

# **Safeguarding Policy**

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### 1) Aim

The Big Life group believes that it is always unacceptable for children and adults to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and adults, by a commitment to a practice which protects them. The aim of this policy is to ensure that the Big Life group safeguard the welfare of Children and Adults by:

- Providing a safe environment for children and adults
- Indicating that abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon
- Identifying children or adults who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm
- Stopping abuse and Think wherever possible
- Ensuring that the safety and best interests of a child or adult always comes first
- Clearly outlining risk factors associated with abuse, enabling individuals to identify where abuse is happening
- Minimising the risk of unsuitable people working with children or vulnerable adults
- Raising awareness about what abuse is, how to stay safe and how to raise a concern about the welfare, safety or wellbeing of a child or adult.
- Promoting safe practice and challenging poor and unsafe practice
- Working in partnership with statutory agencies, following local procedures to safeguard vulnerable adults and children.
- Providing a clear framework for action wherever abuse is suspected, setting out how an investigation should be undertaken and the responsibilities of key individuals involved

#### 2) Scope of this policy

This policy applies to all Big Life staff, volunteers any celebrities, funders or donors that work with the group and whose work brings them into contact with Children and / or Adults that may be at risk of abuse or neglect. It sets out The Big Life group's procedures for safeguarding which is supplemented by The Big Life Group policies and frameworks and procedures from each Local Authority safeguarding partnerships.

## 3) Safeguarding statement

We all have a duty to ensure that the services we deliver keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe. The Big Life group has adopted a **Safeguarding Statement** will be displayed in all settings. See (Appendix 1)

### 4) **Definitions**

<u>Child</u>; A child is anyone from pre-birth up to 18 years whatever their circumstances (including independent living, in further education, in hospital, in custody, in the armed forces). We also include young people aged up to 25 who continue to access services provided by the children's workforce e.g. care leavers, those with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, and those young people subject to transitional care packages e.g. young people with disabilities. The term 'child' is used throughout this document to refer to both children and young people.

**Parent;** The term 'parent' is used throughout this document to refer to parents and carers, i.e. birth parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, residential care staff, legal guardians and others acting in a parenting role.

<u>Child Protection</u>; Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare. It is activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

<u>Significant Harm</u>: There are no absolute criteria on what constitutes significant harm. Consideration of the severity of ill-treatment may include the degree and extent of physical or emotional harm, the duration and frequency of abuse and neglect and the extent of premeditation. Sometimes a single traumatic event may constitute significant harm e.g. violent

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assault, suffocation and poisoning. Significant harm can also be a compilation of significant events both acute and long standing, which interrupt, change or damage the child's physical and psychological development. What constitutes significant harm can only be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Decisions about significant harm are complex and should be informed by a careful assessment of the child's circumstances, including discussions between the statutory agencies and the child and family where appropriate.

<u>Child in Need</u>; Those whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health and development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services by the local authority (S17 (10) of the Children Act 1989), plus children who are disabled. Critical factors in deciding whether a child is in need are:

- What will happen to a child's health and development without services being provided
- The likely effect the services will have on the child's standard of health and development.

**Private Fostering**: Private fostering is when a child or young person (aged under 16, or under 18 if disabled) stays with (or there is intention to stay with) someone other than a parent or close relative for a period of 28 days or more. The person could be extended family (e.g. a cousin or great aunt), a family friend or another non-relative. Close relatives (where private fostering does not apply) are defined as:

- Grandparents
- Siblings
- Uncles / aunts (full blood / half blood or by marriage)
- · Step parents.

Private foster carers are required to inform the local authority of the arrangement in advance and again when the arrangement begins.

## Looked after children

A child who is looked after by a local authority, subject to a care order and voluntarily accommodated by the local authority.

<u>Vulnerable adult</u>; Whilst there is no formal definition of vulnerability within health or social care, some people receiving health care may be at greater risk from harm than others, sometimes as a complication of their presenting condition and their individual circumstances. The risks that increase a person's vulnerability should be appropriately assessed and identified by the health care professional/VCFS/Care Home provider at the first contact and continue throughout the care pathway.

Under Section 59 Supporting Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 a person ages 18 years or over is also defined as a vulnerable adult where they are 'receiving any form of health care' and 'who needs to be able to trust the people caring for them, supporting them and/or providing them with services'.

## Adult at Risk

The Care Act 2014, listed below defines the Safeguarding duties apply to an adult aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

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For the purpose of this policy the term Adult at Risk is used interchangeably with vulnerable adult.

#### Prevent

The Prevent Strategy addresses all forms of terrorism including extreme right wing ideologies and terrorism threats posed to our national security. The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and operates in the pre-criminal space before any criminal activity has taken place.

#### Radicalisation

Refers to the process by which people come to support, and in some cases to participate in terrorism.

#### **Violent Extremism**

As defined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as the demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- o Foment, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Foment other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts:
- o Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

## What Can put people at risk?

There is no single profile of a terrorist or violent extremist. There are many factors that can make people more vulnerable, including:

- Substance or alcohol abuse
- Peer pressure or influence from older people or the internet
- Bullying
- Crime and anti social behaviour
- Race/Hate crime
- Mental health issues
- Low or poor self esteem or identity issues
- Grievance or personal loss
- Migration

# 5) <u>Legislative Framework</u>

All professionals working with children should be familiar with the core standards set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, July 2018), which can be downloaded at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/a/file/722305/Working Together to Safeguard Children - Guide.pdf

Schools also need to refer to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). This can be downloaded at: Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The Childrens Act, <u>Children Act 1989 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>, is an act of parliament allocating duties to responsible agencies, authorities, parents and carers to ensure that children are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted.

Early years providers should be familiar with and adhere to the relevant legislation, specifically the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which can be downloaded at:

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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The main legislative framework covering safeguarding adults is The Care Act 2014. This outlines what care and support can be entitled to for adults in England, including the key principles for supporting adults who have been or are at risk of abuse or neglect and making local authorities accountable for investigating concerns of abuse or neglect. It sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system should work together to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets

#### Mental capacity Act 2005

Professionals and other staff have a responsibility to ensure they understand and always work in line with the MCA. Building on the MCA principles practitioners should assume a person undergoing therapy is able to assess and understand what is in their best interests regarding outcomes, goals and wellbeing. This is relevant in relation to consent.

If you have any reason to be concerned about a person's ability to make decisions on their own behalf, you should consult the Big Life Lead for Deprivation of Liberty and Mental Capacity. The 5 principles of the Mental Capacity Act are:

- 1. Every adult has the right to make his or her own decisions and must be assumed to have capacity to do so unless it is proved otherwise. This means that it must not be assumed someone cannot make a decision for themselves just because they have a particular medical condition or disability, or because they lack capacity in other areas.
- 2. People must be supported as much as possible to make their own decisions before anyone concludes that they cannot do so. This means that every effort should be made to encourage and support the person to make the decision for himself/herself. If a lack of capacity is established, it is still important that the person is involved as far as possible in making decisions.
- 3. People have the right to make what others might regard as unwise or eccentric decisions. Everyone has their own values, beliefs and preferences which may not be the same as those of other people. People cannot be treated as lacking capacity for that reason.
- 4. Anything done for or on behalf of a person who lacks mental capacity must be done in their best interests.
- 5. Anything done for, or on behalf of, people without capacity should be the least restrictive of their basic rights and freedoms. This means that when anything is done to, or for, a person who lacks capacity the option that is in their best interests and which interferes the least with their rights and freedom of action must be chosen.

#### **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)**

Big Life does not deliver services to adults in care homes or hospitals, however there may be occasions where adults who access our services are resident in a supported housing scheme, post 18 residential college or shared lives service. If employees suspect that an adult may be subject to a deprivation of liberty, they should be familiar with the DoLS criteria.

This states that deprivation of liberty:

- Should be avoided wherever possible.
- Should only be authorised incases where it is in the relevant persons best interest and the only way to keep them safe.
- Should be for as short a time as possible, and
- Should be only for a particular treatment plan or course of action.

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If employees are concerned an adult is subject to deprivation, they should cointact the group Safeguarding Leads.

#### 6) Principles

There are a number of key principles underpinning the work we carry out with children, young people, adults, parents and caregivers.

## 6.1) Children and Young People

In Big Life we are guided by the principles set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children* **2018**, which describes what children have said they want from safeguarding systems:

- Vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them
- Understanding and action: to understand what is happening, be heard and understood, and have that understanding acted upon
- Stability: to be able to develop an on-going stable relationship of trust with those helping them
- Respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not
- Information and engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans.
- Explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and given reasons when their views have not met with a positive response
- Support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family
- Advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views.

