

The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth

Safeguarding Bulletin February 2023

Doing nothing, isn't an option!

This contains essential information you need to know!

Safeguarding Definition:

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Safeguarding children and child protection guidance and legislation applies to all children up to the age of 18.

Please can I emphasise the importance of capturing the Child's Voice and recording it on CPOMS – it is very important that we value and capture the feelings/thoughts/opinions of the child.

There are four main types of abuse:

Physical Abuse

This may involve hurting or injuring a child by hitting, shaking, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.

It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them. Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI). Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child, perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell – this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

There's no excuse for physically abusing a child. It causes serious, and often long-lasting, harm – and in severe cases, death.

Emotional Abuse

Persistent emotional ill treatment of a child. It may involve telling children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development.

Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.

Children who are emotionally abused are often suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. It may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in inappropriate sexual activities.

A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities.

This doesn't have to be physical contact and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse.

They may not even understand that it's wrong. Or they may be afraid to speak out.

That's why we're working to break the silence around child sexual abuse, and give children a voice when they desperately need support.

Neglect

Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, which is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Witnessing domestic abuse is also harmful to children. If you are involved in [domestic abuse](#) (new window) talk to someone.

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse.

A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.

A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm.

They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents.

A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Remember:

Abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events and in most cases multiple issues overlap with one another.

CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

At the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth, we have a zero tolerance approach to Child on Child abuse. Victims of Child on Child Abuse will be taken seriously, kept safe and will never be made to feel that they are creating a problem for reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children and that it can happen both inside and outside of school and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of Child on Child abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports.

All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports at the Federation it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such it is important if staff have **any** concerns regarding Child on Child abuse they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead (or deputy).

It is essential that **all** staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature. Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as “just banter”, “just having a laugh”, “part of growing up” or “boys being boys” can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.

Child on Child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying);
- abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers;
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse);
- sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence);
- sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse;
- causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party;
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and or videos¹³ (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery);
- upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm; and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

If a member of staff has concerns about Child on Child Abuse, they should follow the procedure for reporting concerns either via the CPOMS system or if this is unavailable record their concern on a concern form. Member of staff are expected to report their concerns immediately and follow them up with the DSLs.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE MADE AGAINST OTHER CHILDREN

At The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth, we believe that all children have the right to attend school and learn in a safe environment. Children should be free from harm by adults in the school and other pupils.

Occasionally, allegations may be made against pupils by other pupil(s) in the school, which are of a safeguarding nature.

Safeguarding issues raised in this way may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

If there is a safeguarding concern, one of the DSLs should be informed immediately, and the Lead DSL will decide on the appropriate action(s) the school will follow.

The process for reporting this concern and delivery of subsequent action(s) taken will be consistent with the safeguarding protocol documented within this policy.

Please refer to the Child on Child Abuse policy for further details.

Online Safety

- 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 school;
- 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
- Be aware of harmful online challenges and online hoaxes - this includes advice on preparing for any online challenges and hoaxes, sharing information with parents and carers and where to get help and support.

DASH

What is DASH?

The Domestic Abuse, **Stalking** and **Honour Based Violence** (DASH 2009) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model was implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009, having been accredited by ACPO Council, now known as National Police Chief Council (NPCC).

This was pioneering and a significant step forward in keeping victims safe, turning a reactive 'it's just a domestic' into a proactive 'you must ask' questions approach. This also meant for the first time all police services and a large number of partner agencies across the UK started to use a common checklist for identifying, assessing and managing risk.

'The First Time, Right Time' approach underpins the DASH, as these are some of the most dangerous cases where women and children are more likely to be killed. The DASH Risk Checklist is a tried and tested way to understand risk. DASH is a lifeline to victims. It is based on research about the indicators of high-risk domestic abuse.

Child Sexual Exploitation and SERAF

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse involving children and young people receiving "something" such as accommodation, gifts, drugs, cigarettes, alcohol or affection as a result of them performing sexual activities or having others perform sexual activities on them. It can occur without physical contact, when children are groomed to post sexual images of themselves on the internet or send these images via mobile phones.

Threats, bribes, violence and humiliation can also form part of Child Sexual Exploitation as ways of coercing a child into performing sexual activities

A definition and guide for practitioners can be found here.

