



Safeguarding Children/Child Protection Policy

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.

(Definition taken from the HM Government document 'Working together to safeguard children 2018').

At Brightsparks we work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. In our nurseries we strive to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, and we promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures (please refer to our Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality policy for further information). Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the nursery's other policies including:

- Online safety
- Whistleblowing
- SEND
- Assessing Need & Early Help
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Prevent Duty and Radicalisation
- Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage
- Looked After Children
- Staff behaviour
- Staff Wellbeing
- Social Media/Networking
- Mobile phone and electronic device
- Recruitment of staff
- Disciplinary and Grievance
- Promoting positive behaviour
- CCTV

Legal framework and definition of safeguarding

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006 (amended 2018)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Children and Social Work act 2017
- Working together to safeguard children 2018
- Keep children safe in education 2020
- Data Protection Act 2018
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- Multi agency statutory guidance on FGM 2016
- Prevent Duty 2015
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills Settings 2019
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of each child in our care. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention.

The nursery aims to:

- Ensure staff are continuously trained right from induction to understand the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible signs of abuse, understand what is meant by child protection and are aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed, including by other children (peer on peer) through bullying or discriminatory behaviour.
- 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 (ACE's).
- Ensure staff understand how to recognise early indicators of potential radicalisation and terrorism threats and act on them appropriately in line with national and local procedures
- Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by the Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board
- Make any referrals relating to extremism to the police (or the Government helpline) in a timely way, sharing relevant information as appropriate.
- Ensure that information is shared only with those people who need to know to protect the child and act in their best interest.
- Keep the setting safe online using checks and safeguards, monitoring access always and maintaining safeguards around the use of technology by staff, parents and visitors in the setting.
- Identify changes in staff behaviour and act on these as per the Staff Behaviour Policy.
- Ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the care of nursery staff.
- Take any appropriate action relating to allegations of harm or abuse against any person working with children or living or working on the nursery premises 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 the Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board.

Early help services - Please refer to separate policy

When a child and/or family would benefit from support but do not meet the threshold for Local Authority Social Care Team, a discussion will take place with the family around early help services.

Early help provides support as soon as a concern/area of need emerges, helping to improve outcomes and prevent escalation onto local authority services. Sometimes concerns about a child may not be of a safeguarding nature and relate more to their individual family circumstances. The nursery will work in partnership with parents/carers to identify any early help services that would benefit your child or your individual circumstances, with your consent, this may include family support, foodbank support, counselling or parenting.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosure using Brightsparks safeguarding incident/ concern form

Staff should make an objective record of any observation or disclosure, supported by the nursery manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead. This record should include:

- Child's name
- Child's address
- Age of the child and date of birth

- Date and time of the observation or the disclosure
- Exact words spoken by the child
- Exact position and type of any injuries or marks seen
- Exact observation of any incident including any concern was reported, with date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time
- Any discussion held with the parent(s) (where deemed appropriate).

These records should be signed by the person reporting this and the manager and the proprietor, dated and kept in a separate confidential file. Staff involved in a safeguarding case may be asked to supply details of any information/concerns they have about a child. The nursery expects all members of staff to co-operate with the local authority children's social care, police, and Ofsted in any way necessary to ensure the safety of the children. 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.

Responding to a spontaneous disclosure from a child

If a child starts to talk to an adult about potential abuse, it is important not to promise the child complete confidentiality. This promise cannot be kept. It is vital that the child is allowed to talk openly, and disclosure is not forced, or words put into the child's mouth. As soon as possible after the disclosure details must be logged accurately. It is not the nursery's role to investigate, it is the role of statutory services to complete this.

If a child starts to talk openly to a member of staff about abuse, then staff will:

- Give full attention to the child
- Keep body language open and encouraging
- Be compassionate, be understanding and reassure them their feelings are important. Phrases such as 'you've been brave today'
- Take time and slow down: - let them go at their own pace
- Recognise and respond to their body language
- Show understanding and reflect back
- Make it clear you are interested in what the child is telling you
- Reflect what they have said to check your understanding - and use their language
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you. Make sure they know that abuse is never their fault

Any disclosure will be reported to the nursery manager and DSL and will be referred to the Croydon's children's social care team immediately, following our reporting procedures

