

**Safeguarding and**

**Child Protection**

**Policy**

2021/22

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| **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2021/22** |

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| Organisation: Children with Voices |

**Named Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Designated Safeguarding Lead | Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) | Nominated Safeguarding Trustee | Chair of Trustees |
| Renisha Dornelly-Greenidge | Michelle Dornelly |  |  |

**Named personnel with designated responsibility regarding allegations against staff**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Designated Senior Manager | Deputy Designated Senior Manager | Nominated Safeguarding Trustee |  |
| Michelle Dornelly |  |  |  |

**Dates the Safeguarding Policy is reviewed**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Review Date | Changes made/Details of action plan | Due Date | By Whom |
| Sep 2022 | New policy adopted |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Introduction**

Everyone at Children with Voices (CWV) who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. CwV staff and volunteers are particularly important in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as we are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children. Our staff and volunteers form part of the wider safeguarding system for children to prevent concerns from escalating. CwV will work with Children and Families Service, the police, health services and other relevant agencies to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

This policy applies to all staff, including volunteers, working in or on behalf of CwV. It provides information about the actions CwV expects from all staff and volunteers. It will be updated annually and known to everyone working with CwV and its trustees. It will be available to parents on request and via our website.

This policy is in line with **The Charity Commissions Strategy for Dealing with Safeguarding Issues in Charities**, [Working Together to Safeguard Children (2019)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835733/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2019.pdf) and [London Child Protection Procedures (5th Edition)](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/index.html).

Everyone working or volunteering with CwV must share the objective to help keep children and young people safe by:

* Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn and develop in our care
* Taking appropriate steps to ensure our venues are Covid-19 safe;
* Identifying and responding to ‘early help’ needs of children and families;
* Identifying children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in our venues;
* Maintaining a culture of vigilance and an attitude of ‘It could happen here’.

**Our Commitment**

Children with Voices is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in our care*.* Each child/young person’s welfare is of paramount importance. Throughout this document ‘children’ includes everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

Protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children’s health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable children to have the best outcomes.

Child Protection refers to procedures and actions undertaken regarding children who are at risk of being seriously harmed or have been significantly harmed.

At Children with Voices we recognise that:

* Some children may be especially vulnerable to abuse including those experiencing extra-familial risk outside of the family setting, including peer on peer harm, or with a special educational need or disability;
* Children who are abused or neglected may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way and may therefore present with disruptive of challenging behaviour;
* Children can be both victims and perpetrators of abuse;
* Children who harm others may have been maltreated themselves;
* Allegations against staff may be made, however careful and safe our recruitment practices.

**Our Approach to Safeguarding Children**

Children with Voices will ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of their safeguarding and child protection responsibilities and that they are able to identify children and young people where concerns about their safety and welfare arise. We will ensure all staff and children and young people in our care know they can raise issues with any member of staff, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy DSL) and that their concerns will be taken seriously. There will always be a DSL (or Deputy DSL) on site and they will have appropriate training and understanding of how to manage concerns in an effective way with the welfare of children and young people as their primary focus.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**All staff and volunteers will:**

Fully comply with the policies and procedures put in place by Children with Voices, attend appropriate safeguarding training and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead of any concerns.

**Our Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) Renisha Dornelly-Greenidge will :**

**Referrals**

* Act as a source of support, advice and expertise and have access to the online London Child Protection Procedures;
* Consult with and/or refer cases of suspected abuse including extra-familial harm and peer on peer abuse to Children and Families Service Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and maintain a record of all concerns and referrals;
* Liaise with the CEO and Nominated safeguarding trustee to inform them of any issues and ongoing investigations and ensure there is always cover for this role;
* Keep detailed, accurate and securely stored written or electronic records;

**Training**

* Recognise how to identify signs of abuse and know when it is appropriate to make a referral to Children and Families Service;
* Have knowledge of the [CHSCP Escalation Policy](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/BZoUXw-CDM_n8361971_v2A_ESCALATION_POLICY_-_FINAL_VERSION_20141.pdf), the [Local Authority Designated Officer](http://www.chscb.org.uk/allegations-against-professionals/) (LADO) role, the conduct of a child protection case conference and be able to attend and contribute to these;
* Ensure that all staff have access to and understand CwV’s safeguarding policy;
* Ensure that all staff and volunteers have induction safeguarding training and receive regular updates;
* Access resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses at least every two years;
* Ensure accurate records of training, updates, policy dissemination

**Raising Awareness**

* Ensure the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is updated and reviewed annually and work with the Governing Body regarding this;
* Ensure parents are routinely made aware of the safeguarding policy which alerts them to the fact that referrals may be made and the role of the **organisation** in this to avoid conflict later;

