under the guidance of the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- **Confidentiality**
- Confidentiality must not override the right of children to be protected from harm. However, every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality is maintained for all concerned if an allegation has been made and is being investigated.
- If uncertain about whether sensitive information can be disclosed to a third party, contact the DSL or call the Information Commissioner's Office on 0303 123 1113. They will provide advice about the particulars relating to each individual case, including information which can and cannot be shared.
- Staff must not make any comments either publicly or in private about the supposed or actual behaviour of a parent, child or member of staff.

Cameras, videos and tablets

- The only equipment to be used belongs to Little 1 Nursery Ltd.
- Photographs and recordings of children are only taken for valid reasons i.e. to record their learning and development, or for displays within the setting and uploaded to our observation software.
- Photographs or recordings of children are only taken on equipment belonging to the setting.
- Parents are reminded to not send their child to nursery with AirTags or similar tracking devices. These items pose risks to safeguarding, privacy, data protection, and the emotional safety of others. AirTags contain small lithium batteries that can be dangerous if swallowed or damaged.

Respectful Care

Intimate care routines may include nappy changing, supporting children with toileting, changing clothes, giving first aid treatment and specialist medical support where required. In order to maintain the child's privacy, we will carry out the majority of these actions on a one-to-one basis and wherever possible by the child's keyperson. First aid treatment will be carried out by a pediatric first aider.

If your child needs to use the bathroom when you drop off or collect we ask that you stand outside the bathroom/toilets to ensure we give all children their privacy when using the toilet.

If your child needs your help then please use the disabled bathroom in the main play room as this is a single toilet, please ensure no other children are using the bathroom before entering and please make a member of the team aware before going in.

Child-on-child abuse

Child-on-child abuse is also known as peer-on-peer abuse; children are included as potential abusers in our policies. Child-on-child abuse may take the form of bullying, physically hurting another child, emotional abuse or sexual abuse. Reporting procedures in these instances remain the same although additional support from relevant agencies may be required to support both the victim and the perpetrator. Children who develop harmful behaviours are also likely to be victims of abuse or neglect.

If **child-on-child abuse** is suspected, then any concerns must be reported in line

with our safeguarding procedures.

Definition of significant harm

The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of significant harm as *'the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children'*. It gives LAs a duty to make enquires to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the welfare of a child who is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Whilst there are no absolute criteria to rely on when judging what constitutes significant harm, consideration should be given to:

- The severity of the ill-treatment, including the degree of harm
- The extent and frequency of abuse and/or neglect
- The impact this is likely to have, or is having, on the child involved.

This may be a single traumatic event, such as a violent assault, suffocation or poisoning, or it can be a combination of events (both acute and long-standing) that impairs the physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development of the child.

Support for safeguarding contact details

MASH multi agency safeguarding hub / Children Services Department Professional Helpline
– 0300 555 1384

Out of hours 0300 555 1373

Hants.gov.uk interagency referral form (IARF)

Hantsdirect - referral and assessment -0845 603 5620 / out of hours service 0845 600 4555

Local Authority Designated Officer - 01962 876364

Hampshire Safeguarding children's Partnership website: www.hampshirescp.org.uk

Further Guidance

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (under revision 2012)
- What to do if you are Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG 2006)
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DoH 2000)
- The Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People: A Guide for Practitioners (CWDC 2010)
- Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HMG 2007)
- Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers (HMG 2008)
- Independent Safeguarding Authority: www.isa.gov.org.uk
- <https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview>

Legal framework

We adhere to all current legislation, as below:

Children and Social Work Act 2017
Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000
Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015)
Freedom of Information Act 2012
Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
The Childcare Act 2006
The Children Act 2004
The Children Act (England and Wales) 1989
The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
The Data Protection Acts 1984, 1998 and 2018
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
The Human Rights Act 1998
The Police Act 1997
The Sexual Offences Act 2003
Keeping Children Safe in Education
Working together to safeguard children