Contacts

- Local Early Help services (Single Point of Contact SPOC) **020 8255 2888** (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm)
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Referrals (24hrs) **020 8726 6400**
- MASH Consultations For advice **020 8726 6464**
- Urgent Child Protection Immediate Action **020 8255 2888** (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm)
- Urgent Child Protection Immediate Action Out of hours **0208 726 6400**
- LADO Steve Hall **020 8255 2889** steve.hall@croydon.gov.uk or lado@croydon.gov.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000**
- Local Safeguarding Children Partnership <https://croydonlcsb.org.uk/>
- Ofsted **0300 123 1231**
- Emergency police **999**
- Government helpline for extremism concerns **020 7340 7264**
- Child exploitation and Online protection command (CEOP) <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Croydon Contacts (SPOC & MASH)

The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is the Local Authority's 'front door' to manage all child protection referrals and to consider the most appropriate support available for families. The aim of Croydon's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is to provide safer outcomes for children, who are referred to them. The MASH element of the SPOC is made up of staff from Children's Social Care, Police Public Protection Desk, Health, Education, Youth Offending Service, Early Intervention and Support Services, Youth Services and Probation.

Reporting Procedures

All staff have a responsibility to report safeguarding / child protection concerns and suspicions of abuse. These concerns will be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) as soon as possible.

- Staff will report their concerns to the DSL [insert name] (in the absence of the DSL they will be reported to the Deputy DSL) [insert name]
- We will complete the Safeguarding Concern/Incident form and discuss this with the DSL.
- Any signs of marks/injuries to a child or information a child has given will be recorded.
- For children who arrive at nursery with an existing injury, a form will be completed along with the parent's/ carer's explanation as to how the injury happened. Staff will have professional curiosity around any explanations given, any concerns around existing injury's will be reported.
- If appropriate, any concerns/or incidents will be discussed with the parent/carer and discussions will be recorded. Parents will have access to these records on request in line with GDPR and data protection guidelines.
- The DSL will determine what actions are required and will responsibly act as a source of support, advice, and expertise for all staff to ensure the correct course of action is implemented.
- The DSL will ensure that relevant information and action taken has been discussed and shared with the Key Person and all staff in the nursery involved in the child's day to day care.
- If we are unsure whether or not a referral is needed, we will call the Consultation Line (MASH)
- If it is an immediate safeguarding concern/incident, the DSL will call the urgent number and / or notify the police.
- We will speak to the parents and gain permission to make a referral if appropriate (consent)

As a Croydon setting, we will contact the Croydon MASH, however for children who live out of the Croydon Borough, we will follow their Local Authority referral pathways and contact the relevant safeguarding children boards.

Informing parents

Parents are normally the first point of contact, although this is not always the case. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance from Croydon's children's social care team/police does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the parent or family member is the likely abuser or where a child may be endangered by this disclosure. Other examples would include where sexual abuse is suspected, where female genital mutilation (FGM) is suspected to have been carried out or planned, where organised or multiple abuse is suspected, where factitious illness or induced illness is suspected and where to contact parents/carers would place you or others at risk. In these cases, the investigating officers will inform parents. Advice will be taken from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Consultations if staff are unsure to inform parents of concerns.

Confidentiality

All suspicions, enquiries and external investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared in line with guidance from the CSCB. All staff, students and volunteers are bound by confidentiality and any information will not be discussed out of work, or this will become a disciplinary matter. The Nursery has due regard to the data protection principles as in the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)¹. These do not prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information, even without consent if this would put the child at further risk. We will follow the principles around data collection and information sharing, and ensure any information is recorded and shared in an appropriate way.

Abuse Indicators

The signs and indicators listed below may not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused, but will help us to recognise that something may be wrong:

Indicators of child abuse

- Failure to thrive and meet developmental milestones
- Fearful or withdrawn tendencies
- Aggressive behaviour
- Unexplained injuries to a child or conflicting reports from parents or staff
- Repeated injuries
- Unaddressed illnesses or injuries
- Significant changes to behaviour patterns.

Softer signs of abuse as defined by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) include:

Emotional states:

- Fearful
- Withdrawn
- Low self-esteem.

Behaviour:

- Aggressive
- Oppositional habitual body rocking.

Interpersonal behaviours:

- Indiscriminate contact or affection seeking
- Over-friendliness to strangers including healthcare professionals
- Excessive clinginess, persistently resorting to gaining attention
- Demonstrating excessively 'good' behaviour to prevent parental or carer disapproval
- Failing to seek or accept appropriate comfort or affection from an appropriate person when significantly distressed
- Coercive controlling behaviour towards parents or carers
- Lack of ability to understand and recognise emotions
- Very young children showing excessive comforting behaviours when witnessing parental or carer distress.