**Our Trustees will ensure that*:***

* The policies and procedures adopted by the trustees are fully implemented, and followed by all staff and volunteers;
* All children in our care are provided with opportunities to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online, relationship education and extra-familial risks including peer on peer harm and exploitation;
* All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with the agreed [Whistle Blowing Policy;](http://intranet.hackney.gov.uk/article/2050/Whistleblowing-anti-fraud-and-corruption)
* They have completed Safer Recruitment training;
* The procedure for managing allegations against staff and volunteers is known to everyone and displayed appropriately;
* Operate the procedure for managing allegations effectively and refer relevant concerns to the [Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)](https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/system/files?file=extranet/Guidance%20for%20Schools%20on%20Dealing%20with%20Allegations%20of%20Abuse%20Against%20Staff%20and%20Volunteers.pdf);
* That anyone who has harmed or may pose a risk to a child is referred to the DBS;

**Our Trustees** **will ensure that:**

* Children with Voices has a safeguarding and child protection policy and procedures in place that are in accordance with statutory guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures, and the policy is made available to parents on request and via our website;
* Children with Voices operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on staff and volunteers who work with children;
* Children with Voices follows the [5th Edition of the London Child Protection Procedures](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/) and the statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007260/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2021.pdf) for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff and volunteers;
* A senior member of Children with Voices is designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding (and deputy);
* There is a named trustee lead for safeguarding and there is good communication between them and Designated Safeguarding Lead(s);
* Staff and volunteers undertake appropriate safeguarding/child protection training, at regular intervals;
* Comply with the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership Self Assessment auditing requirements;
* They remedy, without delay, any deficiencies or weaknesses regarding safeguarding practice and arrangements;
* A Trustee is nominated to be responsible for liaising with the LA and /or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse being made against a member of staff;
* Policies and procedures are reviewed annually

**Supporting Children and Working in Partnership with Parents**

* Children with Voices recognises that children’s welfare is paramount. Good safeguarding and child protection practice and securing good outcomes for children relies on a positive, open and honest working partnership with parents/carers;
* Whilst we may, on occasion, need to make referrals to Children and Families Service without consultation with parents, we will make every effort to maintain a positive working relationship with them whilst fulfilling our duties to protect children;
* We will rely on the MASH Consultation Line to inform our decision-making regarding seeking consent from parents/carers regarding seeking consent to share information;
* Children will be given a proper explanation (appropriate to age and understanding) of what action is being taken on their behalf and why;
* We will endeavour to preserve the privacy, dignity and right to confidentiality of the child and parents/carers whilst discharging our statutory duties;
* The Designated Safeguarding Lead will determine which members of staff ‘need to know’ personal information for the purpose of supporting and protecting the child(ren) on the principle of those working directly with children will need to know more;
* Staff will not be enabled to further share this information further without the expressed permission of the DSL.

**Information about Safeguarding for children and young people in our care**

Through our programmes for children and young people they are taught to understand and manage risks they may encounter and work out with staff how these risks may be overcome; taking into account their wishes and feelings. They are regularly reminded about online safety and bullying procedures and taught how to conduct themselves and behave in a responsible and respectful manner. Opportunities are provided for children to learn about democracy and the rule of law, positive relationships and safe choices. Peer on peer harm is addressed in a supportive and age-appropriate way.

All children and young people know there is Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsible for their safety and welfare and who this is and that they have a right to speak to this member of staff, or any other, if they are worried or concerned. They are reminded that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, but that they will be listened to, heard, helped and informed of what steps can be taken to protect them from harm and that feedback will be sought, so that their views about actions are known. There is a display in **each venue** identifying the DSLs and children are made aware of this.

**A Partnership Approach**

Children with Voices recognises that it is essential to establish positive and effective working relationships with other agencies that are partners of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership, including Children and Families’ Services and the MASH. There is a joint responsibility on all these agencies to share information to ensure the safeguarding of all children and work together to secure positive outcomes.

Children with Voices will work openly and collaboratively with parents/carers and seek consent (where possible) when sharing information with other agencies. We will inform parents/carers of our responsibilities to safeguard their children. We will make this policy available via our website and provide additional safeguarding information via our website.

**Identifying children who may be at risk or may have been significantly harmed**

Staff and volunteers are well placed to observe any physical, emotional or behavioural signs which indicate that a child may have additional needs or be at risk of, or suffering significant harm. The relationships between staff, children and young people, parents/carers and the public which foster respect, confidence and trust can lead to disclosures of abuse, and/or staff and volunteers being alerted to concerns.

