Safeguarding Children

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| EYFS: 3.4-3.18, 3.19, 3.21, 3.22 |

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

We support the children within our care, protect them from maltreatment and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children’s health and development. In our setting we strive to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and we promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures (please refer to our inclusion and equality policy for further information). Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with the nursery’s other policies and procedures. Safeguarding children is everybody’s responsibility. At Earlybirds Day Nurseryall staff, students and supply staff visitors are made aware of and adhere to, the policy.

This policy works alongside these other specific policies to cover all aspects of child protection:

* Online safety
* Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
* Prevent Duty and Radicalisation
* Domestic Violence, Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage
* Looked After Children
* Monitoring staff behaviour
* Social networking
* Mobile phone and electronic device use
* Safe recruitment of staff
* Disciplinary
* Grievance
* Promoting positive behaviour

**Legal framework and definition of safeguarding**

* Children Act 1989 and 2004
* Childcare Act 2006 (amended 2018)
* Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
* Children and Social Work Act 2017
* The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2017
* Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
* Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
* Data Protection Act 2018
* What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused 2015
* Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
* Inspecting Safeguarding in Early years, Education and Skills settings 2019
* Prevent Duty 2015

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, in relation to this policy is defined as:

* Protecting children from maltreatment
* Preventing the impairment of children’s health or development
* Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

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

**Policy intention**

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

* Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image
* Provide positive role models and develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct
* Ensure all staff are able to identify the signs and indicators of abuse, including the softer signs of abuse, and know what action to take
* Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development
* Provide a safe and secure environment for all children
* Promote tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures and communities
* Help children to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making and how to promote British values through play, discussion and role modelling
* Always listen to children
* Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need
* Share information with other agencies as appropriate.

The nursery is aware that abuse does occur in our society and we are vigilant in identifying signs of abuse and reporting concerns. Our practitioners have a duty to protect and promote the welfare of children. Staff working on the frontline with children and families are often the first people to identify a concern, observe changes in a child’s behaviour or receive information relating to indicators of abuse. They may well be the first people in whom children confide information that may suggest abuse or to spot changes in a child’s behaviour which may indicate abuse.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of each child in our care. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention. This includes sharing information with any relevant agencies such as local authority services for Children’s Social Care, family support, health professionals including health visitors or the police. All staff will work with other agencies in the best interest of the child, including as part of a multi-agency team, where needed.

The nursery aims to:

* Keep the child at the centre of all we do, providing sensitive interactions that develops builds children’s well-being, confidence and resilience. We will support children to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe, healthy and develop positive relationships.
* Ensure staff are trained right from induction to understand the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible signs of abuse (including the signs known as softer signs of abuse), understand what is meant by child protection and are aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed, including by other children (peer on peer) through bullying or discriminatory behaviour
* Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), isolated families and vulnerabilities in families; including the impact of toxic trio on children and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE’s).
* Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to act in the best interest of the child; maintaining professional curiosity around welfare of children and share information, and seek the help that the child may need at the earliest opportunity.
* Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with child protection training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local/national procedures, including thorough annual safeguarding newsletters and updates
* Make any child protection referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedures set out by Derbyshire County Council
* Ensure that information is shared only with those people who need to know in order to protect the child and act in their best interest
* Keep the setting safe online using appropriate filters, checks and safeguards, monitoring access at all times and maintaining safeguards around the use of technology by staff, parents and visitors in the setting.
* Ensure that children are never placed at risk while in the charge of nursery staff
* Identify changes in staff behaviour and act on these as per the Staff Behaviour Policy
* Take any appropriate action relating to allegations of serious harm or abuse against any person working with children or living or working on the nursery premises including reporting such allegations to Ofsted and other relevant authorities including the local authority.
* Ensure parents are fully aware of child protection policies and procedures when they register with the nursery and are kept informed of all updates when they occur
* Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate and make sure it complies with any legal requirements and any guidance or procedures issued by Derbyshire County Council

**Contact telephone numbers**

Local authority children’s social care team **01629 533601**

Local authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Local Authority referral team **01629 533190**

Local Authority Out of Hours Team **01629 533190**

NSPCC **0808 800 5000**

Local Early Help services **01629 533190**

Ofsted <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

Ofsted for parents 03001231231

Emergency police **999**

Non-emergency police **101**

Government helpline for extremism concerns **020 7340 7264**

Child exploitation and Online protection command (CEOP) **https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/**

 **Statutory requirements and definitions**

We ensure that our safeguarding practice is in line with statutory requirements and best practice including:

* *All early years’ providers in England* ***must*** *follow the* [*Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)*](https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage)*; This Statutory guidance lays out all aspects of Safeguarding for Early Years*
* *All early years’ providers* ***must*** *have regard to the government’s statutory guidance* [*‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ 2018*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) *which is statutory guidance to be read and followed by all those providing services for children and families, including those in education.*
* *All early years’ providers* ***must*** *have regard to the government’s statutory guidance* [*‘Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales’*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales)
* This policy complies with Ofsted - Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills setting (2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills-from-september-2015>

All Early Years providers have a statutory duty to tell Ofsted about any allegations of serious harm or abuse anywhere by any person at the premises who is:

* living there
* working there
* looking after children there

**You will fulfil your legal requirements if you report this to Ofsted within 14 days.**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

[“Keeping Children Safe in Education”](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2) 1st Sept 2020 which is the statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges.