Toxic Trio

The 'toxic trio' is made up of three issues: **domestic abuse, mental ill-health, and substance misuse**. These issues often co-exist, particularly in families where significant harm to children has occurred.

Types of abuse

Peer-on-peer abuse

We are aware that peer on peer abuse does take place, so we include children in our policies when we talk about potential abusers. This may take the form of bullying, physically hurting another child, emotional abuse, or sexual abuse. We will report this in the same way as we do for adults abusing children and will take advice from the appropriate bodies on this area.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which 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.

All children can suffer injuries during their early years as they explore and develop. If an explanation of how a child received their injury doesn't match the injury itself or if a child's injuries are a regular occurrence or there is a pattern to their injuries, then you must report your concerns.

Bruising in babies

Bruising in babies who are not independently mobile is uncommon. 'Bruising in a baby who is not yet crawling, and therefore has no independent mobility, is very unusual. Those who don't cruise, rarely bruise', according to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Due to the risk of abusive injury in a non-mobile baby, all non-mobile babies with a significant bruise or a sustained injury should be referred to the MASH team, even if there is a plausible explanation (For serious injuries/ bleeding refer direct to Emergency Department via 999). When new babies and children join our setting, when completing their settling in information, we ask parents to record and ask about any birthmarks, Mongolian blue spots, birth trauma marks or skin conditions the baby may have. noting the shape, size and location.

Fabricated Illness

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. The parent or carer may seek out unnecessary medical treatment or investigation; they may exaggerate a real illness and symptoms or deliberately induce an illness through poisoning with medication or other substances or they may interfere with medical treatments. Fabricated illness is a form of physical abuse, and any concerns will be reported, in line with our safeguarding procedures

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

FGM can also be known as Female Genital Cutting. FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth and during childhood as well as adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman's first pregnancy and varies widely according to the community.

FGM is child abuse and is illegal in the UK. It can be extremely dangerous and can cause:

- Severe pain
- Shock
- Bleeding
- Infection such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C
- Organ damage
- Blood loss and infections
- Death in some cases

If we have concerns about a child or family, we will contact children's social care team in the same way as other types of physical abuse. We have a mandatory duty to report to police any case where an act of female genital mutilation appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18.

Breast ironing/flattening

Breast ironing also known as "breast flattening" is the process where young girls' breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down using hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear, or delay the development of the breasts entirely. It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction, and early forced marriage.

Sexual abuse

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. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Adult males do not solely perpetrate sexual abuse; women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Action must be taken if a staff member witnesses an occasion(s) where a child indicates sexual activity through words, play, drawing, has an excessive preoccupation with sexual matters; or has an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, or language, for their developmental age. This may include acting out sexual activity on dolls/toys or in the role-play area with their peers; drawing pictures that are inappropriate for a child, talking about sexual activities or using sexual language or words.

If a child is being sexually abused, you may see both emotional and physical symptoms.

Emotional signs:

- Being overly affectionate or knowledgeable in a sexual way inappropriate to the child's age
- Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clingy
- Regressing to younger behaviour patterns such as thumb sucking or bringing out old cuddly toys
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating
- Being isolated or withdrawn
- Inability to concentrate
- Lack of trust or fear of someone they know well, such as not wanting to be alone with a carer
- Becoming worried about clothing being removed
- Suddenly drawing sexually explicit pictures or acting out actions inappropriate for their age
- Using sexually explicit language

Physical Signs:

- Bruises
- Bleeding, discharge, pains or soreness in their genital or anal area
- Sexually transmitted infections

Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020) describes CSE as: CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child 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. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

Signs and indicators may include:

- Physical injuries such as bruising or bleeding
- Having money or gifts they are unable to explain
- Sudden changes in their appearance
- Becoming involved in drugs or alcohol
- Becoming emotionally volatile
- Engaging less with their usual friends
- Appearing controlled by their phone
- Nightmares or sleeping problems
- Running away, staying out overnight, missing school
- Changes in eating habits
- Talk of a new, older friend, boyfriend or girlfriend
- Losing contact with family and friends or becoming secretive

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories, being coerced into moving drugs or money across the country forced to shoplift or pickpocket, or to threaten other young people. Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- Children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

Emotional abuse (Including Domestic Abuse - see separate policy)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) defines emotional abuse as the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the

ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Signs and indicators may include:

- Physical, mental and emotional development lags
- Sudden speech disorders
- Overreaction to mistakes
- Extreme fear of any new situation
- Neurotic behaviour (rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation)
- Extremes of passivity or aggression
- Appear unconfident or lack self-assurance

Action will be taken if the staff member has reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child, caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection. Children may also experience emotional abuse through witnessing domestic abuse and alcohol and drug misuse by adults caring for them.

