

Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre

Safeguarding incorporating Child Protection Policy



1. Aim

- a. The purpose of Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre's safeguarding policy is to ensure every child at our organisation is safe and protected from harm.
- b. This means we will always work to:
 - a. Protect children from maltreatment
 - b. Prevent impairment of children's health or development
 - c. Take action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- c. This policy will give clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about the expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children at our organisation.

2. Introduction

- a. Our organisation fully recognises the contribution it can make to protecting children from harm and supporting and promoting the welfare of all children. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support.
- b. Our policy applies to all children, volunteers, visitors and staff.
- c. A child is someone under the age of 18 years old.

3. Our Ethos

1. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. All staff, volunteers or regular visitors are advised to maintain an attitude of '**it could happen here**' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the **best interests** of the child.
2. Our organisation will establish and maintain an ethos where our children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children will be able to talk freely to any member of staff, volunteer or regular visitor to our organisation if they are worried or concerned about something.
3. All staff, volunteers and regular visitors will, either through training or induction, know how to recognise a disclosure from a child and will know how to manage this. We will not make promises to any child and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what the adult will do with whatever they have been told.
4. At all times we will work in partnership and try to establish effective working relationships with families, carers and colleagues from other agencies and organisations.

5. General Procedures

- a. When new staff, volunteers or regular visitors join our organisation they will be informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place. They will be given a copy of our organisation's safeguarding policy and told who our Designated Safeguarding Officer for Safeguarding is. They will also be shown the recording format, given information on how to complete it and who to pass it to.
- b. Every new member of staff or volunteer will have an induction period that will include essential safeguarding information. This programme will include training relating to signs and symptoms of abuse, how to manage a disclosure from a child, how to record and issues of confidentiality. The induction will also remind staff and volunteers of their responsibility to safeguard all children and the remit of the role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- c. All staff and volunteers will be asked to read this policy yearly after it has been reviewed and updated if necessary. They will sign to say they have read and understood the policy.

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- d. All regular visitors and volunteers to our organisation will be told where our policy is kept, they will be given a set of safeguarding procedures, they will be told who our Designated Safeguarding Officer and alternate staff members are and what the recording and reporting system is.
- e. When we have sole care of young people families will be asked to declare that they have seen and read our safeguarding policy. Families will be informed of our legal duty to assist our colleagues in other agencies with Safeguarding enquiries and what happens should we have cause to make a referral to Children's Services. Families will sign a consent form at the start of their child's involvement with the organisation, which includes any vital health or otherwise notable information. It also requests permission for photographs to be taken for promotional purposes only. This will also include a statement making parents/carers aware by signing they consent to us sharing information with the relevant authorities if we have concerns about the welfare of their child/children, but that we do not have to seek consent if there are serious concerns about harm or likely harm to their child/children.

6. Training

- a. Every member of full time staff will undertake appropriate safeguarding training through the NSCB Safer Programme every three years.
- b. We actively encourage all of our staff to keep up to date with the most recent local and national safeguarding advice and guidance. This can be accessed via www.norfolklscb.org
- c. The Designated Officer should be used as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern in our organisation.

7. Safer Staff and Volunteers

- a. All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.
- b. We ensure we adhere to the principles of safer recruitment as per our policy and also the guidance from Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board.
- c. We ensure that we:
 - Carefully consider the job description and person specification
 - Circulate the vacancies widely
 - Prepare an information pack
 - Ask for a written application form
 - Define our selection criteria
 - Ask for a written declaration with regards to criminal conviction, spent or otherwise
 - Ask for identification
 - Ask for originals of any qualifications
 - Conduct interviews with at least two persons present
 - Ask for at least two references including the past employer
 - Gain enhanced DBS checks where Government guidance requires us to
 - Organise a comprehensive induction period which includes familiarisation with our safeguarding policies, procedures and safeguarding training
- d. Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the well-being and very best outcomes for children. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made. Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children.

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- e. We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our organisation are safe to work with our children. We will always ensure that the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board's procedures are followed.
- f. All adults who come into contact with children will be made aware of the steps that will be taken if an allegation is made. We will seek appropriate advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within 24 hours of a concern or allegation being made. The LADO can be contacted via the referral/consultation forms under 'how to raise a concern' at www.norfolkscb.org or a message left on 01603 223473 for ongoing cases.
- g. Staff will not investigate these matters. We will seek and work with the advice that is provided. Should an allegation be made against the Designated Safeguarding Officer or Deputy, this will be reported by the staff member or volunteer raising the concern directly to the LADO.

8. Records and Confidentiality

- a. All concerns about a child or young person should be reported without delay and recorded in writing using the agreed template (see Appendix B) and given to the Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- b. Any information recorded will be kept in a separate named file, in a secure cabinet. These files will be the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Officer and information will only be shared within the organisation on a need to know basis for the protection of the child.
- c. Any safeguarding information will be kept in the file and will be added to. Copies of referrals will be stored in the file.
- d. All information is confidential, however if there is a safeguarding or child protection concern about a child, then information can be shared with other agencies, namely the Police or Children's Services.
- e. Reports of a concern to the Designated Safeguarding Officer must be made in writing and signed and dated by the person with the concern.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Our Designated Safeguarding Officer will liaise with Children's Services and other agencies where necessary and make referrals to Children's Services using the procedure below.
- b. Any concern for a child's safety or welfare will be recorded in writing and given to the Designated Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedure they need to follow.
- c. The Designated Safeguarding Officer will ensure that all staff, volunteers and regular/repeat visitors have received appropriate Safeguarding information during induction and have been trained appropriately.
- d. The Designated Safeguarding Officer will ensure that our safeguarding policy is in place and is reviewed annually. The content of our policy has been written following consultation with the Safer Programme.
- e. At all times the Designated Safeguarding Officer will ensure that safer recruitment practices are followed.
- f. Our organisation undertakes to remedy without delay any weakness in regard to our safeguarding arrangements that are brought to their attention.
- g. Any member of staff or volunteer who does not feel that concerns about a child have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should contact Children's Services directly with their concerns.