“[What to do if worried a child is being abused” (March 2015)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2)

[“Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice) providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (July 2018)

Furthermore, we will follow the [Procedures set out by the local Safeguarding Partnership (formally DSCB)](http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/)

**Multi-agency partnership Arrangements**

Earlybirds Day Nursery will continue to work in partnership with the Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children partnership and follow relevant local arrangements under the new local safeguarding partnership arrangements. It is expected that the Derby and Derbyshire safeguarding partnership will name local schools and colleges as relevant agencies and as such we will be under a statutory duty to co-operate with the published arrangements.

## Children with Emerging Needs and who may require Early Help

When a child and/or family would benefit from support but do not meet the threshold for Local Authority Social Care Team, a discussion will take place with the family around early help services. Early help provides support as soon as a concern/area of need emerges, helping to improve outcomes and prevent escalation onto local authority services. Sometimes concerns about a child may not be of a safeguarding nature and relate more to their individual family circumstances. The nursery will work in partnership with parents/carers to identify any early help services that would benefit your child or your individual circumstances, with your consent, this may include family support, foodbank support, counselling or parenting services

* Is disabled and has specific additional needs.
* Has special educational needs.
* Is a young carer.
* Is a privately fostered child.
* Has returned home to their family from care:
* Is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour.
* Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence; and/or
* Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect.
* Is showing signs of emotional/mental ill health
* Is showing signs of displaying behaviour or views that are considered to be extreme;
* Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves:
* Not attending school or are at risk of exclusion from school;
* Frequently going missing/goes missing from care or from home;
* Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, exploitation, radicalised;
* Not in education, training or employment after the age of 16 (NEET);

These children are therefore more vulnerable; this setting will identify who their vulnerable children are, ensuring all Staff know the processes to secure advice, help and support where needed.

Abuse and neglect are forms 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 within a family, institution or community setting by those known to them or more rarely, a stranger.

This could be an adult or adults, another child or children.

*What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused (advice for practitioners) 2015* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)*

The signs and indicators listed below may not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused, but will help us to recognise that something may be wrong, especially if a child shows a number of these symptoms or any of them to a marked degree.

## Types of Abuse

## Children with Emerging Needs and who may require early help

All staff working within the early years and childcare setting should be alert to the potential need for Early Help for children, following the procedures identified for initiating Early Help using the local and current Safeguarding Partnership Threshold Document, and also consideration for a child who:

* Is disabled and has specific additional needs;
* Has special educational needs;
* Is a young carer;
* Is a privately fostered child;
* Has returned home to their family from care:
* Is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour;
* Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence; and/or
* Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
* Is showing signs of emotional/mental ill health
* Is showing signs of displaying behaviour or views that are considered to be extreme;
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* Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, exploitation, radicalised;
* Not in education, training or employment after the age of 16 (NEET);

These children are therefore more vulnerable; this early years and childcare setting will identify who our vulnerable children are, ensuring all staff know the processes to secure advice, help and support where needed.

##  Child Abuse

In relation to children safeguarding and promoting their welfare is defined 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;
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

There are four types of child abuse as defined in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ (2018) which is defined in the ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance, 2020”.

Details of this can be found in the Appendix A at the rear of this document.

**Specific Safeguarding Issues**

The Setting will endeavour to ensure their Staff, are familiar with; having processes in place to identify, report, monitor and which are included within teaching:

* Bullying including cyber bullying
* Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and as defined by Working Together 2018
* Children at risk of criminal exploitation ( CRE) as defined by local safeguarding partnership procedures
* Domestic Abuse
* Drugs
* Fabricated or induced illness
* Faith abuse
* Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
* Breast Ironing
* Forced Marriage
* Gangs and Youth Violence
* Gender based violence/Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
* Hate
* Mental Health
* Private Fostering
* Preventing Radicalisation
* On line abuse/Sexting
* Teenage Relationship abuse
* Trafficking
* Missing children and vulnerable adults
* Child sexual abuse within the family
* Poor parenting, particularly in relation to babiesand young children

In understanding the signs and indicators of specific issues listed earlier in this policy, this setting will incorporate the signs of abuse and specific safeguarding issues on safeguarding into briefings, staff Induction training, and ongoing development training for all Staff.

**Indicators of child abuse**

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

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

Emotional states:

* Fearful
* Withdrawn
* Low self-esteem.

Behaviour:

* Aggressive
* Oppositional habitual body rocking.

Interpersonal behaviours:

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

**Peer-on-peer abuse**

We are aware that peer-on-peer abuse does take place, so we include children in our policies when we talk about potential abusers. This may take the form of bullying, physically hurting another child, emotional abuse or sexual abuse. We will report this in the same way we do for adults abusing children, and will take advice from the appropriate bodies on this area; to support for both the victim and the perpetrator, as they could also be a victim of abuse. We know that children who develop harmful sexual behaviour have often experienced abuse and neglect themselves.

**Physical abuse**

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

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

**Fabricated illness**

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

**Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

FGM can also be known as Female Genital Cutting. FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother; and/or death (definition taken from the Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation)

The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth and during childhood as well as adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman’s first pregnancy and varies widely according to the community.

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

• Severe pain

• Shock

• Bleeding

• Infection such at tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C

• Organ damage

• Blood loss and infections

• Death in some cases

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

**Breast Ironing/flattening**

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

Breast Ironing/Flattening is a form of physical abuse and can cause serious health issues such as:

* Abscesses
* Cysts
* Itching
* Tissue damage
* Infection
* Discharge of milk
* Dissymmetry of the breasts
* Severe fever.