Children should be made aware that it is their right to be safe from abuse. They should be given clear information on where to go for help if they need it.

This child centred approach is in keeping with Big Life's ethos of putting the service user at the heart of everything we do. This helps us to ensure safeguarding in our day-to-day practice.

# 6.2) Adults

The Big Life Group are guided by the principles set out in *The Care Act 2014* and aim to work within the following principles when developing and implementing service for adults.

## Empowerment

We give individuals the right information about how to recognise abuse and what they can do to keep themselves safe. We give them clear and simple information about how to report abuse and crime and what support we can give. We consult them before we take any action. Where someone lacks capacity to make a decision, we always act in his or her best interests.

## Protection

We have effective ways of assessing and managing risk. Our complaints and reporting arrangements for abuse and suspected criminal offences work well. People understand how we work and how to make contact with the right people in our organisation. We take responsibility for dealing with any information we have and ensuring the information is provided to the right people.

## • Prevention

We help our community to identify and report signs of abuse and suspected criminal offences. We train staff how to recognise signs and take action to prevent abuse occurring. In all our work, we consider how to make communities safer. Working with abuse demands

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a high level of skill and can be very stressful. Training and support for workers accused of or investigating potential abuse situations are a high priority

#### Proportionality

We discuss with the individual and where appropriate, with partner agencies what to do where there is risk of significant harm **before** we take a decision. Risk is an element of many situations and should be part of any wider assessment.

#### Partnership

We are committed to sharing information locally. We have multi-agency partnership arrangements in place and staff understand how to use these. We foster a "one" team approach that places the welfare of individuals before the "needs" of the system, in line with HM information sharing guidance, <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice</a>.

#### Accountability

The roles of all people are clear, together with the lines of accountability. Staff understand what is expected of them and others involved. Vulnerable people have the right to expect that staff working with them should have the appropriate level of skill. This is particularly important in relation to extremely sensitive issues, such as suspected or alleged abuse. Staff working with vulnerable adults will be trained to recognise signs of abuse, and to recognise disclosure. Staff involved in, or leading investigations, will receive specialist training.

# 7) Roles and Responsibilities

**The Board and Executive Team** are responsible to ensure that policies to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults are in place and the Big Life group staff operate according to them. They shall ensure that there is adequate training of staff and volunteers. They shall ensure compliance with legislative requirements regarding reporting and sharing information. (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice)

The Executive Team will appoint a Director with responsibility for overseeing and providing leadership on Safeguarding children and young people, Adults at Risk and an understanding of the Mental Capacity Act.

The **Risk & Quality Committee** is a sub-committee of the Group Board and is responsible for overseeing the risk management system and for assuring the Board that services are delivered safely and to a high standard.

The **Children and Young Persons** and **Adult Safeguarding Leads** are responsible for the oversight of the operation of this Policy; ensuring audits of systems and processes; keeping the group up to date with changes in best practice and legislation; and providing advice and guidance to staff on relevant Safeguarding issues. These leads are also Directors within the group and report on Safeguarding to the R&QC.

**Local Designated Safeguarding Leads** are identified to each service and are named in the local version of the reporting concerns flowchart (Appendix 2). They are responsible for providing information about Local Safeguarding partnerships/adult care procedures and contacts; ensuring all safeguarding concerns are reported and acted on; and liaising with the relevant BLG Safeguarding Lead (either children and young people or adults depending on the issue). Local DSLs report into service managers and where the service manager is also the DSL they will report into the service Director.

All **staff and volunteers** are responsible for keeping children, young people and adults at risk safe. They must:

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- Report to their line manager any suspicion of abuse by fellow staff or clients
- Report to the police, social services or another agency if abuse is suspected or known to be taking place
- Give accurate information to the best of their ability, to any person involved in the investigation of abuse
- Pass on any information which may affect the outcome of the investigation
- Take reasonable measures to protect evidence in the event of a police investigation

**Members of public and service users** will be made aware of this Safeguarding Policy and will be supported to report any concerns about the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Full role descriptions are contained in (Appendix 3)

#### 8) Safe working practice

Big Life has a range of frameworks in place to support staff to achieve this. These include:

- Health and Safety Framework
- Risk Management Framework
- Children and Young People and Adults at Risk Safeguarding Framework
- · Information Governance Framework
- Quality Assurance Framework

#### a) Risk management and audit

The Big Life group's Health and Safety Policy and Risk Management Framework ensure all our work is thoroughly risk assessed and carried out in a safe manner. The Annual Section 11 audit and Section 175 for School's ensures that we carry out a full audit of risk and compliance with standards on an annual basis on a group and service basis. All reporting on health and safety, risk management and safeguarding feeds into the Risk & Quality Committee for scrutiny.

## b) Recruitment, Induction, Training, Supervision, Safer recruitment

Safe recruitment is ensured through the rigorous application of the following policies and procedures:

- Recruitment and selection policy
- · Disclosure policy including Employment of ex-offenders
- Exit/leavers policy

### **Induction**

All Big Life staff and volunteers receive a mandatory induction, in accordance with our Induction Policy. The mandatory induction covers group policies and procedures including this Safeguarding Policy, staff conduct and role of the DSL/DSO. The mandatory induction also includes local information specific to the service, including local variations to safeguarding procedures, such as the reporting concerns flowchart.

#### **Training**

All staff and volunteers attend an induction within the group that raises awareness of safeguarding policies and practice throughout the organisation. All staff and volunteers also have access to a range of online safeguarding training, through the Learn Upon platform that is relevant to their role. Please refer to (Appendix 4) or speak to the safeguarding lead for the group for further advice on training required.

## **Supervision**

All staff receive regular supervision in accordance with our Supervision Policy. The frequency of supervision is determined by the role: for staff with extensive contact with children or vulnerable adults it will be at least every 4-6 weeks. Safeguarding is a mandatory agenda item in all supervision sessions. This provides an opportunity to raise concerns and identify solutions

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to issues arising, although staff should be clear that they can and should speak to their line manager about safeguarding issues at any time and should not wait for a supervision session to do so. The supervision session also provides an opportunity to reflect on safeguarding practice and identify ways to improve individual performance in this area.

# c) Safeguarding in Practice

#### **Shared Responsibility**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is everyone's business. If anyone suspects a child is being abused or at risk of being abused, then they have a legal duty to report it. Detailed procedures for reporting abuse or concerns are set out in a flowchart within this document and supported by local flowcharts which include local variations to procedures and local contact details. These details are displayed within each service staff office space and held on the Group's STARS database.

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead Meetings**

DSL meetings will provide a platform for continued learning and development. The meetings will take place each quarter and will review the previous quarter's concerns and incidents, themes and trend. This will include sharing scenarios with teams to review and discuss the best course of action. The meeting will also update on any legislation or policy change, review of audits and provide a consistent approach to safeguarding across the group.

## **Curriculum (Schools)**

Children are taught about all aspects of safeguarding through the PHSE curriculum at an ageappropriate level.

#### e-Safety

Information technology is an essential part of all our lives: staff, volunteers and service users. The technology is of great benefit to us all, however, if misused, children, young people and vulnerable adults can be actually or potentially harmed. We have clear guidance for appropriate use of digital technology: for information please refer to the IT, email, social networking policy.

#### **Informing Parents**

Parents will normally be informed if a concern is raised about their child. However, if the safety of the child or any other party would be compromised by informing the parents (for example if they are suspected of being the abuser or being involved or complicit in the abuse), parents will not be informed.

# Case Management & Record Keeping

We keep and maintain appropriate information on children, young people and adults who engage in our services. We keep copies of all referrals to Children and Families Services, the Early Help Hub and any other agencies related to safeguarding children. All safeguarding records are kept securely.

## Integrated Working/Multi-agency Working

Agencies and professionals need to work together to provide a seamless and comprehensive service to children and young people. Detailed guidelines for sharing information are contained within this policy and in line with information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners, (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice). These are supported by local flowcharts which include local variations to procedures and local contact details.

Big Life staff have a duty to participate in multi-agency processes e.g. case conferences/Child in Need (CIN) Early Help Assessments (EHAs) as required. This duty applies regardless of whether or not a Big Life member of staff is the lead for the case.

Early Help thresholds are detailed in Appendix 9

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#### **Sharing information**

Sharing information is an essential part of effective safeguarding practice. It allows multiple staff and / or agencies to build a complete picture of a situation where one individual or agency would be unable to do so. Often it is only when information from a number of sources is shared that it becomes clear that a child or adult is suffering or at risk of suffering harm. This then enables early intervention and prevention work to be carried out.

Confidentiality and consent are key issues to be considered when sharing information. Confidential information is information, which is personal, sensitive, not already lawfully in the public domain, and shared in confidence or the reasonable expectation of confidence. Confidential information may be shared with the consent of the person who provided it or to whom it relates.