**Harm** means ill-treatment or impairment of health and development, including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another; **Development** means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development; **Health** includes physical and mental health; **Ill-treatment** includes sexual abuse and other forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

**Abuse and Neglect** are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, another child, children or young people. There are four categories of abuse; physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

**Definitions and Indicators of Abuse**

**Physical Abuse** 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.

**Emotional Abuse** is 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. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**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 (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. 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 and clothing, 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 caretakers);
* Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment;
* It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional needs.

**Taking action to ensure that children are safe in our care and at home**

All staff and volunteers must read and follow the statutory guidance for [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 – Part One: Safeguarding information for all staff](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007260/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2021.pdf).

It is notthe responsibility of staff or volunteers to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation, although seeking clarification from children and young people is encouraged. Accordingly, all concerns regarding the welfare of children will be recorded and discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead prior to any discussion with parents/carers.

**All Staff and Volunteers must Immediately Report**

* Any suspicion that a child is injured, marked, or bruised in a way which is not readily attributable to the normal knocks or scrapes received in play;
* Any explanation given which appears inconsistent or suspicious;
* Behaviours which give rise to suspicions that a child may have suffered harm;
* Any concerns that a child may be suffering from inadequate care, ill treatment, or emotional maltreatment;
* Concerns that a child is presenting signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect, including peer on peer harm or extra-familial risks and online harms;
* Any significant changes in a child’s presentation;
* Any hint or disclosure of harm or abuse about or by a child or young person;
* Concerns regarding person(s) who may pose a risk to children (e.g. those living in a household with children present), or a staff member;
* Information which indicates that the child is living with someone who does not have parental responsibility for them for a period of more than 28 days ([Private Fostering](http://www.chscb.org.uk/private-fostering-3/));

**Responding to Disclosure**

Disclosures or information that a child has been harmed or is at risk may be received from children, parents/carers, other professionals or members of the public. **Children with Voices** recognises that those who disclose such information may do so with difficulty, having chosen carefully to whom they will speak. Accordingly all staff and volunteers will handle disclosures with sensitivity. Such information cannot remain confidential and staff and volunteers will immediately communicate what they have been told to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and make a record using clear, straightforward language.

Staff or volunteers will not investigate but will, wherever possible, listen, record and pass on information to the DSL in order that s/he can make an informed decision of what to do next. (See the Managing Disclosures guidance).

**All staff and volunteers will:**

* Listen to and take seriously any disclosure or information that a child may be at risk of harm;
* Seek clarification about the information (if necessary) without asking leading or probing questions;
* Make a written record of what the child has said using the Cause for Concern Form or the Children with Voices internal reporting mechanism;
* Try to keep questions to a minimum and of an ‘open’ nature e.g. ‘Can you tell me what happened?’ rather than ‘Did x hit you?’;
* Try not to show signs of shock, horror or surprise;
* Not express feelings or judgements regarding any person alleged to have harmed the child;
* Explain sensitively to the child or young person that they have a responsibility to pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
* Reassure and support the child or young person as far as possible;
* Not promise secrecy;
* Explain that only those who ‘need to know’ will be told;
* Explain what will happen next and that the child will be involved as appropriate.

**Confidentiality**

Children with Voices will operate with regard to [Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers (2018)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf), and have a clear and explicit Confidentiality Policy. However, where there is a concern that the child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, the child’s safety and welfare must be the overriding consideration

Children with Voices will ensure:

* Information is shared with Children and Families Service and/or Police where the child/young person is or may be at risk of, or experiencing, significant harm, including peer on peer harm and online abuse;
* Children’s and/or parent’s/carer’s confidentiality is respected;
* That any information shared is necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure;
* Allegations and/or disclosures of a historic nature will be managed in the same way as current safeguarding issues.

**Information About Children and Young People in our care**

The Children with Voices record-keeping policy for child welfare and child protection is consistent with **The CHSCP Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy Guidance (May 2020)** guidance, which is known to all staff.

In order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, our organisation requires accurate and up to date information regarding:

* Names and contact details of persons with whom the child normally lives;
* Names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above);
* Emergency contact details (if different from above);
* Details of any persons authorised to collect the child.
* Any relevant court orders in place including those, which affect any person’s access to the child (e.g. Residence Order, Contact Order, Care Order, Injunctions etc.);
* If the child is or has been subject to a child in need, child protection or care plan;
* Name and contact detail of GP;
* Any other factors which may impact on the safety and welfare of the child.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will collate, securely store and agree access to this information.