**Sexual abuse**

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

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

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

Emotional signs:

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

Physical Signs:

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

**Child sexual exploitation (CSE) & CRE-Children at risk of exploitation**

*Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020)* describes CSE as: CSE occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. CSE can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year old’s who can legally consent to have sex. It can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity and may occur without the child or young person’s immediate knowledge (e.g. through others copying videos or images they have created and posted on social media).

Signs and indicators may include:

* Physical injuries such as bruising or bleeding
* Having money or gifts they are unable to explain
* Sudden changes in their appearance
* Becoming involved in drugs or alcohol, particularly if you suspect they are being supplied by older men or women
* Becoming emotionally volatile (mood swings are common in all young people, but more severe changes could indicate that something is wrong)
* Using sexual language that you wouldn’t expect them to know
* Engaging less with their usual friends
* Appearing controlled by their phone
* Switching to a new screen when you come near the computer
* Nightmares or sleeping problems
* Running away, staying out overnight, missing school
* Changes in eating habits
* Talk of a new, older friend, boyfriend or girlfriend
* Losing contact with family and friends or becoming secretive
* Contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

We recognise this is relevant to both boys and girls

Risk factors may include;

* Going missing, staying out unusually late
* Engagement in offending
* Disengagement from education
* Using drugs or alcohol
* Unexplained gifts/money
* Overly secretive
* Repeat concerns about sexual health
* Decline in emotional wellbeing
* Association in gangs
* Unexplained injuries

Carrying weapons, access to or carrying unusual number of mobile phones

All suspected or actual cases of CSE/CRE are a Safeguarding concern in which Child Protection procedures will be followed; this will include a referral to the police. If any staff are concerned about a pupil, they will refer to the Safeguarding Designated Lead/s within the setting

**Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

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

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

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

Criminal exploitation of children is a Safeguarding concern and will require a discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek advice from agencies and professionals; including, reference to the Safeguarding procedures as outlined by the local authority. This will mean a referral into the Police and Social Care. The setting will offer support to a victim.

**Emotional Abuse**

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

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

Signs and indicators may include:

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

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

**Neglect**

Working Together to Safeguard Children defines Neglect as the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

a. Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)

b. Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger

c. Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers)

d. Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

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

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

Action should be taken if the staff member has reason to believe that there has been any type of neglect of a child.

**County Lines**

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

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

Signs and indicators to be aware of include:

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

**Cuckooing**

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

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

**Contextual safeguarding**-

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

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

**Domestic Abuse**

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

**Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse is rarely a one-off incident, but a pattern of power and control. It is any threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are, or have been in a relationship; or between family members. It can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.

Children living with Domestic Abuse in their home or who are caught up in incidents of Domestic Abuse, are victims, and this can seriously harm children and young people. Some children are physically harmed as they can get caught up in the incident, some children are witnesses to the abuse, or hear the abuse. The impact on children living in a household where there is Domestic Abuse is likely to influence their development and social skills. We will treat any disclosure of information relating to Domestic Abuse as a Safeguarding concern and we will follow local Safeguarding Procedures.

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi-agency approach in managing cases of Domestic Abuse and where children are living, the victim will be seen as high risk of serious harm/ homicide. A Multi-Agency response is essential in ensuring that victims and their families are as safe as possible.

This school recognises this process and that as a partner they can make a referral into MARAC, based on information provided to them by a child, parent/carer:

<https://saferderbyshire.gov.uk/what-we-do/domestic-abuse/staff-guidance/adults/marac/multi-agency-risk-assessment-conference.aspx>

The necessary form to make a referral is available here: [dariskassessmentandreferral](https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/dariskassessmentandreferral)

**Extremism – the Prevent Duty**

Early years providers serve arguably the most vulnerable and impressionable members of society. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) makes clear that to protect children in their care, providers must be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child’s life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4 EYFS).

I adhere to my duties under Prevent, as detailed in the Prevent guidance April 2021 to have due regard to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism. I will:

* Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of extremism;
* Ensure I understand the risk and build capabilities to deal with issues arising
* Communicate the importance of the duty;
* Ensure I implement the duty.

If I have a non-urgent Prevent concern I can seek advice by email from: ctp-em-prevent@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk or prevent@derbyshire.gov.uk

(Derbyshire Police 101- can also route non urgent referrals through to the PREVENT Team)

I will follow my safeguarding procedures and complete a Prevent referral form found using the following link: [Prevent referrals (saferderbyshire.gov.uk)](https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/what-we-do/counter-terrorism/prevent-referrals/prevent-referrals.aspx)

If this is an urgent child protection concern, I will call Starting Point on 01629 533190 immediately. A Prevent related referral will then trigger triage for the police’s Prevent Team and Channel. *(If the setting has children not living in Derbyshire, I will refer into the relevant social care service for that child and/or the police).*

I meet the requirements of the Prevent Duty by: -

* **Risk assessment** – I am alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection and report concerns via the safeguarding procedures.
* **Training** – It is essential I identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. At a minimum, as the DSL I must undertake a Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP).
* **IT policies** – I must be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups and how to manage access to the internet via phones and games etc.

**Partnership working** – The Prevent Duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements for safeguarding and also works to build close links with parents to be able to offer support and guidance, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation

I support children to build resilience to radicalisation by promoting Fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremism. Effective practice prevents and tackles the use of derogatory language which is directed towards disabled people or is homophobic, sexist or racist. All incidents of discrimination and racism will be logged.