Police Actions when CSE is identified

The IOWSCB MET (Missing, Exploited and Trafficked) Sub Group have produced a flowchart showing the actions the Police take when a young person has been identified as either unaccompanied from abroad, missing or there is evidence of exploitation.

Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF)

A SERAF should be completed as soon as concerns regarding CSE (on any level) are identified. It will guide you as to the level of CSE Risk, and the level and type of intervention which should follow.

The IOWSCB has adopted the Barnardo's SERAF and in recognition of the need for some local guidance in use of the form, the IOWSCB has agreed a flow chart and guidance notes for practitioners to assist them in completion of the SERAF.

An operational group, chaired by Hampshire Constabulary, meets monthly to look at completed SERAFs and agree what action can be taken to protect the welfare of these highly vulnerable children. To find out more about this group contact us.

Prevent and Channel

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

WHO DELIVERS PREVENT?

The **Home Office** works with **local authorities**, a wide range of **government departments**, and **community organisations** to deliver the Prevent strategy. **The police** also play a significant role in Prevent, in much the same way as they do when taking a preventative approach to other crimes. The main aim of Prevent is to **stop people from becoming terrorists** or supporting terrorism.

At the heart of Prevent is **safeguarding children and adults** and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

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Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism, but continues to ensure resources and effort are allocated on the basis of threats to our national security.

If you are concerned about someone under the Prevent Agenda, please let the DSL or Deputy DSL know. They will contact Children's Services and refer to the Channel programme.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Sections 36 to 41 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 set out the duty on local authorities and partners of local panels to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism.

This guidance has been issued under sections 36(7) and 38(6) of the act to support panel members and partners of local panels.

The document:

- provides guidance for Channel panels
- provides guidance for panel partners on Channel delivery (that is, those authorities listed in Schedule 7 to the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 who are required to co-operate with Channel panels and the police in carrying out their functions in Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015)
- explains why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and describes signs to look for
- provides guidance on the support that can be provided to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into terrorism

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist activity.

Child Criminal exploitation (CCE):

Child Criminal Exploitation is when children are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes.

The market in illegal drugs is a key activity for gang-involved children and young people. Children and young people are being recruited to travel to areas away from home to sell drugs. In the worst cases this can be a form of child trafficking as young people find themselves in unsafe environments, completely isolated and with no way of contacting anyone for support.

The children involved are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Though perceptions are altering these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity.

Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity.

What is county lines exploitation?

County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'. County lines involves drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons and has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

Forced Marriage:

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or more of the parties is married without his or her consent or against his or her will (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot consent). A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of their parents or a third party (such as a matchmaker) in choosing a spouse.

It is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor

Female Genital Mutilation:

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but where there's no medical reason for this to be done.

It's also known as "female circumcision" or "cutting".

FGM is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15, most commonly before [puberty](#) starts. It is illegal in the UK and is child abuse.

FGM is often performed by traditional circumcisers or cutters who do not have any medical training. However, in some countries it may be done by a medical professional.

Anaesthetics and antiseptics aren't generally used, and FGM is often carried out using knives, scissors, scalpels, pieces of glass or razor blades.

FGM often happens against a girl's will without her consent and girls may have to be forcibly restrained

It's very painful and can seriously harm the health of women and girls. It can also cause long-term problems with sex, childbirth and mental health.

Violence against Women and Girls:

A government strategy to end acts of violence usually aimed at women and girls. Legislation has been passed to make it an offense to:

- Stalk someone
- make someone marry against their will
- use coercive and controlling behaviour

Under Clare's Law women now have a right to know if their partner has a violent past.

New protection orders for domestic violence, sexual violence and female genital mutilation, allow authorities to take protective action before harm occurs.

'Honour' based violence (HBV) is a form of domestic abuse which is perpetrated in the name of so called 'honour'. The honour code which it refers to is set at the discretion of male relatives and women who do not abide by the 'rules' are then punished for bringing shame on the family. Infringements may include a woman having a boyfriend; rejecting a forced marriage; pregnancy outside of marriage; interfaith relationships; seeking divorce, inappropriate dress or make-up and even kissing in a public place.