Confidential information may also be shared without consent under the following circumstances:

- If there is evidence or reasonable cause to believe that an adult is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm, or of causing significant harm to themselves or others.
- To prevent significant harm to children.

For further information, refer to the Big Life Group Information Governance Framework and Information Governance Lead.

## **Mobile Phones and Cameras**

Big Life recognises that staff, volunteers, and visitors may wish to have their personal mobile phones with them for use in case of emergency. However, in recognition of the potential for personal mobile phones and cameras to be used inappropriately and breach safeguarding, personal mobile phones are not to be used during working hours by staff working within children's services as we expect them to be completely attentive during their hours of working. The only exception for this would be where the employee is required to have a phone or smart watch/device with them for medical requirements. There is guidance on the use of personal mobile phones within the mobile phone policy.

### ICT facilities

To safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment to learn, schools reserves the right to filter and monitor the use of its ICT facilities and network. This includes, but is not limited to, the filtering and monitoring of:

- Internet sites visited
- Bandwidth usage
- Email accounts
- Telephone calls
- User activity/access logs
- Any other electronic communications including Class Dojo

Any personal electronic devices that are connected to the school network will also be routed through the school firewall, as such, any attempt to access sites that are forbidden will be included in the instant notification report (INR). Any names or devices appearing on the report will be investigated and upon investigation could lead to disciplinary action.

Only authorised ICT personnel may filter, inspect, monitor, intercept, assess, record and disclose the above, to the extent permitted by law.

The effectiveness of any filtering and monitoring will be regularly reviewed.

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Where appropriate, authorised personnel may raise concerns about monitored activity with the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and ICT manager, as appropriate.

The school monitors ICT use in order to:

- Obtain information related to school business
- Investigate compliance with school policies, procedures and standards
- Ensure effective school and ICT operation
- Conduct training or quality control exercises
- · Prevent or detect crime
- Comply with a subject access request, Freedom of Information Act request, or any other legal obligation

Further information is contained in schools ICT and acceptable use policy.

## 1. Categories of Abuse

#### Children and Young people

Child abuse is maltreatment of a child. Someone may abuse a child either by directly inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Child abuse occurs in family, institutional and community settings. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or by another child or children. The majority of abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the child, including parents, other relatives and families' friends. Abuse by strangers is much less common. For children's safeguarding, the definition of abuse are taken from <a href="Working Together to Safeguard Children">Working Together to Safeguard Children</a> (HM Government, 2015).

Recognising abuse is not straightforward and it is not your responsibility to decide whether or not a child has been or is at risk of being abused. However, you do have a responsibility to act on concerns, to enable appropriate investigations to take place and actions to be taken to protect children. If in any doubt you should always seek advice from your line manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

The four main types of abuse are listed below. Please refer to (Appendix 7) for a more detailed description of these categories, including a description of further types of abuse.

Physical abuse Emotional abuse Sexual abuse Neglect

## Children Who May be Particularly Vulnerable

Some children may be at increased risk of harm or abuse due to a range of factors such as prejudice and discrimination, social isolation or exclusion, communication difficulties, or reluctance on the part of some adults to acknowledge that abuse happens. All staff must therefore give consideration and attention to children who:

- Have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)
- Are looked after by the local authority
- Live in a known domestic abuse situation
- Are affected by parental substance misuse
- Have parents with learning difficulties or disabilities
- Have parents with mental health issues

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- Are asylum seekers
- Live away from home, including in local authority, foster care or private fostering arrangements
- Have chaotic home situations or a transient lifestyle
- Are vulnerable to discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, or sexuality
- Have English as an additional language
- Children involved in gangs
- Children self harming
- · Children who are carrying out offending behaviour.
- Are approaching their 18th birthday and the transition from child to adult support services (particularly children with SEND and care leavers)
- May otherwise be considered to be particularly vulnerable.

Adult services in particular must always be mindful of the potential impact on children of the problems they support adults to address, particularly if those children are not seen by the service.

Special consideration includes providing safeguarding information, resources and support in community languages and other accessible formats.

#### b) Vulnerable adults (Adults at Risk)

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances. Abuse can be something that is done to a person or omitted from being done. Abuse may consist of single or repeated acts and can be carried out by anyone, in any setting. It may result in significant harm to or exploitation of, the individual. Repeated instances of poor care may be an indication of more serious problems and of what we now describe as organisational abuse. In order to see these patterns it is important that information is recorded and appropriately shared. Professionals should work with the adult at risk to establish what being safe means to them.

There are 10 main categories of abuse taken from the Care Act 2014. Please refer to (Appendix 7) for a more detailed description of these and other categories, signs and indicators

Physical abuse
Domestic violence
Sexual abuse
Psychological abuse
Financial or material abuse

Modern slavery
Discriminatory abuse
Organisational abuse
Neglect and acts of omission
Self-neglect

## 2. Procedure for Raising Concerns and Reporting

If a person witnesses abuse taking place:

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#### Initial action to be taken:

- Immediately challenge the person who is abusing the individual, even though this may be difficult to do, and try to persuade him or her to stop whilst ensuring that personal safety is not compromised.
- Report the incident to a senior manager straight away.

If the immediate risk to the individual has passed, the person witnessing the abuse should:

- Write down all the relevant facts
- Consider using the Complaints or Grievance procedure if relevant
- Consider the most appropriate senior manager to approach and contact them
- Take advice from the safeguarding lead
- Carry out a risk assessment
- · Maintain confidentiality without compromising the need to report

#### Children and young people

If children make a disclosure of abuse, you should;

- Stay calm and try not to show shock
- Listen carefully rather than question directly
- Be sympathetic
- Be aware of the possibility that medical evidence might be needed
- Tell the child that you are treating this information seriously
- Assure them that what has happened is not their fault
- Make sure they are not at immediate risk of further abuse if they are, then consider informing the emergency services
- Make a record of the disclosure on Big Life People, or record on CPOMS for schools.

## If a child makes a disclosure to you, you **should not**:

- Press the child for more details
- Stop someone who is freely recalling significant events they may not tell you again
- Promise to keep secrets you should explain that the information will only be shared with those who need to know
- Make promises you cannot keep (e.g. 'this will not happen to you again')
- Contact the alleged abuser
- Be judgemental (e.g. asking why they did not run away)
- Pass on information to anyone who does not need to know.

Remember that where there are any concerns that a child may have been and / or may be at risk of abuse, the child's needs must always come first and the priority must always be to safeguard the child.

#### Response to a disclosure of historical abuse

Allegations of historical child abuse by an adult should be responded to immediately as there is a significant likelihood that a person who abused a child(ren) in the past may have continued and may still be doing do and criminal prosecution remains a possibility.

As soon as it becomes apparent that an adult is disclosing abuse, you must explain that relevant information may have to be shared with social Children's Social Services and / or the police if there is a current risk to safeguard children.

Employees must take great care to record;

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- What is said by the adult, recording the disclosure using the persons words as this
  can be used in evidence in the future.
- What response was given by the employee, and
- Discuss with the individual the next steps/available options.
- Dates, times, venue, record of others present, as well as their comments, must be recorded and kept.

It is important to ascertain as a matter of urgency whether the alleged abuser still has contact with children. If so, you must follow the statutory reporting procedures to keep others safe, recording any known whereabouts of the alleged abuser, whether they have contact with or live with children and any known details of the children including their name, age, address. If the perpetrator works with children the employee should try and establish details of their employment, role, employer, and address.

These details, if known, must be reported to social services and the police immediately. If there is no direct risk to children, as far as can be determined, and the adult wants to report the abuse, they should be advised that the police will want accurate information including a witness statement and access to disclosure records.

It is critical to handle disclosures as sensitively as possible, and to consider the wishes and needs of the adult as much as possible. This 'evidence of first complaint' is an important evidential tool for sex abuse cases. You should, where possible, obtain the adults explicit consent to share information, making them aware of our duty to refer without consent if a child was still at risk of abuse.

In all cases, you must make a note on the case file explaining how you decided which option was appropriate, including any advice you sought, and what happened as a consequence. If in doubt, contact your Safeguarding Lead.