I am aware that Early Education Funding regulations in England have been amended to ensure that providers who fail to promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs do not receive funding from local authorities for the free Early Years entitlement.

Under the Equality Act 2010 the practice and principles of equality and diversity are effectively promoted in an age appropriate way. Stereotypical behaviours are routinely challenged, and differences are respected.

**Online Safety**

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

We are working with the Derbyshire Community Safety Team, Derbyshire Constabulary Cybercrime Team and the regional cybercrime team at EMSOU (East Midlands Special Operations Unit) to help identify, and provide support and diversionary services to, cyber gifted and talented pupils, who are identified as being vulnerable, or at risk of exploitation, in terms of committing cybercrime.  We will be using the Cyber Choices Toolkit, 2020 and referral pathways for pupils.  [www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/cyberchoices](http://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/cyberchoices)

**Human Trafficking and Slavery**

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

**Adult sexual exploitation**

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

**Up skirting**

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

**Child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB)**

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

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

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

**Honour Based Abuse / Forced Marriages**

Please see separate policy on this.

## The Sending of Indecent Images from one person to another through Digital Media Devices

##

This setting accepts that this is a Safeguarding concern and one that is increasing which requires a robust response. We will seek advice from agencies and professionals acknowledging that there are both national and local guidance that we need to adhere to in order to tackle the concerns and work in partnership with our agencies.

We will refer to:

[Derby City & Derbyshire Thresholds Document](http://www.proceduresonline.com/derbyshire/scbs/user_controlled_lcms_area/uploaded_files/DSCB-Thresholds.pdf)

[“Sexting in Schools & Colleges: Responding to incidents & safeguarding young people” UK Council for child internet safety](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/609874/6_2939_SP_NCA_Sexting_In_Schools_FINAL_Update_Jan17.pdf)

[The DfE guidance 2018 on Searching Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)

[The Dfe guidance, June 2019 on Teaching Online Safety in Schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-online-safety-in-schools)

**Serious Violence/Carrying Knifes/Offensive Weapons & Gang Culture**

Bringing and carrying a knife/offensive weapon onto setting premises is a criminal

offence and immediate action will be taken by calling the police. The guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation for management.

If a member of staff, parent or child is suspects a being involved in gang culture, this is a safeguarding concern and will require a discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek advice from agencies and professionals including reference to the Safeguarding procedures as outlined by the local authority.

**Reporting Procedures**

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

* Staff will report their concerns to the DSL Jodie Kitson (in the absence of the DSL they will be reported to the Deputy DSL) Claire Senogles
* Any signs of marks/injuries to a child or information a child has given will be recorded and stored securely.
* For children who arrive at nursery with an existing injury, a form will be completed along with the parent’s/ carers explanation as to how the injury happened. Staff will have professional curiosity around any explanations given, any concerns around existing injury’s will be reported.
* If appropriate, any concerns/or incidents will be discussed with the parent/carer and discussions will be recorded. Parents will have access to these records on request in line with GDPR and data protection guidelines.
* If there are queries/concerns regarding the injury/information given, then the following procedures will take place:

**The designated safeguarding lead will:**

* Contact the Local Authority children’s social care team to report concerns and seek advice immediately, or as soon as it is practical to do so. If it is believed a child is in immediate danger we will contact the police. If the safeguarding concern relates to an allegation against an adult working or volunteering with children then the DSL will follow the reporting allegations procedure (see below).
* Record the information and action taken relating to the concern raised
* Speak to the parents (unless advised not do so by LA children’s social care team)
* The designated safeguarding lead will follow up with the Local Authority children’s social care team if they have not contacted the setting within the timeframe set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2018). We will never assume that action has been taken.

Keeping children safe is our highest priority and if, for whatever reason, staff do not feel able to report concerns to the DSL or deputy DSL they should call the Derbyshire’s children’s social care team, the Police or the NSPCC and report their concerns anonymously.

These contact numbers are displayed **in this policy and in the entrance hall of Earlybirds**

Ofsted must be informed as soon as practical, of any significant incident requiring notification and in any case within 14 days, see required notifications:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

Our insurance company may also need to be notified of any significant incidents, without sharing personal details unless appropriate to do so and as guided within the information sharing policy.

**Responding to a spontaneous disclosure from a child**

If a child starts to talk openly to a member of staff about abuse they may be experiencing then staff will:

* Give full attention to the child or young person
* Keep body language open and encouraging
* Be compassionate, be understanding and reassure them their feelings are important. Phrases such as ‘you’ve shown such courage today’
* Take time and slow down: we will respect pauses and will not interrupt the child – let them go at their own pace
* Recognise and respond to their body language
* Show understanding and reflect back
* Make it clear you are interested in what the child is telling you
* Reflect back what they have said to check your understanding – and use their language to show it’s their experience
* Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you. Make sure they know that abuse is never their fault
* Never talk to the alleged perpetrator about the child’s disclosure. This could make things a lot worse for the child.

(Information taken from NSPCC)

Any disclosure will be reported to the nursery manager or DSL and will be referred to the local authority children’s social care team immediately, following our reporting procedures.

**Recording Suspicions of Abuse and Disclosures**

Staff should make an objective record of any observation or disclosure, supported by the nursery manager or designated safeguarding lead (DSL). This record should include:

* Child's name
* Child's address
* Age of the child and date of birth
* Date and time of the observation or the disclosure, location
* Exact words spoken by the child (word for word) and non-verbal communication
* Exact position and type of any injuries or marks seen
* Exact observation of any incident including any concern was reported, with date and time; and the names of any other person present at the time
* Any discussion held with the parent(s) (where deemed appropriate).