All child protection documents will be retained in a ‘Child Protection’ file. This child protection file will be securely stored and only accessible to the **CEO** and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

**Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in their absence)**

Following any information raising concern, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

* Consider the child‘s wishes and feelings, but not promise confidentiality;
* Consider any urgent medical needs of the child;
* Have an immediate consultation with Hackney Children and Family Services’ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (or the Children’s Social Care team where the child is resident) if there has been a disclosure and/or allegation of abuse, including peer on peer harm, or there are clear grounds for concerns about the child’s safety and well-being;
* Consult with a member of [Children and Families Service’s MASH](https://www.hackney.gov.uk/child-protection) if they are uncertain whether or not a referral is required or review action when a child has suffered or is likely to suffer harm (Appendix 1) or [Early help and threshold criteria for intervention.](https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/system/files?file=extranet/Children%20and%20Young%20Peoples%20Services%20Resource%20Guide.pdf)

In consultation with Hackney Children and Family Services’ MASH or children’s social care in the borough the child resides, decide:

* Wherever possible, to talk to parents, unless to do so may place a child at risk of significant harm, impede any police investigation and/or place the member of staff or others at risk;
* Whether to make a child protection referral to social care because a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and if this needs to be undertaken immediately;
* Contact the designated officer for safeguarding in another agency if that agency is working with the family;

**OR**

* Not to make a referral at this stage, but retain the information in written notes on the child’s file.
* If further monitoring is necessary agree who and how this will be undertaken;
* If it would be appropriate to undertake an assessment and/or make a referral for other services including Early Help.

All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented. All referrals to Hackney Children and Family Services for children living in Hackney needs to be completed using the [Multi-agency Referral Form](https://hackney.gov.uk/child-protection) (Appendix 3). For children living outside Hackney the local authority where the child is resident will be contacted.

**Action following a Safeguarding Referral**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or other appropriate member of staff will:

* Maintain contact with the child’s allocated Social Worker as required;
* Contribute to any Strategy Discussion and/or Strategy Meeting as required;
* Provide a report for, attend and contribute to any [Initial and Review Child Protection Conference;](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/cp-guidance-for-professional_v2.pdf)
* Report to and attend the [Extra-Familial Risk Panel](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Extra-Familial-Risk-Panel-Protocol.pdf) as appropriate;
* Share the content of this report with the parent/carer, prior to the meeting;
* Attend Core Group Meetings for any child subject to a Child in Need Meeting for any child subject to a Child in Need Plan or Child Protection Plan, or the Extra-Familial Risk Panel (EFRP);

**Dealing with Disagreements and Escalation of Concerns**

Effective working together depends on an open approach and honest relationships between agencies and professionals. Problem resolution is an integral part of professional co-operation and joint working to safeguard children. Occasionally situations arise when workers within one agency feel that the actions, inaction or decisions of another agency do not adequately safeguard a child. The [CHSCP Escalation Policy](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/BZoUXw-CDM_n8361971_v2A_ESCALATION_POLICY_-_FINAL_VERSION_20141.pdf) defines the process for resolving such professional differences and should be read alongside the London Child Protection Procedures and relevant internal policies on escalating matters of concern.

Professional disagreements can arise in a number of areas, but are most likely to arise around:

* Levels of need;
* Roles and responsibilities;
* The need for action;
* Progressing plans and communication.

Where professionals consider that the practice of other professionals is placing children at risk of harm, they must be assertive, act swiftly and ensure that they challenge the relevant professionals in line with this policy and be aware that:

* The safety of children and young people is the paramount consideration in any professional activity;
* Resolution should be sought within the shortest time scale possible to ensure the child is protected;
* As a guide, professionals should attempt to resolve differences through discussion within one working week or a timescale that protects the child from harm (whichever is shortest);
* Disagreements should be resolved at the earliest possible stage.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or other appropriate member of staff will:

* Contact the line manager in Children and Families Service (MASH) if they consider the response to a referral has not led to the child being adequately safeguarded and follow this up in writing;
* Contact the line manager in Children and Families Service if they consider that the child is not being adequately safeguarded by the child protection plan and follow this up in writing;
* Use the [CHSCP Escalation Policy](http://www.chscb.org.uk/content/103/escalation-of-concerns) if this does not resolve the concern.

**Safer Recruitment and Selection**

Children with Voices pays full regard to the statutory guidance for available to parents on request and via our website.

This policy is in line with **The Charity Commission’s Strategy for Dealing with Safeguarding Issues in Charities**, [Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) – Part Three: Safer Recruitment](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007260/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2021.pdf). We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in our organisation and who is therefore likely to be perceived and experienced by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult. This includes volunteers and supervised volunteers.

Safer recruitment practice includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic/vocational qualifications, obtaining professional references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and checks with the [Disclosure and Barring Service](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service) (DBS).