#### Adults

## If a manager or member of staff receives an accusation of abuse:

- Support and reassure the person making the accusation, recording what is said and/or observed, but avoiding asking leading questions
- Carry out a risk assessment and ensure the safety of the individual and if in immediate danger, contact the relevant emergency services
- Log the nature of the alleged abuse, any information given or witnessed, actions taken, who was present at the time, dates and times of incidents on Big Life People Database.
- Consider any other agencies who may need to be informed i.e. agencies also working with the people involved, statutory agencies
- Ensure all discussions and decisions are recorded
- Report immediately to your local DSL
- Maintain confidentiality without compromising the need to report

#### If a senior manager receives a report of an accusation of abuse they should:

- Review what has been done so far, including any associated risk assessments
- Consider if there are any immediate safety/protection issues
- Consider if the police/social services need to be involved at this stage

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- Examples of when to make contact with the police if any physical or sexual abuse has taken place or on theft of personal possessions. Social Services would be informed if the adult is known to have a designated social worker of accusation of any abuse. Any incident or allegation involving harm to a child must be reported immediately to social services.
- Consider if there is a need to share information if so, who with the alleged abused person, the alleged abuser.
- All allegations of abuse should be escalated to the relevant statutory agencies.
- Consider how vulnerable adults/the alleged perpetrator/other staff and concerned individuals are going to be involved. Consider if they need support
- If the allegation is against a member of staff/volunteer consult with the HR manager.
- Consider contact with other agencies, ensuring that the individual alleged to be responsible for the abuse are not contacted at this point
- Consider if there is a need to carry out cross checks with other agencies and if there is a need for joint investigation. Has there been any other allegations of abuse from this individual or against the alleged perpetrator in the past?
- · Maintain confidentiality whilst not compromising on the need to report

#### 10.1) Big Life Group Internal Reporting Procedure for Children and Adults

The procedure you should follow if you have a concern and either need advice on whether to share information, or have decided to share information is:

**Stage 1:** Raise your concerns with your local named Designated Safeguarding Lead - <u>If they are not available:</u>

**Stage 2:** Contact The Big Life Group's designated Safeguarding Children Lead - *If they are not available:* 

Stage 3: Contact Big Life Executive Director

Name and contact details of your local DSL, The Group's Safeguarding Lead and Big Life Children Executive Director are clearly displayed within your service area.

When reporting it is essential that you record the incident/concern on Big Life People database or on CPOMS for schools

The completion of these forms and or database ensures that all safeguarding concerns/incidents across the group are monitored. The Clinical and Service Governance Board reviews these on a termly basis to ensure that lessons are learned and acted on in a timely manner.

## 10.2) External Reporting Procedures

As already described, each service holds local versions of the reporting concerns flowchart, containing local variations to procedures (relating to LSCB and LASB procedures) and local Children's Services and adult services contact details.

A step by step flowchart detailing the procedure to raise a concern about the welfare of a child or an adult at risk is available in (Appendix 6 (a) – Adults), (Appendix 6 (b) Children & Young People), (Appendix 6 (c) – Big Life Schools). Each service holds a local copy of this flowchart including local contact details and Safeguarding children partnership or Adult care procedures.

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If you have a concern about terrorism or violent extremism you should discuss with your DSL immediately who will discuss escalation by calling 101 and quoting channel or contacting the Anti terrorism hotline on 0800789321. If it is an emergency you should call 999.

In some instances, there may be concerns that an adult who is identified as having capacity (or where there is nothing to suspect they lack of capacity) still poses a serious risk to themselves and or refuses to engage with health and social services.

We are not expected to assess capacity unless specifically trained to do so. If you have these concerns local authorities will have a process for arranging a capacity assessment and convening a multi-agency risk management meeting. We all have a duty to engage with this process and we can request a meeting is convened to review the needs of the individual. Please contact your local social work team to discuss how a meeting can be convened.

## 11. Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers

If an allegation is made against a member of staff or a volunteer, please refer to the Managing Allegations against staff and volunteer policy. This policy also sets out how we deal with low level concerns, following KCSiE Section 4.

## 12. Allegations of abuse made against other pupils, peer on peer abuse

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse will never be tolerated or passed off as "banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up".

We also recognise the gendered nature of peer-on-peer abuse. However, all peer-on-peer abuse is unacceptable and will be taken seriously.

Most cases of pupils hurting other pupils will be dealt with under our school's positive relationships (behaviour) policy, unless behaviour

- Is serious, and potentially a criminal offence
- Could put pupils in the school at risk
- Is violent
- Involves pupils being forced to use drugs or alcohol
- Involves sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, such as indecent
  exposure, sexual assault, upskirting or sexually inappropriate pictures or videos
  (including sexting) refer to appendix 7 for further examples. If a pupil makes an
  allegation of abuse against another pupil employees must follow the reporting
  procedure detailed above, escalating to a DSL immediately who will liaise with
  external reporting agencies.

We will minimise the risk of peer-on-peer or child on child abuse by:

- Challenging any form of derogatory or sexualised language or behaviour, including requesting or sending sexual images
- Being vigilant to issues that particularly affect different genders for example, sexualised or aggressive touching or grabbing towards female pupils, and initiation or hazing type violence with respect to boys
- Ensuring our curriculum helps to educate pupils about appropriate behaviour and consent through regularly timetabled lessons through PHSE, RSE and adoption of British values, in line with DfE guidance and the national curriculum.
- Ensuring pupils know they can talk to staff confidentially

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 Ensuring staff are trained to understand that a pupil harming a peer could be a sign that the child is being abused themselves, and that this would fall under the scope of this policy

•

## 13. When Does a Safeguarding Concern Become an Incident?

There may be times when a safeguarding concern is deemed to be an incident or a serious untoward incident, as defined in the incident and serious incident requiring further investigation (SIRI) and incident policy, please refer to this policy.

## 6. Associated Policies

- Health and Safety
- Risk Management Framework
- IT, Email, Social Networking
- Mobile Phones and Camera
- Information Governance Framework
- Keeping Records and Data Protection
- Volunteering
- Lone and Home Working
- Recruitment and Selection
- Disclosure Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Domestic Abuse Policy
- Employment of Ex-Offenders
- Induction Policy
- Supervision
- Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Incident and Serious Incident Requiring Investigation Policy
- Whistle Blowing
- Domestic Abuse
- Comments and Complaints Policy

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## Appendix 1 - The Big Life Group Safeguarding Statement

## The Big Life group Safeguarding Statement

Big Life believes that it is always unacceptable for a child, young person or adult at risk to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all adults, children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person, child or young person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

Abuse of children, young people or adults at risk, may be perpetrated by a wide range of people including relatives, family members, professional staff, paid care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours, friends and associates, people who deliberately exploit children and vulnerable people.

It is not always obvious when someone is being abused, there may be specific signs or your instincts may tell you something is wrong. Abuse is never acceptable in any circumstances and everyone has the right to be safe. Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk is everyone's business

Working in partnership with the community and safeguarding authorities The Big Life group aims to make sure that children, young people and adults at risk using its services are listened to and protected from abuse. Big Life staff must report all incidents or concerns they have relating to the wellbeing of anyone at risk.

Members of the public who have concerns should follow guidance offered by their local Safeguarding partnership or adult care services. If you wish to notify or log a safeguarding concern about a child, young person or adult at risk accessing any of the Big Life services you can contact the following:

The local designated safeguarding lead: add relevant person with contact details

The Big Life group safeguarding leads:

Keith Smith

Email: keith.smith@thebiglifegroup.com

Phone: 07967 440 991 Claire Hesbrook

Email: Claire.hesbrook@thebiglifegroup.com

Phone: 07773 079 564

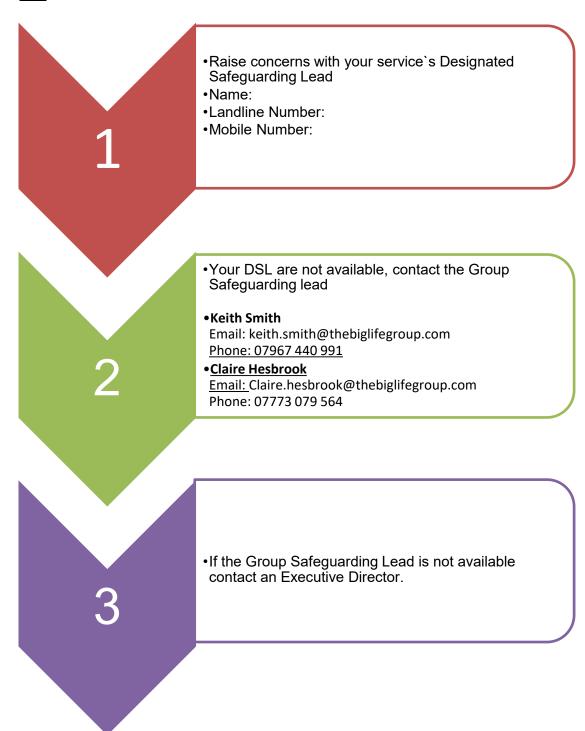
Statutory organisation: Add information and contact number add relevant details and contact numbers