These records should be signed by the person reporting this and the manager/DSL, dated and kept in a separate confidential file. **(the correct forms are displayed in the nursery office)**

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

Staff involved in a safeguarding case may be asked to supply details of any information/concerns they have with regard to a child. The nursery expects all members of staff to co-operate with the local authority children’s social care, police, and Ofsted in any way necessary to ensure the safety of the children.

Staff must not make any comments either publicly or in private about the supposed or actual behaviour of a parent, child or member of staff.

**Informing parents**

Parents are normally the first point of contact. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the local authority children’s social care team/police does not allow this to happen. This will usually be the case where the parent or family member is the likely abuser or where a child may be endangered by this disclosure. In these cases the investigating officers will inform parents.

**Confidentiality**

All suspicions, enquiries and external investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared in line with guidance from the local authority. All staff, students and volunteers are bound by confidentiality and any information will not be discussed out of work, or this will become a disciplinary matter.

The Nursery has due regard to the data protection principles as in the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)[[1]](#footnote-1). These do not prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information, even without consent if this would put the child at further risk. We will follow the principles around data collection and information sharing, and ensure any information is recorded and shared in an appropriate way.

**Support to families**

The nursery takes every step in its power to build up trusting and supportive relations among families, staff, students and volunteers within the nursery.

The nursery continues to welcome the child and the family whilst enquiries are being made in relation to abuse in the home situation. Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non-judgmental manner whilst any external investigations are carried out in the best interest of the child.

**Record Keeping**

Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child, only if appropriate and in line with guidance of the local authority with the proviso that the care and safety of the child is paramount. We will do all in our power to support and work with the child's family.

The Nursery keeps appropriate records to support the early identification of children and families that would benefit from support. Factual records are maintained in a chronological order with parental discussions. Records are reviewed regularly by the DSL to look holistically at identifying children’s needs.

**Allegations against adults working or volunteering with children**

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

An allegation against a member of staff/student/volunteer/supply staff or any other person may relate to a person who has:

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

The allegation should be reported to the senior manager on duty. If this person is the subject of the allegation then this should be reported to the DSL/deputy manager instead.

At Earlybirds Day Nursery we will follow our own local safeguarding partnership website information about how to report an allegation and we would also inform Ofsted immediately in order for this to be investigated by the appropriate bodies promptly:

* If as an individual you feel this will not be taken seriously or are worried about the allegation getting back to the person in question then it is your duty to inform the local authority children’s social care team yourself directly
* The local authority children’s social care team will be informed immediately for advice and guidance
* A full investigation will be carried out by the appropriate professionals (local authority children’s social care team , Ofsted) to determine how this will be handled
* The nursery will follow all instructions from the local authority children’s social care team and Ofsted and ask all staff members to do the same and co-operate where required
* Support will be provided to all those involved in an allegation throughout the external investigation in line with local authority children’s social care team support and advice
* The nursery reserves the right to suspend any member of staff during an investigation, Legal advice will be sought to ensure compliance with the law.
* All enquiries/external investigations/interviews will be documented and kept in a locked file for access by the relevant authorities
* Founded allegations will be passed on to the relevant organisations including the local authority children’s social care team and where an offence is believed to have been committed, the police will also be informed.
* Founded allegations will be dealt with as gross misconduct in accordance with our disciplinary procedures and may result in the termination of employment, Ofsted will be notified immediately of this decision along with notifying the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to ensure their records are updated.
* All safeguarding records will be kept until the person reaches normal retirement age or for 21 years and 3 months if that is longer. This will ensure accurate information is available for references and future DBS checks and avoids any unnecessary reinvestigation
* The nursery retains the right to dismiss any member of staff in connection with founded allegations following an inquiry
* Unfounded allegations will result in all rights being reinstated
* A return to work plan will be put in place for any member of staff returning to work after an allegation has been deemed unfounded. Individual support will be offered to meet the needs of the individual staff member and the nature of the incident; this may include more frequent supervisions, coaching and mentoring and external support.

**Monitoring children’s attendance**

As part of our requirements under the statutory framework and guidance documents we are required to monitor children’s attendance patterns to ensure they are consistent and no cause for concern.

Parents should please inform the nursery prior to their children taking holidays or days off, and all incidents of sickness absence should be reported to the nursery the same day so the nursery management are able to account for a child’s absence.

This should not stop parents taking precious time with their children, by keeping us informed parents can help us to meet our statutory requirements and let us know that children are safe.

If a child has not arrived at nursery within one hour of their normal start time the parents will be called to ensure the child is safe and healthy. If the parents are not contactable then the emergency contacts numbers listed will be used to ensure all parties are safe. Staff will work their way down the emergency contact list until contact is established and we are made aware that all is well with the child and family. It is a parent’s responsibility to keep their emergency contact details updated.

Where a child is part of a child protection plan, or during a referral process, any absences will immediately be reported to the local authority children’s social care team to ensure the child remains safe and well.

**Looked after children**

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

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

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

**Staffing and volunteering**

Our policy is to provide a secure and safe environment for all children. We follow safer recruitment practices including obtaining references and all staff employed to work with children will have enhanced criminal record checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before being able to carry out intimate care routines or be left unsupervised with children.

We will obtain enhanced criminal records checks (DBS) for volunteers in the setting. Volunteers and visitors will never have unsupervised access to children.