In line with statutory changes, underpinned by regulations, the following will apply:

* DBS and barred list checks will be undertaken for all posts that are deemed regulated activity, and for all other posts an enhanced DBS check will be undertaken unless they are supervised roles that are deemed not to meet the definition of regulated activity;
* This organisation is committed to keeping **up-to-date records which are stored individually** detailing the range of checks carried out on our staff;
* All new appointments to our workforce who have lived outside the UK will be subject to additional checks as appropriate;
* Identity checks that must be carried out on all appointments to our workforce before the appointment is made.
* Staff responsible for recruiting and appointing must be suitably qualified.

**Safe Practice**

Our organisation will comply with the available to parents on request and via our website.

This policy is in line with **The Charity Commission’s Strategy for Dealing with Safeguarding Issues in Charities**; [Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People](http://www.safeguardinginschools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Guidance-for-Safer-Working-Practices-2015-final1.pdf) and ensures that information in this guidance regarding conduct is known to all staff, visitors and volunteers who work with Children with Voices.

Safe working practice ensures that **children and young people** are safe and that all staff **and volunteers**:

* Are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation, intentions and actions;
* Work in an open, honest and transparent way;
* Work with other colleagues where possible in situations that could be open to question;
* Discuss and/or take advice from management over any incident which may give rise for concern;
* Record any incidents or decisions made;
* Apply professional standards respectfully in relation to diversity issues;
* Be aware of information-sharing and confidentiality policies;
* Are aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in criminal or disciplinary action being taken against them.

**Positive Handling**

Staff, including volunteers, are empowered to physically restrain children with ‘reasonable force’ only to prevent them from hurting themselves or others, from damaging property, or from causing disorder.

Staff will familiarise themselves with the Department for Education’s guidance [Use of Reasonable Force](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444051/Use_of_reasonable_force_advice_Reviewed_July_2015.pdf) and [Hackney Education's Positive Handling Guidance](https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/extranet/safeguarding-education) follow the **organisation’s** Behaviour Policy.

**Training and Staff Induction**

The Children with Voices Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Trustee with designated responsibility for safeguarding will undertake appropriate safeguarding and child protection training and refresher training at two yearly intervals.

All other staff, and volunteers will undertake appropriate induction training and safeguarding/child protection training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding effectively, which will be updated regularly, including (as a minimum) a yearly update. The organisation will maintain a register of who has undertaken training and when.

All staff (including temporary staff), volunteers, and supervised volunteers are provided with the organisation’s safeguarding policy and informed of the organisation’s safeguarding arrangements on induction. The organisation will maintain a register of who has received this information and when.

**Support, Advice and Guidance for Staff and volunteers**

Staff will be supported by Renisha Dornelly-Greenridge and their deputy. The DSL will be supported by **Michelle Dornelly – CEO.**

The DSL will know how to access the online London Child Protection Procedures, be aware of the CHSCP’s work and policies alongside Hackney Education’s guidance.

If you are not sure whether or not to make a safeguarding referral you can contact the Children and Family Services’ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and request a consultation to discuss your concerns on **020 8356 5500** during office hours and **020 8356 2710** out of hours.

See Appendix 4 – Key Contacts for safeguarding and child protection issues in Hackney.

**Allegations regarding person(s) working in or on behalf of the organisation (including volunteers)**

[Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021) – Part Four: Allegations of abuse made against teachers and other staff)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007260/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2021.pdf)

Where an allegation is made against any person working in, or on behalf of, the organisation that he or she has:

* behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
* possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
* behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may  
  pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
* behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

Whilst we acknowledge such allegations may be false, malicious or misplaced, we also acknowledge they may be based in fact and/or founded. It is, therefore, essential that all allegations are investigated properly, in line with agreed procedures and outcomes are recorded. All staff and volunteers will maintain a culture of vigilance based on the notion that ‘it could happen here’. Staff and volunteers are expected to maintain highly professional behaviours and set appropriate professional boundaries at all times in line with the [Code of Conduct](http://staffroom.hackney.gov.uk/code_of_conduct_policy_booklet.pdf). Staff will be encouraged to use the [Whistle Blowing Policy](http://intranet.hackney.gov.uk/article/2050/Whistleblowing-anti-fraud-and-corruption) if they have concerns regarding the conduct or behaviour of a colleague and they feel that matter has not been addressed appropriately by the organisation.

**Low level concerns - Keeping Children Safe In Education 2021**

As part of our holistic approach to safeguarding, we will ensure that we promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working in or on behalf of the organisation are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Creating a culture in which **all** concerns about adults (including allegations that do not meet the harms threshold (see [Part Four - Keeping Children Safe In Education 2021](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1014057/KCSIE_2021_September.pdf)) are shared responsibly and with the right person, recorded and dealt with appropriately, is critical. We will endeavour to identify concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour early; minimise the risk of abuse; and ensure that adults working in or on behalf of Children with Voices are clear about professional boundaries and act within these boundaries, and in accordance with the ethos and values of the organisation

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**What is a low level concern?**

The term ‘low-level’ concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the threshold set out above. A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a ‘nagging doubt’ - that an adult working in or on behalf of the school or college may have acted in a way that:

* is inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
* does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

Examples of such behaviour could include, but are not limited to:

* being over friendly with children;
* having favourites;
* taking photographs of children on their mobile phone;
* engaging with a child on a one-to-one basis in a secluded area or behind a closed door; or,
* using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

Such behaviour can exist on a wide spectrum, from the inadvertent or thoughtless, or behaviour that may look to be inappropriate, but might not be in specific circumstances, through to that which is ultimately intended to enable abuse.