Neglect

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) defines Neglect as 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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer 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 caregivers)
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Signs may include a child persistently arriving at nursery unwashed or unkempt, wearing clothes that are too small (especially shoes that may restrict the child's growth or hurt them), arriving at nursery in the same nappy they went home in or a child having an illness or identified special educational need or disability that is not being addressed by the parent. A child may also be persistently hungry if a parent is withholding food or not providing enough for a child's needs.

Neglect may also be shown through emotional signs, e.g. a child may not be receiving the attention they need at home and may crave love and support at nursery. In addition, neglect may occur through pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

County Lines

The National Crime Agency (NCA) describe county lines as a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs from big cities into smaller towns, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line.' Customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims. Children can be targeted and recruited into county lines in a number of locations including schools, further and higher educational institutions, pupil referral units, special educational needs schools, children's homes and care homes.

Signs and indicators to be aware of include:

- Changes in the way young people you might know dress

- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g. clothes, jewellery, cars etc.)
- Missing from home or schools and/or significant decline in performance
- New friends or relationships with those who don't share any mutual friendships with the victim or anyone else
- May be carrying a weapon
- Receiving more texts or calls than usual
- Sudden influx of cash, clothes or mobile phones
- Unexplained injuries
- Significant changes in emotional well-being
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries
- Gang association or isolation from peers or social networks.

Cuckooing

Cuckooing is a form of county lines crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to criminally exploit them as a base for drug dealing, often in multi-occupancy or social housing properties. Signs that this is happening in a family property may be an increase in people entering or leaving the property, an increase in cars or bikes outside the home; windows covered or curtains closed for long periods, family not being seen for extended periods; signs of drug use or an increase in anti-social behaviour at the home.

If we recognise any of these signs, we will report our concerns as per our reporting process.

Contextual safeguarding

As young people grow and develop they may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their family. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online.

As part of our safeguarding procedures we will work in partnership with parents/carers and other agencies to work together to safeguard children and provide the support around contextual safeguarding concerns.

Domestic Abuse / Honour Based Abuse / Forced Marriages

We look at these areas as a child protection concern. Please refer to the separate policy for further details on this.

Extremism – the Prevent Duty

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 we have a duty to safeguard at risk or vulnerable children under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and refer any concerns of extremism to the police (In Prevent priority areas the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support).

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme. Radicalisation is the way a person comes to support or be involved in extremism and terrorism. It's a gradual process so young people who are affected may not realise what's happening.

Radicalisation is a form of harm. The process may involve:

- Being groomed online or in person
- Exploitation, including sexual exploitation
- Psychological manipulation

- Exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information
- The risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts

We have a Prevent Duty and Radicalisation policy in place. Please refer to this for specific details.

Online Safety

We take the safety of our children very seriously and this includes their online safety. Please refer to the Online Safety policy for further details.

Human Trafficking and Slavery

Please refer to our Human Trafficking and Slavery policy for detail on how we keep children safe in this area.

Adult sexual exploitation

As part of our safeguarding procedures we will also ensure that staff and students are safeguarded from sexual exploitation.

Up skirting

Up skirting involves taking a picture of someone's genitals or buttocks under their clothing without them knowing, either for sexual gratification or in order to humiliate, or distress, the individual. This is a criminal offence and any such action would be reported following our reporting procedures.

Child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB)

Child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB) can happen when there is a concept of belief in:

- Witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs)
- The evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context)
- Ritual or multi murders where the killing of children is believed to bring supernatural benefits, or the use of their body parts is believed to produce potent magical remedies
- Use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

This is not an exhaustive list and there will be other examples where children have been harmed when adults think that their actions have brought bad fortune.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is an appropriate senior member of staff who will take the lead responsibility for safeguarding and coordinate child protection and welfare issues. They have a legal responsibility for dealing with safeguarding issues, providing advice and support to staff, liaising with the Local Authority, and working with a range of other agencies. The Deputy DSL will be trained to the same standard as the DSL and the role is explicit in the said Job Description. There is always at least one designated person on duty during all opening hours of the setting. These designated persons undertake specific training, including a child protection training course, and receives regular updates to developments within this field. They in turn support the ongoing development and knowledge of the staff team with regular safeguarding updates.