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# Appendix 2. Reporting Safeguarding Concerns Internal Flow Chart: Where There is a DSL



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# Appendix 3 - Roles and responsibilities

Role	Safeguarding Responsibility		
The Group	The <b>Safeguarding Lead</b> has day to day responsibility for safeguarding		
Safeguarding	across The Big Life group including:		
Lead.	To act as an ambassador for The Big Life group in the capacity of Safeguarding Children Young people and Adults at Risk lead.		
	To provide leadership on all aspects of safeguarding children and adults at risk within The Big Life group		
	To champion safeguarding within The Big Life group; ensuring that it has a high profile within the organisation		
	To feed into the Clinical and Service Governance Board by advising and taking forward any actions around safeguarding that have been identified		
	<ul> <li>To advise volunteers, students and staff within The Big Life group on safeguarding issues (including implementation of policy, working with service users, development of services, policy developments – national, regional and local developments, service audits etc.)</li> <li>To keep Big Life group staff, students and volunteers updated on</li> </ul>		
	relevant safeguarding issues and policy updates via email or other means of information dissemination		
	<ul> <li>To act as an information source on safeguarding and to assist Big Life group staff, students and volunteers with identification of key contacts / networks within the field of safeguarding / child protection etc.</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>To ensure that all new children and young people services are developed in line with best and current practice; ensuring that service user involvement is embedded during service development and subsequent delivery</li> </ul>		
	To keep up to date on any changes to policy and new policies which could affect the different service areas of The Big Life group		
	<ul> <li>To train staff on safeguarding and advise on further potential training.</li> <li>To ensure that all staff and volunteers feel safe about raising</li> </ul>		
	concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to the safeguarding and welfare of the children and young people and such concerns will be addressed sensitively and effectively.		
	To ensure that a mechanism is in place to support the Designated Safeguarding Leads to offer mutual support and reflection on cases		
Designated Safeguarding	Ensuring that the service for which they are responsible for operates safe working practices		
Lead	Seeking advice & report as necessary to the Safeguarding Group Lead.		
	Ensure their service is compliant and knowledgeable with local authority reporting processes.		
	Ensure that their services are compliant with the section 11 audits & address any areas for improvement.		
	Contribute to the development of service section 11 audit.		
	Ensure all staff & volunteers in their service are clear and have access to the safeguarding policy & associated policies.		
	The DSLs will ensure that all parents / service users and children in are clear on the safeguarding policy & associated policies.		

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Role	Safeguarding Responsibility
	<ul> <li>Ensure that they have an excellent knowledge of safe recruitment processes &amp; that all staff and volunteers in their service have been suitably recruited &amp; there is evidence of this.</li> <li>Deliver safeguarding training for staff, students &amp; volunteers.</li> <li>Attend relevant training as outlined in the Safeguarding training plan &amp; cascade training &amp; information to staff in their services.</li> <li>Ensure that safeguarding is on team meeting agendas &amp; that they provide staff with the chance to develop knowledge regarding safeguarding &amp; to feedback on any concerns.</li> <li>Support staff to record and escalate concerns and incidents, developing a robust system for reporting and monitoring.</li> <li>Report quarterly to the R&amp;QC incidents, concerns, lessons learned, themes and actions taken to mitigate risk.</li> <li>Liaise and escalate with external agencies as required.</li> </ul>



### **Appendix 4 - Descriptions of Training Levels**

## For all Employees and Volunteers (BLG Mandatory)

- · Read and understand Big Life Group Safeguarding Policies and procedures
- Attend Big Life Induction
- Attend Volunteer induction

## All front line staff who work directly with children, adults (BLG Mandatory)

In addition to the above;

- Complete Big Life Group combined children, young people and adults safeguarding awareness training.
- Complete Level 2 safeguarding training (either accessible through the Local Authority or the online Flick Level 2 training via Learn Well Platform). This must be completed within 12 months of commencing your role.
- MCA and DoLS Level 1 awareness training (online and accessible via Learn Well)
- Refresher training for this level is required every three years.
- · Complete the following
  - Prevent (external course)
  - o Child Sexual Exploitation accessed via Learn Well (awareness session)

Understanding and preventing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (accessed via Learn Well)

The target audiences for these courses are those who work directly with children, young people and adults at risk.

## Clinical Staff who work directly with children, adults (BLG Mandatory)

In addition to the above;

 Complete Level 3 safeguarding training for adults at risk and children and young people

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The target audiences for these courses are those with a responsibility for safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk as defined in the role description. The following is recommended in addition to the above;

- Big Life Designated safeguarding lead training
- Level 4, designated safeguarding lead training
- Additional 24hrs CPD every three years that could include specific training relating to your service delivery.

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## **Big Life Group Safeguarding Lead**

In addition to the above:

• Level 5, designated safeguarding lead training

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 Additional 24hrs CPD every three years that could include specific training relating to your service delivery.

#### Please note:

- It may be a requirement of your contract to deliver a service that all staff attend
  additional safeguarding training. These courses may be provided by the local authority,
  but where they are not, they will have to be sourced as part of your commissioned
  contract. Please refer to the intercollegiate documents for both adults and children
  - Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff –
     Intercollegiate Document (2021)

     Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff | Royal College of Nursing (rcn.org.uk)
  - Safeguarding children and young people:roles and competences for health care staff - INTERCOLLEGIATE DOCUMENT (2021) <a href="https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007366">https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007366</a>
  - Looked After Children: roles and competencies of healthcare staff –
     INTERCOLLEGIATE DOCUMENT (2021).
     https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/rcn-looked-after-children-roles-and-competencies-of-healthcare-staff-uk-pub-009486
- All Designated Safeguarding Leads must have refreshers every 2 years or more frequently if required by the relevant LSCB
- Other staff must have refreshers every 3 years or more frequently if required by the relevant LSCB

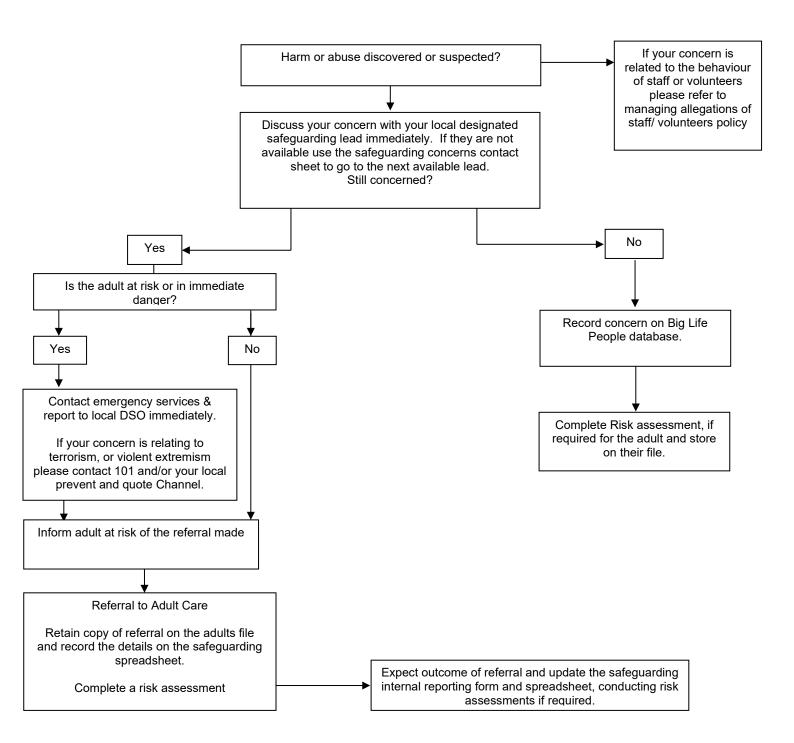
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## Appendix 6(a): Adults at Risk Reporting Flowchart

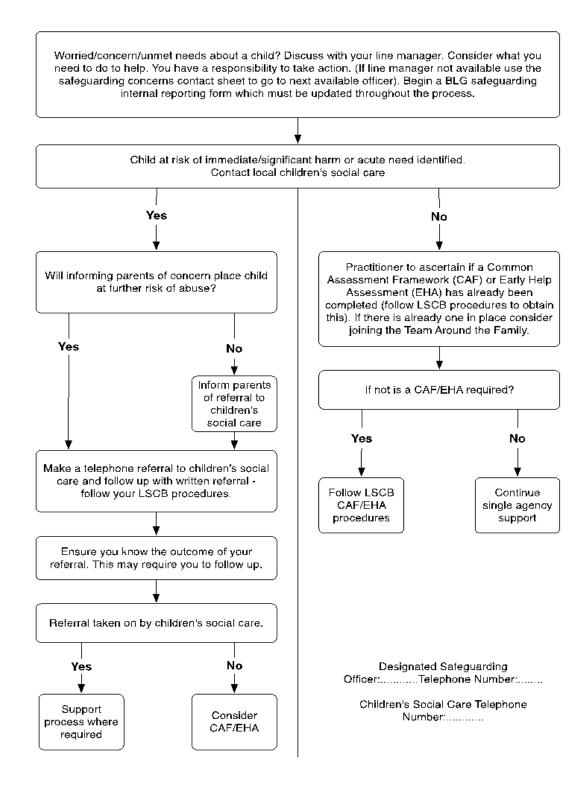


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## Appendix 6 (b) - Children and Young People Reporting Flowchart