All staff will attend child protection training and receive initial basic child protection training during their induction period. This will include the procedures for spotting signs and behaviours of abuse and abusers/potential abusers, recording and reporting concerns and creating a safe and secure environment for the children in the nursery. During induction staff will be given contact details for the local authority children’s social care team’s, the local safeguarding children partnership and Ofsted to enable them to report any safeguarding concerns, independently, if they feel it necessary to do so.

Ongoing suitability of staff is monitored through regular supervisions and staff declarations.

* peer observations
* annual declaration of staff suitability
* safeguarding competencies
* regular review of DBS using the online update service

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

We have named persons within the nursery who take lead responsibility for safeguarding and co-ordinate child protection and welfare issues, known as the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL), there is always at least one designated person on duty during the opening hours of the setting. The designated persons will receive comprehensive training at least every two years and update their knowledge on an ongoing basis, but at least once a year.

The nursery DSL’s liaise with the local authority children’s social care team, undertakes specific training, including a child protection training course, and receives regular updates to developments within this field. They in turn support the ongoing development and knowledge of the staff team with regular safeguarding updates.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) at the nursery are: **Jodie Kitson Lead and Claire Senogles Deputy**

**The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Ensure that the settings safeguarding policy and procedures are reviewed and developed in line with current guidance; and develop staff understanding of the settings safeguarding policies

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

**The Nursery safeguards children and staff by;**

* Providing adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of all children
* Informing applicants for posts within the nursery that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Candidates are informed of the need to carry out checks before posts can be confirmed. Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information
* Giving staff members, volunteers and students regular opportunities during supervisions and having an open door policy to declare changes that may affect their suitability to care for the children. This includes information about their health, medication or about changes in their home life such as child protection plans for their own children.
* we use the DBS update service (with staff consent) to re-check staff’s criminal history and suitability to work with children at regular intervals
* Abiding by the requirements of the EYFS and any Ofsted guidance in respect to obtaining references and suitability checks for staff, students and volunteers, to ensure that all staff, students and volunteers working in the setting are suitable to do so
* Ensuring we receive at least two written references BEFORE a new member of staff commences employment with us
* Ensuring all students will have enhanced DBS checks completed before their placement starts
* Volunteers, including students, do not carry out any intimate care routines and are never left to work unsupervised with children
* Abiding by the requirements of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Childcare Act 2006 (amended 2018) in respect of any person who is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have led to dismissal for reasons of child protection concern will be reported to the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS)
* Having procedures for recording the details of visitors to the nursery and take security steps to ensure that that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children
* Ensuring all visitors/contractors are supervised whilst on the premises, especially when in the areas the children use
* Staying vigilant to safeguard the whole nursery environment and be aware of potential dangers on the nursery boundaries such as drones or strangers lingering. We will ensure the children remain safe at all times
* Having a Staff Behaviour Policy sits alongside this policy to enable us to monitor changes in behaviours that may cause concern. All staff sign up to this policy too to ensure any changes are reported to management so we are able to support the individual staff member and ensure the safety and care of the children is not compromised
* Ensuring that staff are aware not to contact parents/carers and children through social media on their own personal social media accounts and they will report any such incidents to the management team to deal with
* Ensuring that all staff have access to, and comply with, the whistleblowing policy which provides information on how they can share any concerns that may arise about their colleagues in an appropriate manner. We encourage a culture of openness and transparency, and all concerns are taken seriously
* Ensuring all staff are aware of the signs to look for of inappropriate staff behaviour, this may include inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities; or inappropriate sharing of images. This is not an exhaustive list, any changes in behaviour must be reported and acted upon immediately
* Ensuring all staff will receive regular supervision meetings where opportunities will be made available to discuss any issues relating to individual children, child protection training, safeguarding concerns and any needs for further support or training
* Having peer on peer and manager observations in the setting to ensure that the care we provide for children is at the highest level and any areas for staff development are quickly identified. Peer observations allow us to share constructive feedback, develop practice and build trust so that staff are able to share any concerns they may have. Concerns are raised with the designated lead and dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner
* Ensuring the deployment of staff within the nursery allows for constant supervision and support. Where children need to spend time away from the rest of the group, the door will be left ajar or other safeguards will be put into action to ensure the safety of the child and the adult.

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

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

. **Appendices A. Remote learning and safeguarding**

Early Years settings/Childminders should refer to NSPCC guidance, when engaging in remote learning.  The guidance is unchanged since its previous update (April 21st 2020).

**Appendices B. Learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and Serious Incident Learning Reviews (SILRs) 2016-2019**

The Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children partnership recognises the importance of learning and improving from our experiences in this area.

The Early Years’ Service will share relevant messages from SCR’s and SILRS (Serious Incident and Learning Reviews) in appropriate training events.

In 2016/17 in summary form we learnt that:

* The importance of authoritative practice;
* To be alert to disguised compliance;
* The importance pf professional curiosity;
* To be alert to the possibility of abuse;
* That all professionals to consider the need for an Early Help Assessment;
* Hear the voice of the child;
* Understand and record the child’s lived experience.