Monitoring children's attendance

As part of our requirements under the statutory framework and guidance documents we are required to monitor children's attendance patterns to ensure they are consistent and no cause for concern. Arrival and departure times are recorded and any reasons for child's absences are logged. Key Persons and management are required to monitor to ensure there is no potential link to safeguarding. Parents should inform the nursery prior to their children taking holidays or days off, and all sickness should be

called into the nursery on the day, so the nursery management are able to account for a child's absence. If the nursery has not been advised, we would aim to contact the parent/carer on day 1 of nonattendance.

If a child has not arrived at nursery within two hours of their normal start time the parents will be called 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. It is a parent's responsibility to keep their emergency contact details updated. If contact cannot be established, then we would assess if a home visit is 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 in order to 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.

Looked after children

As part of our safeguarding practice we will ensure our staff are aware of how to keep looked after children safe. In order to do this, we ask that we are informed of:

- The legal status of the child (e.g. whether the child is being looked after under voluntary arrangements with consent of parents or on an interim or full care order)
- Contact arrangements for the biological parents (or those with parental responsibility)
- The child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after him/her
- The details of the child's social worker and any other support agencies involved
- Any child protection plan or care plan in place for the child in question.

Please refer to the Looked After Children policy for further details.

Staffing and volunteering

Our policy is to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. We follow safer recruitment practices including obtaining references and all staff employed to work with children will have enhanced criminal record checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before being able to carry out intimate care routines or be left unsupervised with children. We will obtain enhanced criminal records checks (DBS) for volunteers in the setting. Volunteers and visitors will never have unsupervised access to children.

All staff will complete safeguarding training during their induction period. During induction staff will be given contact details for the LADO (local authority designated officer), the local authority children's services team, the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) and Ofsted to enable them to report any safeguarding concerns, independently, if they feel it necessary to do so.

The Nursery safeguards children and staff by:

- Providing adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of all children
- Informing applicants for posts within the nursery that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- Candidates are informed of the need to carry out checks 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
- Giving staff members, volunteers and students regular opportunities during supervisions and having an open-door policy to declare changes that may affect their suitability to care for the children.

This includes information about their health, medication or about changes in their home life such as child protection plans for their own children.

- Requesting DBS checks on commencing and we use the DBS update service (with staff consent) to re-check staff's criminal history and suitability to work with children at regular intervals.
- Abiding by the requirements of the EYFS and any Ofsted guidance in respect to obtaining references and suitability checks for staff, students and volunteers, to ensure that all staff, students and volunteers working in the setting are suitable to do so
- Ensuring we receive at least two written references a new member of staff commences employment with us
- Ensuring students will have enhanced DBS checks completed before their placement starts
- Volunteers, including students, do not carry out any intimate care routines and are never left to work unsupervised with children.
- Abiding by the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Childcare Act 2006 (amended 2018) 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 will be reported to the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS)
- Having procedures for recording the details of visitors to the nursery and take security steps to ensure that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children.
- Ensuring all visitors/contractors are supervised whilst on the premises, especially when in the areas the children use.
- Having a Staff Behaviour Policy that sits alongside this policy to enable us to monitor changes in behaviours that may cause concern. All staff sign up to this policy too to ensure any changes are reported to management, so we are able to support the individual staff member and ensure the safety and care of the children is not compromised
- Ensuring that staff are aware not to contact parents/carers and children through social media on their own personal social media accounts and they will report any such incidents to the management team to deal with
- Ensuring that all staff have access to, and comply with, the whistleblowing policy which provides information on how they can share any concerns that may arise about their colleagues in an appropriate manner. We encourage a culture of openness and transparency, and all concerns are taken seriously
- Ensuring all staff will receive regular supervision meetings where opportunities will be made available to discuss any issues relating to individual children, child protection training, safeguarding concerns and any needs for further support or training.
- Having peer on peer and manager observations in the setting to ensure that the care we provide for children is at the highest level and any areas for staff development are quickly identified. Peer observations allow us to share constructive feedback, develop practice and build trust so that staff are able to share any concerns they may have. Concerns are raised with the designated lead and dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner
- Ensuring the deployment of staff within the nursery allows for constant supervision and support. Where children need to spend time away from the rest of the group, the door will be left ajar or other safeguards will be put into action to ensure the safety of the child and the adult.

We also operate a Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices use and Social Media policy which states how we will keep children safe from these devices whilst at nursery. This also links to our Online Safety policy.