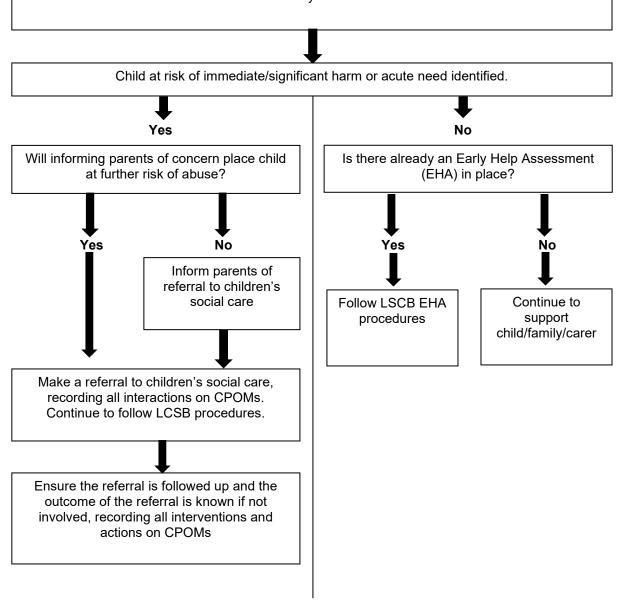
# Appendix 6 (c) - Big Life Schools reporting flowchart

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Worried/concern/unmet need about a child? Discuss with your DSL. Consider what you need to do to help. You have a responsibility to take action. (If DSL are not available refer to the DSL for the Big Life Group). You are responsible for recording this concern/incident onto CPOMs, which will alert your DSL.



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# Appendix 7 - Types of Abuse & signs and indicators - Children, young people and adults

#### **Children & Young People**

# Type of Abuse

## Physical

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Physical injuries should always be interpreted in light of the child's medical and social history, stage of development, and the explanation given. Accidental bruises are generally seen on the bony parts of the body and often on the front, so bruising or injuries on soft parts such as cheeks, abdomen, back or buttocks may be a cause for concern.

## Possible signs and indicators

- Bruising, marks or injuries anywhere on the body which are unexplained or inconsistent with an explanation given
- Clusters of bruises, often on the upper arm or outside of the thigh
- Cigarette burns
- Human bite marks
- Broken bones
- Scalds with upward splash marks
- Multiple burns with clearly demarcated edges.
- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away from home or school.

#### Sexual

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, assault by penetration (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)

In most cases, it will be behavioural rather than physical signs which cause you to become concerned. Remember that it is not only adult men who sexually abuse: there are increasing numbers of allegations against women and children. In all cases, a child disclosing sexual abuse does so because they want it to stop, so they must always be listened to and taken seriously

- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Bruising or bleeding near the genital area
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Vaginal discharge or infection
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy
- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming aggressive or withdrawn
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Having nightmares
- Running away from home or school
- Sexual knowledge beyond a child's age or stage of development
- Sexual drawings or language
- · Bed wetting
- Eating disorders such as anorexia
- Self-harm or suicide attempts

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Type of Abuse	Possible signs and indicators
	<ul> <li>A child saying they have secrets they cannot share</li> <li>Substance misuse</li> <li>Having unexplained money or possessions</li> <li>Not being allowed to have friends</li> <li>Sexualised behaviour towards adults.</li> </ul>
Emotional 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.  Emotional abuse can be very difficult to detect as there are often no physical signs. There may be a developmental delay due to a failure to thrive and	<ul> <li>Neurotic behaviour, e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking</li> <li>Being unable to play</li> <li>Fear of making mistakes</li> <li>Sudden speech disorders</li> <li>Self-harm</li> <li>Fear of parent being approached about their behaviour</li> <li>Developmental delay in terms of emotional progress.</li> </ul>
grow, although this may not be evident unless, for example, the child gains weight in other circumstances away from their parent's care. Emotional abuse can also take the form of not being allowed to mix or play with other children.	
Neglect 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	<ul> <li>Constant hunger, stealing food</li> <li>Constantly dirty or smelly</li> <li>Loss of weight or being underweight</li> <li>Inappropriate clothing for the conditions</li> <li>Complaining of being tired all the time</li> </ul>

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child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer

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failing to:

Not requesting medical assistance, and / or

failing to attend appointments

Having few friends



#### Type of Abuse Possible signs and indicators Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter Mentioning being alone left or (including exclusion from home unsupervised. abandonment): Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. may also include neglect of, lt unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional Neglect can be very difficult to recognise, yet may have some of the most lasting and damaging effects on children. Female genital mutilation (FGM) A female child in a family where other There is a range of potential indicators that a child females have undergone FGM or young person may be at risk of FGM, which The family is from a nation, region or individually may not indicate risk but if there are community in which FGM is practised two or more indicators present this could signal a The family makes preparations for the child risk to the child or young person. to take a holiday, planning an absence from school Victims of FGM are likely to come from a The child talks of a special ceremony that community that is known to practise FGM. is going to happen Professionals should note that girls at risk of FGM Sudden or repeated failure to attend or may not yet be aware of the practice or that it may engage with health services. be conducted on them, so sensitivity should always be shown when approaching the subject. From October 2015, the new 'mandatory reporting' duty for professionals requires them to notify the police if they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is under 18 (either if they have visually confirmed it or it has been verbally disclosed by an affected girl). Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (CALFB) This is not an exhaustive list and there will be There is a variety of definitions associated with other examples where children have been abuse linked to faith or belief. The National Action harmed when adults think that their actions Plan have brought bad fortune. (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nati Reasons for the child being identified as onal-action-plan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-'different' may be a disobedient or faith-or-belief) includes the following when independent nature, bed wetting, nightmares referring to Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief or illness. Attempts to exorcise the child may (CALFB). include: beating Belief in concepts of:

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burning

starvation

cutting or stabbing

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witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or

the devil acting through children or leading

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## Type of Abuse

them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs

- the evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context
- ritual or muti murders where the killing of children is believed to bring supernatural benefits or the use of their body parts is believed to produce potent magical remedie
- use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

#### Possible signs and indicators

- isolation within the household.
- Children with a disability may also be viewed as different, and various degrees of disability have previously been interpreted as 'possession', from a stammer to epilepsy, autism or a life limiting illness.

Read more at nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/calfb/ where you can also download a leaflet on CALFB.

# Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) & Child Criminal Exploitation (CC)

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something; food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection. As a result of engaging in sexual activities sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups.

What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship. The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyber-bullying and grooming.

#### Social

- Going missing from home or care or school,
- Estranged from the family
- Being collected from home/school in unknown car
- Secretive mobile phone us
- Being friends with significantly older people
- Becoming involved in crime e.g. stealing

#### **Physical**

 Physical injuries, drug misuse, sexually transmitted infections, poor mental health self-harm, change in physical appearance

However, it is also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

## Radicalisation & Extremism

#### Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process whereby a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism

### Extremism

Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as 'a Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.'