10. Procedures for Handling Disclosures

- a. A child may decide to disclose information that may indicate they are suffering from abuse or neglect. A child chooses to speak to an adult because they feel that they will listen and that they can trust them. The adult needs to listen to what the child has to say, and be very careful not to 'lead' the child or influence in any way what they say.

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b. It is important that the adult remembers to:

- Stay calm
 - Listen and be supportive
 - Not ask any leading questions, interrogate the child, or put ideas in the child's head, or jump to conclusions
 - Not stop or interrupt a child who is recalling significant events
 - Never promise the child confidentiality – it must be explained that information will need to be passed on to help keep them safe
 - Avoid criticising the alleged perpetrator
 - Tell the child what must be done next (the safeguarding process must be followed)
 - Record what was said immediately as close to what was said as possible. Also record what was happening immediately before the child disclosed. Be sure to sign and date the record in ink.
 - Contact the designated person immediately
 - Seek support
- c. We are clear that the Local Authority and Police must lead any investigation into any allegation regarding safeguarding.
- d. If we have a concern about a child or children we will telephone the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) on 0344 800 8021 immediately. We will be put through to a Social Worker who will take all of the relevant details. We will make sure we are prepared with full details of the child and family, plus what our concerns are, details of any support we have provided to the child/family and what we would like to happen. We will ensure we gain consent from the parent/carer unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm or undermine a criminal investigation. If we have not sought consent from the parent/carer we will inform the CADS worker of this and the reason for this.
- e. The CADS worker will agree a way forward with us and keep us informed. They will send us a written record of our conversation within 5 working days. The outcomes could include a full referral to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for further investigation, the Police, or for work with Early Help. We will not investigate and will be led by the Local Authority and/or the Police.
- f. We will make careful records of all conversations, in ink, including the dates and times of who we spoke to, the information shared and the action agreed. We do not need to send a written referral.
- g. Full details on this process can be found at www.norfolkscb.org under 'How to Raise a Concern'.
- h. We understand if we are unhappy about a decision made by CADS or MASH we can use the Resolving Professional Disagreements policy on www.norfolkscb.org and contact the Safer Programme for more advice on this process.
- i. We will contact CADS immediately if we have concerns, it is important we do not delay.

11. Good practice guidelines

All staff should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to promote children's welfare and reduce the likelihood of allegations being made. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate.

Good practice means:

- Always working in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets).
- Treating all young people/disabled adults equally, and with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals.
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision-making process.
- Making activities fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- Being an excellent role model.

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- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
-

12. Practices never to be sanctioned

The following should **never** be sanctioned. You should never:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Fail to act upon and record any allegations made by a child.
- Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults, that they can do for themselves.
- You must not, before, during or after your employment make or accept any contact with a child or a friend of a child you know through your work with Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre or through social networking websites.

13. Whistle Blowing

Incidents that must be reported/recorded

If any of the following occur, you should report this immediately to the appropriate officer and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a young person
- If he/she seems distressed in any manner
- If a young person appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- If a young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.

14. Useful Contacts

Children's Services 24 hours: 0344 800 8020

Children's Advice and Duty Service: 0344 800 8021

Norfolk Police: 101

In an emergency: 999

Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO) Team: 01603 223473

Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB): www.norfolkscb.org

Safer Programme: 01603 228966

Named Designated Child Protection Officer

The following designated staff are in post;

Designated officer: Susan Newton (Centre Manager)

Deputy designated officer : Sam Fenton

Telephone number: 07493584372/01603 501228

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Appendix A

Working Together 2018

What is abuse and neglect?

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

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

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can 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 child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
 - protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
 - ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
 - ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

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- Defined for the purposes of this guidance as:
- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children’s health or development;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child protection

Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Relevant Guidance and Legislation

- Working Together 2018
- What to do if You’re Worried a Child is Being Abused 2015
- Children Act 2004
- Children Act 1989
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families

Norfolk Threshold Guide www.norfolkscb.org

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Appendix B:
Recording Form for Safeguarding Concerns

Full name of child	Event/Activity participating in. Including group with if relevant	Your name and position at Centre
Nature of concern/disclosure		
Please include where you were when the child made a disclosure, what you saw, who else was there, what did the child say or do and what you said.		
Time and date of Incident:		
Was there an injury? Yes / No	Did you see it? Yes / No	
Describe the injury:		
Have you filled in a body plan to show where the injury is and its approximate size? Yes / No		
Was anyone else with you? Who?		
Who are you passing this information to? Name: Position:		
Your signature: Time form completed: Date:		
Action taken by DSL Time Form received by DSL:		
Referred to:		
Date:	Time:	
Parents informed? Yes / No (If No, state reason)		

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Further Action Agreed:

Full name:
DSL Signature:
Date

Body Map

Older Child