In 2018/19 we learnt that:

* Appropriate representation is needed at key meetings- Child Protection Case Conferences
* Effective multi-agency working
* Working more SMART (ly) with children and Young people
* Effective information sharing to inform assessments
* Staff to be curious, inquisitive and ask more questions
* Reflection and constructive challenge for staff when working with vulnerable children and young people
* Staff to observe safer working practices
* Staff to be reminded of a code of conduct and staff to operate by one

 From SCR’s (East Midlands & wider) in 2015 we need:

* A requirement for holistic and family based approach to ante-natal care and the importance of recording a full history of parents
* A need for professional curiosity into parental capacity & the mental health of parents
* To find out about the role of fathers/male partners/boyfriends in families
* To understand how mental health issues impact on the welfare & development of young children
* To act upon disrupted education, going missing, school refusal
* To know about the need to distinguish between sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and or/underage sexual activity
* To identify neglect in disabled children
* A requirement to know about and use escalation & challenge processes provided by a safeguarding board where there are professional disagreements
* To know that when safeguarding teenagers understanding a tension between respecting their autonomy and keeping them safe
* To understand the impact of bereavement, loss and transition for children and especially young people
* Realise and respond to parents who dominate and manipulate TAF meetings (early help/CIN) by disputing points, creating diversions & feigned compliances with recommendations.

**Appendices C. Making a referral:**

**Essential information to include when making a referral:**

* Full names and dates of birth for the child and other members of the family.
* Address and daytime phone numbers for the parents, including mobile.
* The child's address and phone number.
* Whereabouts of the child (and siblings).
* Child and family's ethnic origin.
* Child and family's main language.
* Actions taken and people contacted.
* Special needs of the child, including need for an accredited interpreter, accredited sign language interpreter or other language support.
* A clear indication of the family's knowledge of the referral and whether they have consented to the sharing of confidential information;
* The details of the person making the referral.

Other information that may be essential:

* Addresses of wider family members;
* Previous addresses of the family;
* Schools and nurseries attended by the child and others in the household;
* Name, address & phone number of GP/Midwife/Health Visitor/School Nurse;
* Hospital ward/consultant/Named nurse and dates of admission/discharge;
* Details of other children who may be in contact with the alleged abuser;
* Details of other practitioners involved with the family;
* Child's legal status and anyone not already mentioned who has parental responsibility;
* History of previous concerns and any previous or current early help assessments completed;
* Any other information that is likely to impact on the undertaking of an assessment or [Section 47 Enquiry](http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/sec_47_enq.html).
* Any other information that may put a worker at risk e.g.- dogs, weapons.

**Making a Referral**

Before a referral is made into front door services e.g.- Starting Point Derbyshire, First Contact Derby, if the information is not about immediate concerns for the health, safety and or wellbeing of a child, consideration must be given to:

* Undertaking an early help assessment
* Using and evidencing the current threshold document\* available to all practitioners and which is found on the partnership website: <https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/docs_library.html>

**Practice Examples**

**Level 1 - Universal Open Access to Provision**

Unborn babies, children and young people who make good overall progress in most areas of development and receive appropriate universal services, such as health care and education. They may also use leisure and play facilities, housing or voluntary services.

**Level 2 - Emerging Needs**

Unborn babies, children and young people whose needs require some extra co-ordinated support from more than one agency. These services should work together to agree what extra help may be needed to support a child or young person at an early stage. There is no need for intensive or specialist services.

**Level 3 - Intensive**

Vulnerable unborn babies, children and young people and those who have a disability. Children and young people whose needs are more complex. This refers to the range, depth or significance of the needs. A number of these indicators would need to be present to indicate need at a level 3 criteria.

More than one service is likely to become involved. It is expected that the updated early help assessment will provide clear analysis and rationale for both the family and other services that Level 3 Intensive threshold has now been met.

If it was considered that the team around the family (TAF) plan had not met the child or family’s emerging needs and that threshold for Level 3 intervention was met, consideration would be given to the role of intensive services being offered through children’s services early help team or the completion of a single assessment by a qualified social worker.

**Level 4 - Specialist**

Unborn babies, babies, children, young people and families whose needs are complex and enduring and cross many domains. More than one service is normally involved, with all professionals involved on a statutory basis with qualified social workers as the professional leads. It is usually local authority children’s social care who act as the lead agency.

**Confidentiality**

The safety and welfare of the child overrides all other considerations, including the following:

* Confidentiality;
* The gathering of evidence;
* Commitment or loyalty to relatives, friends or colleagues.

The overriding consideration must be the protection of the child - for this reason, absolute confidentiality cannot and should not be promised to anyone.

**Listening to the Child**

If the child makes an allegation or discloses information which raises concern about Significant Harm, the initial response should be limited to listening carefully to what the child says, so as to:

* Clarify the concerns;
* Offer reassurance about how s/he will be kept safe;
* Explain that the information will be passed to Children's Social Care and/or the Police.

If a child is freely recalling events, the response should be to listen, rather than stop the child; however, it is important that the child should not be asked to repeat the information to a colleague or asked to write the information down.

If the child has an injury but no explanation is volunteered, it is acceptable to enquire how the injury was sustained. A body map diagram may be used but it is not acceptable to take photographs.

However, the child must not be pressed for information, led or cross-examined or given false assurances of absolute confidentiality. Such well-intentioned actions could prejudice police investigations, especially in cases of Sexual Abuse.

A record of all conversations, (including the timings, the setting, those present, as well as what was said by all parties) and actions must be kept.

No enquiries or investigations may be initiated without the authority of the Children's Social Care or the Police.

If the child can understand the significance and consequences of making a referral, he/she should be asked her/his views by the referring practitioner.

Whilst the child's views should be considered, it remains the responsibility of the practitioner to take whatever action is required to ensure the safety of that child and any other children.