HBV can exist in any culture or community where males are in position to establish and enforce women's conduct, examples include: Turkish; Kurdish; Afghani; South Asian; African; Middle Eastern; South and Eastern European; Gypsy and the travelling community (this is not an exhaustive list).

Males can also be victims, sometimes as a consequence of a relationship which is deemed to be inappropriate, if they are gay, have a disability or if they have assisted a victim.

This is not a crime which is perpetrated by men only, sometimes female relatives will support, incite or assist. It is also not unusual for younger relatives to be selected to undertake the abuse as a way to protect senior members of the family. Sometimes contract killers and bounty hunters will also be employed.

Private Fostering

Private fostering is an arrangement whereby a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child has a disability) ([S.66 Children Act 1989](#)) is placed for 28 days or more in the care of someone who is not the child's parent(s) or a 'connected person'.

A connected person is defined as a 'relative, friend or other person connected with a child'. The latter is likely to include person(s) who have a pre-existing relationship with the child, for example, a teacher who knows the child in a professional capacity.

Private foster carers can be from the extended family, e.g. a cousin or a great aunt, **but cannot be a relative** as defined under the [Children Act 1989, section 105](#):

'A relative under the Children Act 1989 is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership) or step-parent'.

It is imperative that the local authority are notified if a child is living with someone who is not their parent or a 'connected person' for longer than 28 days. The local authority need to be satisfied that the placement is suitable and the child is safe. To be defined as 'private fostering', the child must be living with that person for longer than 28 days and this should be continuous but can include occasional short breaks. It is the duty of the school to ensure that any known or suspected cases of private fostering are reported to the Local Authority and Children's Services.

What is the relevant legislation for private fostering?

The [Children \(Private Arrangements for Fostering\) Regulations 2005](#) replaced the *Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 1991* and the National Minimum Standards for Private Fostering (NMS) issued under [section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970](#) are key pieces of legislation governing the area of private fostering. The NMS is general guidance and does not have the full force of statute, but should be followed unless there are exceptional local circumstances to justify a variation.

What are the obligations of a private foster carer to notify the Local Authority of the arrangement?

A person who proposes to foster a child must notify the appropriate Local Authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is to begin. The Local Authority must be notified immediately if the arrangement is to begin within six weeks. If the parent or other person with Parental Responsibility is arranging for the child to be privately fostered, or is aware of the situation, they are under an obligation to notify the Local Authority as soon as possible.

If a private carer was not aware of the need to inform the Local Authority they should do so as soon as they become aware of the situation. In order to understand the child and to care for him or her it is advisable for the foster carer to be given as much information as possible about the child and this information should be passed on to the Local Authority when giving notification. This information should include:

- The child's history which can include the child's name, sex, date and place of birth
- Information regarding the child's health
- Eating preferences
- Education
- Religious, cultural or ethnic background
- Hobbies

The person notifying the Local Authority should give them as much information as possible. This information including what has been outlined above should also include:

- The name and current address of the person giving notice, the parent or anyone else with and that of the proposed or current private carer and his/her addresses within the previous five years
- The date on which the intended private fostering arrangement will start or when it started
- Any conviction, disqualification or prohibition imposed on the private foster carer or any other person living or employed at his/her household
- Any court orders relating to the child.

The private foster must also notify the appropriate Local Authority of any change of their circumstances regarding the above. The Local Authority should also be notified if the child has a new private foster carer.

ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN

The Federation takes their responsibility for the safeguarding and promote the welfare of any children who are unaccompanied Asylum seeking Children and Asylum Seeking Families. We recognise that they will require a particular type of care and consideration. The Safeguarding Strategy for Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656425/UASC_Safeguarding_Strategy_2017.pdf

Grooming

Since the NSPCC successfully campaigned for a new law to make it illegal for adults to send sexual messages to children, over 5,000 online grooming offences have been recorded by police forces in England and Wales*. Anyone can groom another person - it doesn't matter whether they're the same age or much older, male or female. In many cases, children and young people know the person who is grooming them. It might be a neighbour, a coach or a family friend. And grooming doesn't just take place online. Children and young people may speak to people online who they then meet in person. Or they might be groomed by someone they know and stay in touch through text messages and social media. Any child or young person can be groomed, regardless of their background or family circumstances.