It is crucial that any such concerns, including those which do not meet the harm threshold, are shared responsibly and with the right person, and recorded and dealt with appropriately. Ensuring they are dealt with effectively should also protect those working in or on behalf of Children with Voices from potential false allegations or misunderstandings

**Initial Action by person receiving or identifying an allegation or concern**

* Treat the matter seriously and keep an open mind;
* Make a written record of the information using the Record Form (Appendix 2) or the organisation’s internal mechanism for reporting concerns, including the time, date and place of incident/s, persons present and what was said and sign and date this;
* Immediately report the matter to the Designated Lead (unless the allegation is against the CEO, or designated person, in which case the Chair of Trustees must be reported to).

**Initial Action by the Designated person**

* Obtain written details of the concern or allegation, but do not investigate or interview child, adult or witnesses;
* Contact the [Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)](http://www.chscb.org.uk/allegations-against-professionals/) within 1 working day and seek their advice on how to proceed;
* Discuss with the LADO next steps using the London Child Protection Procedures Flow Charts Allegations/Concerns Against Staff;
* Inform the Chair of Trustees of the allegation.

**Subsequent Action by the CEO (or designated person)**

* + In consultation with the LADO conduct a disciplinary investigation, if an allegation indicates the need for this;
  + Contribute to the child protection process by attending professional strategy meetings and other meetings as required;
  + Maintain contact with the LADO throughout the process;
  + Ensure clear and comprehensive records regarding the allegation, actions taken and outcome are retained on the staff member’s personnel file;

**Further Information on Safeguarding Issues**

Safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children. It also encompasses issues such as health and safety, bullying, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, security, drugs and substance misuse, gang related activity and promoting positive behaviour. Determining the most appropriate agency to consult with or refer to should be made by referring to the [Children and Young People’s Services Resource Guide for Professionals.](https://www.hackneyservicesforschools.co.uk/system/files?file=extranet/Children%20and%20Young%20Peoples%20Services%20Resource%20Guide.pdf)

**All** staff and volunteers should have an awareness of safeguarding issues that can put children at risk of harm. Behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking and or alcohol misuse, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos can be signs that children are at risk. Other safeguarding issues all staff should be aware of include:

**Bullying**

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived differences. Stopping violence and ensuring immediate physical safety is obviously the organisation’s first priority but emotional bullying can be more damaging than physical.

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, can have a significant effect on a child’s wellbeing and in very rare cases has been a feature in the suicide of some young people.

All incidences of bullying, including cyber-bullying and prejudice-based bullying must be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the anti-bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the the DSL will consider implementing safeguarding procedures.

**Online Safety**

**Concerns around online safety** can be categorised into three areas of risk:

• Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material;

• Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users;

• Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

Children with Voices recognises that its children and young will use mobile phones and computers at some time. They are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education. However, we know that some men, women and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, behaviours, webcam photography or face-to-face meetings. Cyber-bullying by children via emails and texts will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and managed through our anti-bullying procedures.

Chatrooms and social networking sites are the most obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful content and behaviour. Some **children and young people** will undoubtedly ‘chat’ on mobiles or social networking sites at home and the **organisation** will encourage parents to consider measures to keep their children safe when using social media.

The organisation has an Online Safety Policy that is known to all staff, volunteers and children/young people.

**Photography and Images**

To protect children and young people we will:

* Seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published (for e.g. on our website or in newspapers or publications);
* Seek parental consent;
* Use only the child’s first name with an image;
* Ensure childen are appropriately dressed;
* Only use organisation equipment to make images of children (no personal devices are permitted for this purpose);
* Encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

**Children who harm others**

Children with Voices recognises that the harm caused to children by the abusive, exploitative and harmful behaviour of other children can be significant. Children who harm others should be held responsible for their behaviour and the staff and volunteers are alerted to the fact that they are likely to pose a risk to other children in the organisation, home and community.

Where this harm involves sexual abuse, serious physical or serious emotional abuse, the safeguarding procedures set out in this policy will be applied. This organisation recognises that children who harm others are likely to have considerable needs themselves and may have experienced or be experiencing significant harm.