**Parental Consultation**

Practitioners should, in general, discuss concerns with the family and, where possible inform them that they are making a referral unless this may, either by delay or the behavioural response it prompts or for any other reason, place the child at increased risk of Significant Harm.

Situations where it **would not** be appropriate to inform family members prior to referral include where:

* Discussion would put a child at risk of Significant Harm;
* There is evidence to suggest that involving the parents / caregivers would impede the police investigation and / or Children and Families Services enquiry;
* Where there are concerns that a child may have been conceived as a result of an incestuous relationship or intra-familial sexual abuse;
* Complex (multiple or organised) abuse is suspected;
* Fabricated or induced illness is suspected;
* To contact parents / caregivers would place you or others at risk;
* Discussion would place one parent at risk of harm, for example. in cases of domestic abuse;
* It is not possible to contact parents / caregivers without causing undue delay in making the referral;
* Where there are concerns about a possible forced marriage or honour based violence;
* An allegation is made that a child under 13 has been involved in penetrative sex or other intimate sexual activity;

Given the responsibility that parents have for the conduct and welfare of their children, professionals should encourage the young person, at all points, to share information with their parents wherever safe to do so.

## Appendices D. Important Contact Details

Derbyshire Call Derbyshire (Starting Point): Tel: 01629 533190
24/7, 365 days per week Derbyshire contact and referral service for concerns that a child/adult over 18 is suffering or at risk of significant harm.

All other requests for support for children and their families use an on-line referral form

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/startingpoint](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/startingpoint)

Starting Point Professionals Advice line Childrens

Tel: 01629 535353

LADO Derby & Derbyshire (Local Authority Designated Officer- allegations against staff, volunteers, carers) **Professional.Allegations@derbyshire.gov.uk**

 <http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/docs_library>

When to contact the Police:

[**https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-education/safeguarding-policies-guidance-and-protocols/when-to-contact-the-police.aspx**](https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-education/safeguarding-policies-guidance-and-protocols/when-to-contact-the-police.aspx)

 Police Non-Emergencies number 101

**Ofsted must** be informed as soon as practical, of any incident requiring notification and in any case within 14 days,

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

Where there is concern about suspected harm or risk of harm to a child, the referral should be made to the local authority for the area **where the child lives and without delay.**

**Our main neighbouring Local Authorities are …**

Nottinghamshire 0300 500 8080

Derby City 01332 641172

Leicestershire 0116 305 0005

Staffordshire 0800 131 3126

Cheshire East 0300 123 5012

Tameside 0161 342 4101

South Yorkshire 0130 273 7777

**Appendices E**

**Derbyshire Local Area Designated Safeguarding Officer (LADO) Process** - **Allegations/Concerns against staff member or persons living on premises where Ofsted registered childcare takes place**

Assess & ensure the immediate safety of the child/young person

 Notify & consult with a Senior Manager/Headteacher/Principal

If you have a concern/allegation about a member of staff, (volunteer, student etc) manager, owner, director or committee member (childminders - this includes allegation against yourself, an assistant, a family member or anyone living or working on the premises) who have :-

* Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child/young person.
* Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child/ young person
* Behaved towards a child/young person in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to a child/young person

**Complete** a “Derby and Derbyshire LADO Referral Form” & send to Allegations Mailbox for Derbyshire within 24 hrs**professionalallegations@derbyshire.gov.uk**[**http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/docs\_library.html**](http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/docs_library.html)

A joint child protection & police response may follow

If the Senior Manager/Head teacher/ Principal/Governor is the subject of the concern or connected, identify an alternative

Follow your organisational Child protection procedure to secure this

**The Local Authority Designated Officer** Assesses whether allegations/concerns meets the criteria and plans a response

Contact Ofsted to report an allegation/concern has been made

In all cases, the LADO has an advisory role to establish any next steps for regulatory provision, such as Ofsted registered childcare settings

**Appendices I**. **Child protection concern - flow chart**

Concern raised about a child – speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), follow the setting’s policy and review known information

 (Notes - appendix 1 and any previous chronology)

**The Designated safeguarding lead (DSL) - If urgent and immediate, refer safeguarding concerns to Starting Point** **01629 533190** **or** the LA where the child lives (see page 6). Contact the police if a child is in danger or an ambulance (999)

**DSL - All other referrals** are made by completing an online referral form for triage [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/startingpoint](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/startingpoint) (include your email address so that contact can be made).

(If you are not sure if a threshold for referral is met, you can phone the Starting Point professionals advice line 01629 535353 - leave a message and follow advice)

**DSL** - All concerns and discussions about a child’s welfare are confidential and must be recorded in a timeline (chronology), including the decisions made (if you had shared information with parents, carers or social worker if child in care) and the reasons for the decisions. – See appendix 5

**DSL -** [inform Ofsted of any significant safeguarding incidents that have been referred to the local authority](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident#how-to-tell-ofsted), (the setting’s insurance company may also need to be notified a referral has been made, without sharing confidential information.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident>

**DSL/key worker** - The setting will monitor the situation and if there are further concerns, the setting will continue to put the safety of the child first and record and refer again or take advice as appropriate.

It is the role of social care/police or health practitioners, via a Starting Point Referral, to investigate individual cases and take further action if required, not the setting.

**Manager/DSL** Review policy and procedures if required and share learning with all staff

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| April 2021 |  | September 2021 |

1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/721581/Information\_sharing\_advice\_practitioners\_safeguarding\_services.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)