Allegations against adults working or volunteering with children

If an allegation is made against a member of staff, student or volunteer or any other person works on the nursery premises regardless of whether the allegation relates to the nursery premises or elsewhere, we will follow the procedure below.

- The allegation should be reported to the senior manager on duty. If this person is the subject of the allegation then this should be reported to the nursery proprietor instead.
- The LADO will be informed immediately for advice and guidance
- If as an individual you feel this will not be taken seriously or are worried about the allegation getting back to the person in question then it is your duty to inform the LADO yourself directly
- A full investigation will be carried out by the appropriate professionals (LADO, Ofsted, CSCB) to determine how this will be handled
- The nursery will follow all instructions from the LADO, Ofsted, CSCB and ask all staff members to do the same and co-operate where required
- Support will be provided to all those involved in an allegation throughout the external investigation in line with LADO support and advice. If no contact can be made with the LADO, we have the right to relieve a staff member of all duties away for the children.
- The nursery also reserves the right to suspend any member of staff pending or during an investigation.
- All enquiries/external investigations/interviews will be documented and kept in a locked file for access by the relevant authorities
- Unfounded allegations will result in all rights being reinstated
- Founded allegations will be passed on to the relevant organisations including the local authority children's social care team and where an offence is believed to have been committed, the police will also be informed.
- Founded allegations will be dealt with as gross misconduct in accordance with our disciplinary procedures and may result in the termination of employment, Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision along with notifying the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to ensure their records are updated.
- All safeguarding records will be kept until the person reaches normal retirement age or for 21 years and 3 months years if that is longer. This will ensure accurate information is available for references and future DBS checks and avoids any unnecessary reinvestigation
- The nursery retains the right to dismiss any member of staff in connection with founded allegations following an inquiry
- Counselling will be available for any member of the nursery who is affected by an allegation, their colleagues in the nursery and the parents.
- A return to work plan will be put in place for any member of staff returning to work after an allegation has been deemed unfounded.

Our nursery has a clear commitment to protecting children and promoting welfare. Should anyone believe that this policy is not being upheld, it is their duty to report the matter to the attention of the nursery manager or the proprietor at the earliest opportunity.

Updated January 2020

Updated November 2020

Updated October 2021

Signs and symptoms of child abuse

Remember, you must be aware of potential signs and symptoms of child abuse.



Physical

- Unexplained injury
- Injury does not match the explanation
- Flinching
- Unwilling to cooperate with personal care
- Bruising in shape of object or finger marks
- Inappropriate clothing, e.g. sweater in summer



Sexual

- Self-harm
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Sadness
- Depression
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unusual vaginal, anal or oral discharge
- Unforeseen pregnancy
- Sexually transmitted infections



Neglect

- Unusual weight loss
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Untreated physical problems
- Unsanitary or unsafe living conditions
- Unsuitable clothing for the weather
- Abandonment of child in a public place



Female Genital Mutilation

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than usual in the bathroom
- Unusual behaviour after an absence from school/college
- Reluctance to undergo particular medical examinations



Emotional

- All types of abuse result in emotional abuse
- Poor self-esteem
- Mental health problems
- Substance misuse



Discriminatory

- Unequal treatment
- Verbal abuse
- Slurs
- Harassment
- Deliberate exclusion
- Physical abuse or assault
- Hate crimes

For more safeguarding resources visit www.virtual-college.co.uk

SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities)

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or a disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

Who are your vulnerable children?

2 year funded (FEET)

If parents are on a low income, some type of benefit or meet certain other criteria.

Children with a social worker

Child, school or family social workers offer assistance to children and youth as well as to their parents and

EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium)

Additional funding for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds.

Looked after children (Child in care)

A child is looked after by a local authority if a court has granted a care order to place a child in care, or a council's children's services department has cared for the child for more than 24 hours.

EAL (English as an additional language)

Children who's first language isn't English.
May be fluent in another language.

The 5 R's

The role of staff in safeguarding children

Recognise

Recognise behaviour that may indicate abuse is of fundamental importance.

Respond

Ask open ended questions. Do not make promises. Stay calm. Reassure them that they have done the right thing.

Refer/re-refer

Gather all the information. Designated safeguarding leads are to be the ones who make a referral.