- Identity crisis
- Personal Crisis
- Personal circumstances
- Unmet Aspirations-Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure
- Criminality
- Use of inappropriate language
- Possession or accessing violent extremist literature
- Behavioural changes
- · The expression of extremist views;

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Type of Abuse	Possible signs and indicators
Big Life seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent Radicalisation and extremism	
The prevent duty can be downloaded at:  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty	
Children who witness Domestic abuse Parents or carers may underestimate the effects of domestic abuse on their children, but children witnessing abuse is recognised as significant harm in law  Child Trafficking Child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered trafficking in human beings(council of Europe ratified by the UK government in 2008)	<ul> <li>Children who are withdrawn, anxious, clingy, depressed,</li> <li>Problems sleeping,</li> <li>soils clothes,</li> <li>Aggressive behaviour.</li> <li>Spends a lot of time doing household chores</li> <li>Not registered with a GP or school</li> <li>Has no access to their parents or guardians</li> <li>Isn't sure what country, city or town they're in.</li> </ul>
Forced Marriage Forced marriage (FM) where one or both parties do not agree to the marriage and where fear/coercion/duress or force is a factor.  Forcing someone to marry is a criminal offence (under the crime and Policing act 2014) and something that can lead to lifelong suffering for the victim from physical abuse, sexual abuse and servitude.  Forcing children to marry is child abuse.	The factors below collectively or individually may be an indication that a person fears that they may be forced to marry, or that a forced marriage has already taken place.  • Education- truancy from school, extended periods of unauthorised absence for sickness or overseas family commitments, history of other siblings missing education and marrying early.  • Health – self harm, attempted suicide, eating disorders, depression isolation.
Peer on peer abuse and bullying (including cyber bullying).  A definition of Bullying is 'behaviour by an individual or group usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group physically or emotionally.'  There are many different types of peer on peer abuseincluding:  Sexual harassment — unwanted conduct of a sexual nature either online or offline.  Sexting — sharing images, videos of themselves or others that are sexually explicit.  Sexual Violence — Rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault.  Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB)  Hazing/Initiation — the practice of rituals or other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation.	<ul> <li>Children or young people may- be reluctant to attend school</li> <li>Not wanting to leave the house</li> <li>Have unexplained cuts and bruises</li> <li>Become withdrawn/ lack confidence</li> <li>Change in appetite increase/ decrease or changing appearance to try to fit in</li> <li>Low self esteem</li> <li>Become withdrawn</li> <li>Reluctance to let parents or other family members anywhere near mobiles/ laptops etc</li> <li>Friends disappearing or being excluded from social events</li> <li>Change in personality</li> <li>Fresh marks on skin which could indicate self-harm and dressing differently e.g. wearing long sleeved clothing in summer</li> </ul>

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Type of Abuse	Possible signs and indicators
<ul> <li>Denigration</li> <li>Flaming</li> <li>Outing and trickery</li> <li>Cyber stalking</li> <li>Exclusion</li> <li>Blackmail and grooming</li> <li>Upskirting – taking a picture under a persons clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing a persons genitals</li> <li>Spreading rumours</li> <li>Threatening behaviour</li> <li>Peer abuse can also take the form of sexual abuse (see earlier section on sexual abuse)</li> </ul>	
Children Missing from Home Children who go missing from home are vulnerable to abuse and violence, and need to be safeguarded	Children go missing for a number of reasons, but in general, the factors preceding missing episodes are:      Arguments and conflicts (whether at home or in a placement)     Poor family relationships     Abuse and neglect     Boundaries and control Immediate risks-     No means of support or legitimate incomes leading to high risk activities     Becoming a victim of abuse.     Missing out on schooling and education     Increased vulnerability
Fabricated, fictitious or induced illness (formally Munchausen's by proxy) This is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in a child.	<ul> <li>symptoms only appear when the parent or carer is present</li> <li>the only person claiming to notice symptoms is the parent or carer</li> <li>the affected child has an inexplicably poor response to medication or treatment</li> <li>if one particular health problem is resolved, the parent or carer may then begin reporting a new set of symptoms</li> <li>the child's alleged symptoms don't seem plausible – for example, a child who has supposedly lost a lot of blood but doesn't become unwell</li> <li>the parent or carer has a history of frequently changing GPs or visiting different hospitals for treatment, particularly if their views about the child's treatment are challenged by medical staff</li> <li>the child's daily activities are being limited far beyond what you would usually expect as a result of having a certain</li> </ul>

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Type of Abuse	Possible signs and indicators
	condition – for example, they never go to school or have to wear leg braces even though they can walk properly  • the parent or carer has good medical knowledge or a medical background  • the parent or carer doesn't seem too worried about the child's health, despite being very attentive  • the parent or carer develops close and friendly relationships with healthcare staff, but may become abusive or argumentative if their own views about what's wrong with the child are challenged  • one parent (commonly the father) has little or no involvement in the care of the child  • the parent or carer encourages medical staff to perform often painful tests and procedures on the child (tests that most parents would only agree to if they were persuaded that it was absolutely necessary)

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#### **Adults**

# Type of Abuse

#### **Physical**

Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing and misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

The physical mistreatment of one person by another which may or may not result in physical injury, this may include slapping, burning, punching, unreasonable confinement, pinching, force-feeding, misuse of medication, shaking.

## Possible signs and indicators

- Over or under use of medication
- burns in unusual places; hands, soles of feet
- sudden incontinence
- bruising at various healing stages
- bite marks
- disclosure
- bruising in the shape of objects
- unexplained injuries or those that go untreated
- Reluctance to uncover parts of the body.

#### Sexual

Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Any form of sexual activity that the adult does not want and or have not considered, a sexual relationship instigated by those in a position of trust,

rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

- recoiling from physical contact
- · genital discharge
- fear of males or female
- inappropriate sexual behaviour in presence of others
- · bruising to thighs
- disclosure
- pregnancy
- Abusers may take longer with Personal care tasks, use offensive language, work alone with clients, or show favouritism to clients.

## **Psychological and Emotional**

Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

This abuse may involve the use of intimidation, indifference, hostility, rejection, threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, verbal abuse such as shouting, swearing or the use of discriminatory and or oppressive language. A deprivation of contact, blaming, controlling, coercion, harassment, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks. There may be a restriction of freedom, access to

- Stress and or anxiety in response to certain people
- Disclosure
- compulsive behaviour
- · reduction in skills and concentration
- lack of trust
- lack of self esteem
- someone may be frightened of other individuals
- there may be changes in sleep patterns

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Type of Abuse	Possible signs and indicators
personal hygiene restricted, name calling, threat to withdraw care or support, threat of institutional care, use of bribes or threats or choice being neglected	
Neglect and acts of omission Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.  Behaviour by carers that results in the persistent or severe failure to meet the physical and or psychological needs of an individual in their care. This may include ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating wilful failure to intervene or failing to consider the implications of non-intervention in behaviours which are dangerous to them or others, failure to use agreed risk management procedures, inadequate care in residential setting, withholding affection or communication, denying access to services,	<ul> <li>There may be disclosure</li> <li>Someone being abused may have low selfesteem, deterioration, depression, isolation, continence problems, sleep disturbances, pressure ulcers.</li> <li>There may be seemingly uncertain attitude and cold detachment from a carer, denying individuals request</li> <li>lack of consideration to the individuals request</li> <li>denying others access to the individual health care professionals</li> </ul>
Financial or material abuse including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits	<ul> <li>This may include;</li> <li>not allowing a person to access to their money</li> <li>not spending allocated allowance on the individual</li> <li>theft from the individual</li> <li>theft of property</li> <li>misuse of benefits</li> <li>There may be an over protection of money, money not available</li> <li>forged signatures</li> <li>disclosure</li> <li>inability to pay bills</li> <li>Lack of money after payments of benefits or other, unexplained withdrawals.</li> <li>An abuser may be evasive when discussing finances, goods purchased may be in the possession of the abuser</li> <li>there may be an over keenness in participating in activities involving individuals money</li> </ul>

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Possible signs and indicators
<ul> <li>This covers a wide range of behaviour;</li> <li>neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene health or surroundings</li> <li>Hoarding</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>There may be;</li> <li>withdrawal or rejection of culturally inappropriate services e.g. food, mixed gender groups or activities.</li> <li>Individual may simply agree with the abuser for an easier life</li> <li>there may be disclosure, or someone may display low self-esteem.</li> <li>An abuser may react by saying "I treat everyone the same", have inappropriate nick names, be uncooperative, use derogatory language, or deny someone social and cultural contact.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>This may include a system that condones poor practice</li> <li>deprived environment</li> <li>lack of procedures for staff</li> <li>one commode used for a number of people</li> <li>no or little evidence of training, lack of staff support/supervision</li> <li>lack of privacy or personal care</li> <li>repeated unaddressed incidents of poor practice</li> <li>lack of homely environment</li> <li>manager implicated in poor practice.</li> <li>There may be a lack of personal clothing,</li> <li>no support plan</li> <li>lack of stimulation</li> <li>repeated falls, repeated infections</li> <li>unexplained bruises/burns, pressure ulcers</li> <li>unauthorised deprivation of liberty.</li> <li>Abusers may have a lack of understanding of a person's disability, misuse medication, use illegal controls and restraints, display undue/inappropriately use power/control.</li> </ul>
Will include all those include under previous categories in this document, including unexplained bruising, withdrawal from

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## Type of Abuse

Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.

In 2013 the Home Office announced a change to the definition of domestic abuse to include psychological, physical, sexual. emotional abuse. There can be an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality and may include Female Genital Mutilation; forced marriage and so called honour based violence. People can now ask for information from the police if they suspect a partner has committed domestic Violence in the past through Clares Law (see **Appendix 8** for further details) Signs and indicators

## Possible signs and indicators

activities, work or volunteering. Not being in control of finances, having options and making decisions.