Where a child has caused significant harm to another child, through sexual abuse or serious physical or emotional abuse, the organisation will make separate referrals to Children and Families Service of the victim(s) and perpetrator(s). The organisation will be mindful that these concerns may sit in contexts unknown to Children with Voices that involve extra-familial harms.

Such children and young people are likely to be children in need, and some will, in addition, be suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm, and may themselves be in need of protection. Children and young people who abuse others should be held responsible for their abusive behaviour, while being identified and responded to in a way that meets their needs as well as protecting others.

The London Borough of Hackney has produced [guidance regarding Multi-agency Planning (MAP) Meetings for children and young people who present a risk of demonstrating harmful sexual behaviour](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Hackney-MAP-HSB.pdf).

Our **organisation** will be mindful of the sections in the [London Child Protection Procedures concerning ‘Harming Others’](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/ch_harm_others.html) and work closely with social care, the police and other agencies following a referral.

**Peer on Peer Abuse**

[Peer-on-peer abuse](https://www.farrer.co.uk/news/briefings/peer-on-peer-abuse-toolkit/) is any form of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and coercive control, exercised between children and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate). Peer-on-peer abuse can take various forms, including: serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), relationship abuse, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation, youth and serious youth violence, harmful sexual behaviour, and/or gender-based violence. See below for more detailed information.

Both Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse 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 clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

Child sexual exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Child sexual exploitation is a complex form of abuse and it can be difficult for those working with children to identify and assess. The indicators for child sexual exploitation can sometimes be mistaken for ‘normal adolescent behaviours’. It requires knowledge, skills, professional curiosity and an assessment which analyses the risk factors and personal circumstances of individual children to ensure that the signs and symptoms are interpreted correctly and appropriate support is given. Even where a young person is old enough to legally consent to sexual activity, the law states that consent is only valid where they make a choice and have the freedom and capacity to make that choice. If a child feels they have no other meaningful choice, are under the influence of harmful substances or fearful of what might happen if they don’t comply (all of which are common features in cases of child sexual exploitation) consent cannot legally be given whatever the age of the child.

Child sexual exploitation is never the victim’s fault, even if there is some form of exchange: all children and young people under the age of 18 have a right to be safe and should be protected from harm. CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

One of the key factors found in most cases of child sexual exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange (sexual activity in return for something); for the victim and/or perpetrator or facilitator.

Where it is the victim who is offered, promised or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (such as money, drugs or alcohol) and intangible rewards (such as status, protection or perceived receipt of love or affection). It is critical to remember the unequal power dynamic within which this exchange occurs and to remember that the receipt of something by a child/young person does not make them any less of a victim. It is also important to note that the prevention of something negative can also fulfil the requirement for exchange, for example a child who engages in sexual activity to stop someone carrying out a threat to harm his/her family.

Whilst there can be gifts or treats involved in other forms of sexual abuse (e.g. a father who sexually abuses but also buys the child toys) it is most likely referred to as child sexual exploitation if the ‘exchange’, as the core dynamic at play, results in financial gain for or enhanced status of, the perpetrator. Where the gain is only for the perpetrator/facilitator, there is most likely a financial gain (money, discharge of a debt or free/discounted goods or services) or increased status as a result of the abuse. If sexual gratification, or exercise of power and control, is the only gain for the perpetrator (and there is no gain for the child/young person) this would not normally constitute child sexual exploitation, but should be responded to as a different form of child sexual abuse.

If, as an organisation, we are concerned a child is being sexually exploited we will follow the procedures set out in this document and make reference to the [guidance provided by CHSCP](http://www.chscb.org.uk/child-sexual-exploitation/). This further [Governmental guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf) can be useful when considering cases of CSE.

**Child Criminal Exploitation**

As set out in the [Serious Violence Strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf), published by the Home Office, criminal exploitation is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 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. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Some specific forms of CCE can include children being forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence, or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to.

It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

**County Lines**

As set out in the Serious Violence Strategy, published by the Home Office, County Lines is the term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal line’. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

**Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any sex. They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will likely find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that all victims are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. Organisations should consider the following:

* It is more likely that girls will be the victims of sexual violence and more likely that sexual harassment will be perpetrated by boys. It is important to be aware of the importance of:
* Making clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up;
* Not tolerating or dismissing sexual violence or sexual harassment as “banter”, “part of growing up”, “just having a laugh” or “boys being boys”; and
* Challenging behaviours (which are potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts, vaginas and penises. Dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.
* Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can be especially vulnerable. Disabled and deaf children are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Additional barriers can sometimes exist when recognising abuse in SEND children;
* ‘Upskirting’ has now become a criminal offence and therefore requires a safeguarding response.