Record

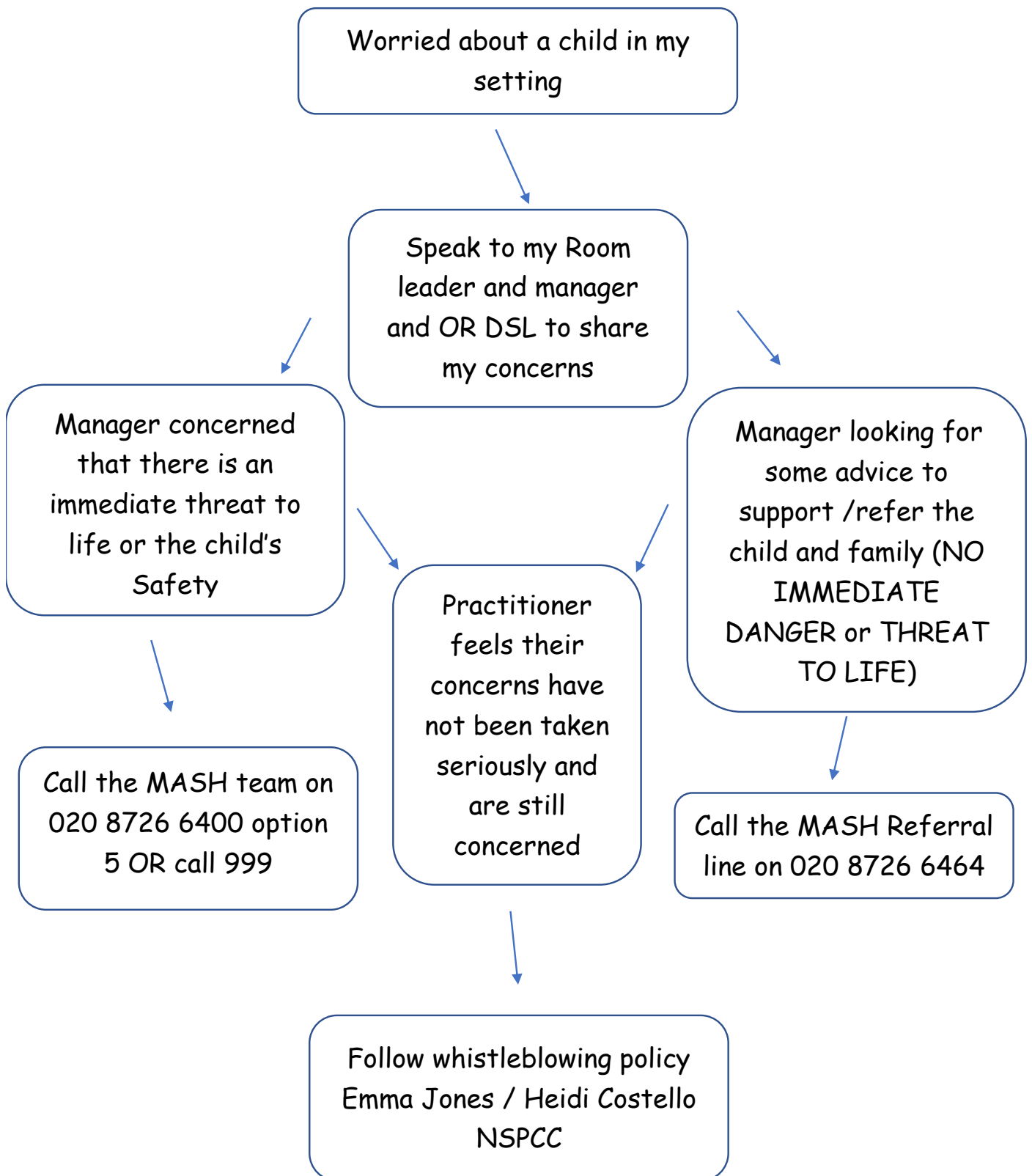
Record precisely what has been alleged, using key phrases and words the individual has used. Do NOT make notes during the conversation.

Report

Report any concerns to your designated safeguarding lead as soon as possible. You have the right to check that appropriate action has been taken, however it may not be necessary for them to share the details of this with you due to confidentiality.