Modern slavery

Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

If you have any concerns about modern slavery please contact:

https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/ 08000121700 There may be signs of physical or psychological abuse;

- people may look malnourished or unkempt, or appear withdrawn
- People may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control, influence of others
- Rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.
- They may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and / or living and working at the same address.
- People may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work
- people may have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents retained, e.g. passports.
- They may be dropped off / collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.
- People may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where

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## **Appendix 8: Clare's Law**

Clare's Law came into effect in 2014 after Clare Wood was murdered by her expartner in 2009. The aim of this scheme is to give members of the public a formal mechanism to make enquires about an individual who they are in a relationship with or who is in a relationship with someone they know and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive towards their partner. The local police force will discuss any concerns and decide whether it is appropriate to be given more information to help protect the person who is in the relationship about individual of concern.

The scheme aims to enable potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue the relationship, and provides help and support to assist the potential victim when making that informed choice.

Anyone can make an application about an individual who is in an intimate relationship with another person and where there is a concern that the individual may harm the other person, any concerned third party, such as a parent, neighbour or friend can make an application - not just the potential victim. However, a third party making an application would not necessarily receive the information about the individual concerned.

If you have concerns about a person you are working with and want to request a disclosure, please speak to your DSL about how to do this, following normal internal safeguarding reporting procedures

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## **Appendix 9: Early Help Thresholds**

Local	Early Help Threshold Link
Authority	
Manchester	https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/wp-
	content/uploads/2017/01/MSCB-MA-Decisons-Framework-issued-April-2016.pdf
Salford	https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/media/1402/thresholds-of-need-and-
	response-2020.pdf
Rochdale	https://www.proceduresonline.com/greater_manchester/childcare/rochdale/chapters/p
	cin frame.html
Tameside	https://www.tamesidesafeguardingchildren.org.uk/professionals/thresholdguidance
Stockport	https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh
Cheshire East	https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s70150/Early%20help%2
	<u>0strategy%20draft%202019-22%20Final%2029.5.19%203%202.pdf</u>
Liverpool	https://liverpoolscp.org.uk/scp/lscb-levels-of-need/lscb-responding-to-need
Wigan	Thresholds of Need guidance (wiganlscb.com)
Trafford	Levels of Need (trafford.gov.uk)

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## **Appendix 10 - Contacts**

Below are the named Local Safeguarding partnerships and adult care, contact details for the local authorities and names of the LADOs with contact details.

Greater Manchester reporting procedures can be accessed via - <a href="http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/">http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/</a>

## **Local Children Safeguarding Partnerships**

Name of Local Children Safeguarding	Contact details
Partnerships	Contact details
Manchester	Manchester Safeguarding Boards
	(manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk)
Trafford	Safeguarding children and young people
	(traffordsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk)
Rochdale	Rochdale Safeguarding Partnership Board –
Salford	Home   Salford Safeguarding Children
	Partnership
Tameside	Home   Tameside Safeguarding Children
	<u>Partnership</u>
Cheshire East	Children and Young People (cescp.org.uk)
Stockport	Safeguarding Children in Stockport
Leeds	<u>Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership -</u>
	NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group
Liverpool	(leedsccg.nhs.uk) Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership
Liverpool	(LSCP) - scp (liverpoolscp.org.uk)
Sheffield	Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership -
- Chomola	scsp (safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)
Wigan	Wigan Safeguarding Childrens Board -
o o	Homepage (wiganlscb.com)
Prevent	Dial 101 quoting Channel or contact the
	national police Prevent advice line on 0800 011
	3764
	In an emergency contact 999

# **Children Social Care team receiving referrals**

Name of Local authority	Contact details
Manchester	0161 234 5001
	Email mscreply@manchester.gov.uk
Trafford	MARAT 0161 912 5056
	Email MARAT@trafford.gov.uk
Rochdale	mass@rochdale.gov.uk or
	mass@rochdale.gcsx.gov.uk (secure)
	Tel- 03003030440
Salford	The Bridge Partnership
	Tel – 0161 603 4500
	Email: worriedaboutachild@salford.gov.uk
Tameside	Early Help Access Point on 0161 342 4260.

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	For safeguarding and child protection concerns you should ring the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0161 342 4101 Outside of normal working hours, 0161 342 2222.
Cheshire East	0300 123 5012 (option 3) Callers will be directed to a Unit Coordinator who will ask if the concerns are early help or safeguarding. You will then be directed to either Practitioner Support Officer (EHB) for Early Help concerns or a Social Worker (ChECS) for safeguarding concerns.
Stockport	Contact Centre Tel : 0161 342 4101
Leeds	Duty and Advice Team Tel 0113 376 0336
Liverpool	Careline 0151 233 3700
Sheffield	Children and Families prevention and assessment team 01142734491
Wigan	Children's Duty Team 01942 828300

# **Local Adult Safeguarding Referral Pathways**

Local	Details
Authority	
Manchester	If you have an emergency please ring the contact service for social care on 0161 234 5001.
	All other adult referrals
	https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/forms/form/423/en/social_care_for_adults_online_referral
Trafford	Practitioners, professionals, staff and volunteers can contact the Community Screening Team at Trafford Council to discuss concerns about an adult on 0161 912 2820.
	Reports are made via the Safeguarding Digital Front Door Portal Home (trafford.gov.uk)
Rochdale	Report abuse - email adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk or ring 0300 303 8886
Salford	Report abuse or neglect by telephone on 0161 631 4777 or email
	worriedaboutanadult@salford.gov.uk
	https://safeguardingadults.salford.gov.uk/professionals/safeguarding-forms/
Stockport	Adult Social Care: Safeguarding Adults (Mon to Fri, 8am – 8pm) – 0161 217 6029.
	For out of normal office hours, call 0161 718 2118.
	Local NHS Advice: Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity and DoLS for NHS Stockport CCG – 0161 426 9905.
Tameside	Telephone: 0161 922 4888
	Out of Hours Service by telephone on 0161 342 2222.
	https://www.tameside.gov.uk/adultabuse

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Cheshire	0300 123 5010. (8:30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30 am to	
East	4:30pm Friday)	
	0300 123 5022. (at all other times including bank holidays)	
Leeds	If you're worried that an adult is being abused or neglected, you can report it by email.	
	Fill out a SA1 safeguarding form (WORD, 333KB)External link for each	
	person.	
	Email it to <u>leedsadults@leeds.gov.uk</u>	
	You can also call us on:	
	0113 222 4401	
	(9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, except Wednesday when we open at 10am)	
	0113 378 0644	
	(for emergencies on weekends, nights and bank holidays)	
Liverpool	If you are a professional with an urgent adult safeguarding concern about an adult who is at immediate risk of harm please call Careline on 0151 233 3800.	
	None urgent https://forms.liverpool.gov.uk/contour-forms/liverpool-	
	safeguarding-adult-referral-form/	
Sheffield	Call the First Contact team on 0114 273 4908, 24 hours, 7 days a week	
Wigan	Reports are made via:	
	Report concerns of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult (wigan.gov.uk)	
Prevent	Dial 101 quoting Channel or contact the national police Prevent advice line on 0800 011 3764	
	In an emergency contact 999	

# **Local authority Designated Officer (LADO) Contact Details**

Name of Local authority	Contact details
Manchester	Majella O'Hagan
	Tel- 0161 234 1214
	Email majella.ohagan@manchester.gov.uk
Trafford	Anita Hopkins
	0161 912 5024
	Email anita.hopkins@trafford.gov.uk
Rochdale	Louise Hurst
	Tel 0300 3030 350
	Email <u>lado@rochdale.gov.uk</u>
Salford	Margaret Dillon and Patsy Molloy
	Tel – 0161 603 4350 or 0161 603 4445
	Email Margaret.dillon@salford.gov.uk or
	patsy.molloy@salford.gov.uk
Stockport	Ged Sweeney
	Tel 0161 474 5657
	Email ged.sweeney@stockport.gov.uk
Tameside	Tania Brown
	Tel 07812140002
	Tania.brown@tameside.gov.uk
	ladoreferrals@tameside.gov.uk

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Cheshire East	Tel 01606288931 Email <u>LADO@cheshireeast.gov.uk</u>
Leeds	Tel 0113 247 8652
Liverpool	Ray Said Tel 0151 225 8101/ 225 8103 Email ray.said@liverpool.gov.uk
Sheffield	lado@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk Tel 01142734850 01142734934
Wigan	Call 01942 486042 or 01942 828300 (out of normal office hours) Email lado@wigan.gov.uk

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