When, we as an organisation, consider issues of sexual violence and harassment between children we will consult the [governmental guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719902/Sexual_violence_and_sexual_harassment_between_children_in_schools_and_colleges.pdf) and seek support from our Children and Families Service partners.

**Contextual Safeguarding**

[Contextual Safeguarding](https://contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/about/what-is-contextual-safeguarding) is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of significant harm and risk beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore Children and Families Service practitioners and school staff need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

If, as an organisation, we are concerned a child is being exploited in an extra-familiar context, as previously outlined, we will follow the procedures set out in this document and consult or refer to Children and Families Service.

**The Extra-Familial Risk Panel**

Hackney [Extra Familial Risk Panel (EFRP)](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Extra-Familial-Risk-Panel-Protocol.pdf) coordinates safeguarding interventions in cases where a child, or a group of children are:

● At risk of, or already experiencing harm caused by people outside their family and/or;

● At risk of, or already causing harm to young people outside their family.

Our organisation will respond to issues of risk or harm outside the family home as child protection issues and consult with and/or refer to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) following the same procedures as for any form of harm or abuse.

**Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism**

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs.

Further information on the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery, the support available to victims and how to refer them to the NRM is available in the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance. Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims - GOV.UK [(www.gov.uk)](about:blank)

**Children with special educational needs and disabilities**

Children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities can face additional safeguarding challenges, with [research stating](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/right-safe-disabled-children-abuse-report.pdf) that SEND children can be up to four times more likely to be abused due to additional vulnerabilities. As an organisation we will ensure a culture of vigilance that reflects the fact that additional barriers can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in this group of children. These can include:

* Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child’s disability without further exploration;
* The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
* Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

**Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.

If, as an organisation, we are concerned we will follow the procedures set out in this document and make reference to the [guidance provided by CHSCP.](http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/FGM-strategy21.pdf)

Where a staff member or volunteer discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18, there is a mandatory duty upon that individual to report it to the [police](http://content.met.police.uk/Article/Female-genital-mutiliation/1400009693144/1400009693144).

**FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for our staff to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

**Further information on so-called ‘honour-based’ violence**

So-called ‘honour-based’ violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving “honour” often involves a Draft for consultation 67 wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubt, staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

**Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism**

We as an organisation will fulfil our responsibilities under the [Prevent Duty](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf), it is essential that staff and volunteers are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of an organisation’s wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We aim to build children’s resilience to radicalisation by [promoting fundamental British values](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf) and enabling them to challenge extremist views. The Prevent duty is not intended to stop children and young people debating controversial issues. On the contrary, the organisation will provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments. We will be mindful of the risk of children being exposed to extremist materials via the internet.

If, as an organisation, we are concerned we will follow the procedures set out in this document and make reference to the [guidance provided by CHSCP.](http://www.chscb.org.uk/extremism/)

**Domestic Violence and Abuse**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse, based on the previous cross-government definition, ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be “personally connected” (as defined in section 2 of the 2021 Act).

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age, ethnicity, socio- economic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home. The government will issue statutory guidance to provide further information for those working with domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, including the impact on children.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Experiencing domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Young people can also experience domestic abuse within their own intimate relationships. This form of peer-on-peer abuse is sometimes referred to as ‘teenage relationship abuse’. Depending on the age of the young people, this may not be recognised in law under the statutory definition of ‘domestic abuse’ (if one or both parties are under 16). However, as with any child under 18, where there are concerns about safety or welfare, child safeguarding procedures should be followed and both young victims and young perpetrators should be offered support. The Act’s provisions, including the new definition, will be commenced over the coming months.

As an organisation, if we are concerned about the life lived experience of children who are, or may be, living in a household where domestic violence and abuse are present, we will adhere to our safeguarding procedures and consult with Hackney MASH. To inform our decision making we will consult with the [information provided by Hackney Council](https://hackney.gov.uk/domestic-violence).

**Extended School and Off-Site Arrangements**

When our children and young people attend off-site activities, including day and residential visits and/or other activities, we will check that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place. We will also undertake appropriate and robust risk assessments for the venue, location and activity to be undertaken in accordance with the organisation’s Risk Assessment protocol.

**Appendix 1**

**Cause for Concern Form (Page 1):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of child: | Date of incident: |
| Class and year: | Time of incident: |
| Location of incident: | Date of record: |
| Name of person reporting: | Time of record: |
| Concern/Incident – Describe your concern using clear, straightforward language: | Opinion: How does this fit with what you know about the child? |

**Appendix 1**

**Cause for Concern Form (Page 2) – Body Map**

This body outline can be used to record marks and/or bruises and the date of occurrence or observation and should be kept in the Child Protection File of the child.