What to do if you are worried about a child



Safeguarding Incident / Concern Form

[illegible]

DSL - Action Taken

Date

Time

Discussions with parents / advice taken from agencies etc

Actions Feedback to Staff (Please log names)

Management Signature

Date:

DSL Signature

Date:

Area Manager/Proprietor Signature

Date:



Brightsparks Day Nurseries

Job Description – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that the settings safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed and developed in line with current guidance; and develop staff understanding of the settings safeguarding policies
- Take the lead on responding to information from the staff team relating to child protection concerns
- Provide advice, support and guidance on an on-going basis to staff, students and volunteers.
- To identify children who may need early help or who are at risk of abuse
- To help staff to ensure the right support is provided to families
- To liaise with the local authority and other agencies with regard to child protection concerns
- Ensure the setting is meeting the requirements of the EYFS Safeguarding requirements
- To ensure policies are in line with the local safeguarding procedures and details
- Disseminate updates to legislation to ensure all staff are kept up to date with safeguarding practices
- To manage and monitor accidents, incidents and existing injuries; ensuring accurate and appropriate records are kept
- Attend meetings with the child's key person
- Attend case conferences and external safeguarding meetings, as requested, by external agencies.

OPERATIONAL

- Liaise with the Manager to inform her of issues especially ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.
- Liaise with any "case manager" and the designated officer(s) at the local authority for child protection concerns in cases which concern a staff member.
- Liaise with staff and with the Key Person, Room Leader & SENCO on matters of safety and safeguarding (including online and digital safety) and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff.

GENERAL

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and statutory intervention, including local criteria for action and local authority children's social care referral arrangements.
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to, and understands, the nursery's Safeguarding/Child Protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff.
- Are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers.
- Are able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Understand and support the nursery with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and are able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- Are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at nursery.
- Can recognise the additional risks that children with SEN and disabilities (SEND) face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation and are confident they have the capability to support SEND children to stay safe online.
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the nursery may put in place to protect them.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Ensure the nursery's Safeguarding/Child Protection policy is known, understood and used appropriately.
- Ensure the policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum) and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies or proprietors regarding this.
- Ensure the policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the nursery in this.
- Link with the local LSCB to make sure staff are aware of any training opportunities and the latest local policies on local safeguarding arrangements.
- To share information with additional or new settings.
- Any Child protection files that need to be transferred to new settings are done as soon as possible separately from child's main file. Confirmation of receipt will be obtained.

PERSONNEL

- The designated safeguarding lead and deputy will receive the appropriate training to provide explicit knowledge and skills required to carry out the role.
- Training will be updated every 2 years.
- Undertake formal training with Policy Refresh weekly including Prevent awareness training.

Glossary

Safeguarding	The action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
Child Protection	Protecting a child who is suffering from or has the potential to suffer from harm.
Maltreatment	Cruel or violent treatment
Modern Slavery	The recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children.
Human Trafficking	Unlawful act of transporting or forcing people to benefit from their work or service.
Domestic Abuse	Incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, intimidating, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence usually at home.
Honour based Abuse	A collection of practices used to control behaviour within the family and community to protect cultural and religious beliefs.
Looked after Child	Children looked after by local authority in public care.
Toxic -Trio	Used to describe the issues caused by a combination of domestic abuse, mental ill-health, and drug and alcohol misuse
Radicalisation	The process by which people come to support terrorism and extreme views.
Terrorism	Unlawful use of violence and fear, against civilians, in the interest of political aims.
Extremism	Extreme political or religious views
Fabricated illness	To exaggerate or deliberately cause symptoms of illness in a child
Exploitation	Action or fact of treating someone unfairly to benefit from their work
County Lines	Illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries usually by children or vulnerable people controlled by gangs
Coercion/Coercive	Persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.
Cuckooing	Taking over the home of a vulnerable person to establish a base for illegal drug dealing, typically as part of a county lines operation.
Prevent Duty	The duty in the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 - their functions is to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
Peer on Peer Abuse	Abuse that happens between children of a similar age
Neglect	Failure to meet a child's basic needs- food, clothing, warmth, safety, education, medical needs, emotional support etc
Physical Harm	Harming a child by hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, drowning, biting etc
Sexual Abuse	When a child is tricked or forced into sexual activities.
Emotional Abuse	Mistreatment by deliberately scaring, humiliating, isolating, or ignoring a child.
Grooming	When someone builds a relationship and trust with a child so they can manipulate and abuse them both in person and online.

Acronyms

LAC	Looked After Children
FGM	Female Genital mutilation
CALFB	Child abuse linked to faith or belief
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills.
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
ACE's	Adverse Childhood Experiences
CSCB	Croydon Safeguarding Children's Board
EHA	Early Help Assessment
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
LADO	Local Authority Designated Office
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
CSE / CCE	Child Sexual Exploitation / Child Criminal Exploitation
NCA	National Crime Agency