Grooming is by its very nature secretive. People who groom children and young people build up their trust over time and, often, they may groom the family as well. In so many cases, grooming is discovered and not disclosed. Children and young people may not speak out because they feel scared, embarrassed or ashamed. They may not even realise that what's happening to them is wrong.

Grooming is often discovered because someone else spots or hears something worrying - whether that's a friend, teacher, parent or other family member. So, if grooming is often discovered rather than disclosed, how can we empower teachers and other school staff to make sure they can recognise the signs and take action?

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2019/may/grooming-often-discovered-not-disclosed-how-can-teachers-spot-signs/>

Supporting children who have a parent in prison

No child should be punished because their parent is in prison

We know that children who have a parent in prison can feel isolated and ashamed - and most feel unable to talk about it because they're scared of being bullied.

They're also more likely than other children to have mental health problems and to get in trouble with the law themselves as they grow up.

These children are often left in the shadows, their needs forgotten, and this can have devastating impacts. Despite their situation, they are locked out of the support they need to give them a better chance in life. In England and Wales the [National Information Centre on Children of Offenders \(NICCO\)](#) provides an information and support service for all professionals who come into contact with the children and families of offenders, as well as providing information for academics and those responsible for strategic development and commissioning family services.

NICCO helps to develop, support and enhance the relationship between offenders and their families by supplying information and guidance to the professionals who are working with them both.

The centre is delivered by Barnardo's in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service.

If you need any more information about the site, or wish to make a submission, please contact stuart.harrington@barnardos.org.uk

Early Help

Early Help: The best way to support a family, to avoid a situation getting out of control is through Early Help.

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a way of working with children and their families. It involves listening to you and your child, to find out your child's needs, and what is working well in their life. An action plan will be agreed with you and your child and is put in place to make sure your child gets the right sort of help. The EHA is voluntary, you and your child can choose whether to be involved or not.

Early Help processes are monitored closely by the lead professional. If there remain concerns about a family and their engagement with Early Help, then the situation can be escalated to Child in Need or Child Protection level. Likewise, if there is a family who have made progress at CP or CIN level then their situation can be deescalated to Early Help level.

The Federation has embedded the Family Approach Protocol and online toolkit into practice (on [IOWSCP website](#)) and staff are aware of how to access it and use it for information and guidance.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

KEY CONTACTS

School Designated Leaders for Safeguarding & Child Protection(DSLs):

Elizabeth Grainger - Headteacher - headteacher@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk

Georgina Westhorpe - Deputy Headteacher - g.westhorpe@fosay.co.uk

Deputy DSLs

[Jennie Thompson – School Leader at Shalfleet - j.thompson@fosay.co.uk](mailto:j.thompson@fosay.co.uk)

[Stuart Cook – School Leader at Yarmouth - s.cook@fosay.co.uk](mailto:s.cook@fosay.co.uk)

[Heather Eggleton – Inclusion Assistant - h.eggleton@fosay.co.uk](mailto:h.eggleton@fosay.co.uk)

Staff can be contacted on:

Shalfleet – (01983) 760269 Yarmouth – (01983) 760345

Named Governor for Safeguarding & Child Protection:

Caroline Weeks (Inclusion Portfolio) - cweeksyarmouthceprimary.co.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Telephone - 01962 876364 and the Email address - child.protection@hants.gov.uk.

Isle of Wight Safeguarding Partnerships website:

www.iowscp.org.uk

www.4lscp.org.uk

Contact numbers: If you are worried about a child, or wish to escalate your concern:

Hants Direct Professionals Line: 0300 300 0901 OR 0300 300 0117 (24 hours).

If you think a child may be in immediate danger of harm call 999.

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (24 hours) or text 88858.

NSPCC Sexual Abuse in Educational Settings Designated Helpline: 0800 136 663

Interagency Referral Form Link:

https://forms.hants.gov.uk/en/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-7e6115a7-b0ba-484d-991f-084c1248ac72/AF-Stage-52cf8e73-0daf-47d4-bb55-0fdad856d3e6/definition.json&redirectlink=/en&cancelRedirectLink=/en