

Safeguarding Statement

“Safeguarding is Everyone’s Business”

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.

We make every effort to provide an environment in which children and adults feel safe, secure, valued, and respected. We want children and adults to feel confident to talk if they are worried, believing they will be effectively listened to.

This policy aims to provide staff, Managers, and Directors with the framework they need to keep children safe and secure in our setting. The policy also informs parents and carers how we will safeguard their children whilst they are in our care.

Key personnel

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is **SHARON LEWIS**

Contact details: secure@motherhen.uk

Deputy DSL(s) is **CHRIS FULLER**

Contact details: chris@motherhennursery.co.uk

The Safeguarding Director is: **GEORGIA SUNNUCKS**

Contact details: Georgia@motherhennursery.co.uk

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge.
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development.
- Making sure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Early help is support for children of all ages that improves a family’s resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the setting, full or part-time, temporary or permanent, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes supply teachers, volunteers, tutors, and contractors.

Child(ren) includes everyone under the age of 18. On the whole, this will apply to pupils of our setting; however, the policy will extend to visiting children and students from other establishments.

Parents refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example,

stepparents, foster carers, and adoptive parents.

Social Care refers to Children's Services in the area in which the child is resident, unless a child is a Child Looked After then this will be the Children's Services in their home authority.

MAP refers to the Surrey Multi-Agency Partnership.

C-SPA refers to the Children's Single Point of Access.

Introduction

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; The Childcare Act 2006, and in line with statutory guidance:

- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2023
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, which sets out the multi-agency working arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm; in addition, it sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of settings.
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty)

Guidance and documents referred to in this policy:

- [Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership protocols, guidance and procedures](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)
- [Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 \(updated 2019\)](#)
- [FGM Act 2003 Mandatory Reporting Guidance 2015 \(updated January 2020\)](#)
- ['What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' 2015](#)
- [Teachers' standards](#)
- [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework](#)

The policy also reflects [Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership \(SSCP\) Procedures](#).

This policy applies to all members of staff, the Manager and Directors of the setting.

This policy applies where there are any safeguarding concerns regarding children who attend the settings but may also apply to other children connected to the setting, for example, siblings or younger staff (under 18s) or children on student/work placements.

The Manager of the setting will review this policy at least annually. This policy will additionally be updated in line with changes in Local and National Guidance and Legislation.

Parents/carers can obtain a copy of the Child Protection Policy and other related policies on request. Via email or on the your learning journal app.

Equalities Statement

With regards to safeguarding we will consider our duties under the [Equality Act 2010](#) and our general and specific duties under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#). General duties include:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.

Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. Foster good relations across all protected characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Details of our specific duties are published under Mother Hen's equality statement and measurable

objectives.

Staff are aware of the additional barriers to recognising abuse, neglect, and exploitation in children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This will be in line with our Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Mother Hen Nursery also adheres to the principals of and promotes anti-oppressive practice in line with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Act 1998.

Principles, values, and aims.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (2023 - Last updated -19 January 2024) states that 'Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.'

Mother Hen Nursery will demonstrate a commitment to Safeguarding and Child Protection to children, parents, and other partners. We will maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here', where the welfare of the child is paramount.

Mother Hen Nursery will ensure that safeguarding and child protection are at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development so that all systems, processes, and policies operate in the best interests of the child.

The aims of these procedures are:

- To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in doing so ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities.
- To ensure consistent good practice across the setting and ensure that safeguarding follows a whole setting approach.
- Clarifying safeguarding expectations for members of the setting's community, staff, Governing body/Proprietor/Management Committee, children, and their families.
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient, and robust safeguarding culture in the setting built on shared values; that children are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other and staff with respect, feel safe, have a voice, and are listened to.
- Supporting contextual safeguarding practice recognising that the setting's site can be a location where harm can occur.
- Setting expectations for developing knowledge and skills within the setting's community (staff, children, parents/carers) to the signs and indicators of safeguarding issues and how to respond to them.
- Early identification of need for vulnerable learners and provision of proportionate interventions to promote their welfare and safety.
- Working in partnership with children, parents/carers, and other agencies in the Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership.

All children have a right to be protected from harm and abuse. All staff have a role in the prevention of harm and abuse and an equal responsibility to act immediately on any suspicion or disclosure that may indicate a child is at risk of harm, either in Mother Hen Nursery or in the community, taking into account contextual safeguarding, by statutory guidance.

We acknowledge that working in partnership with other agencies protects children and reduces risk

and we will engage in partnership working to protect and safeguard children. Whilst Mother Hen Nursery will work openly with parents as far as possible, we reserve the right to contact Social Care or the Police, without notifying parents if this is believed to be in the child's best interests.

Supporting children

We recognise that Mother Hen Nursery may provide a safe place and the only stability in the lives of children who have been abused or who are at risk of harm.

We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses abuse and/or violence may feel helpless and humiliated, may blame themselves, and find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth. We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.

We recognise that Mother Hen Nursery plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our children by providing children with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends, and an ethos of protection.

Mother Hen Nursery will support all children:

- By treating each child as an individual so that they can learn, be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- By teaching children to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- By establishing and maintaining an ethos where children feel safe and secure and are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings through conversation, story-telling and role-play.
- Ensure that all children know there is an adult in Mother Hen Nursery whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Reassure children who report concerns that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
- We will encourage self-esteem and self-awareness, through the Early Years Foundation Stage and positive relationships within the community.
- We will respond sympathetically to any requests for quiet time.
- We will liaise and work in partnership with other support services and agencies involved in Early Help and the safeguarding of children.
- We will notify Social Care immediately if there is a significant concern.
- Have staff members on fixed shifts to create security for all children.
- Ensure the keyperson approach is followed with all intimate care routines and needs, specifically nappy changing and toilet learning.

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that:

Mother Hen Nursery operates a safer recruitment procedure that includes statutory checks on staff suitability to work with children including verification of their identity, and qualifications, disqualification by association regulations, and a satisfactory DBS check (according to EYFS requirements).

We comply with the [Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006](#) guidance issued in August 2018. Mother Hen Nursery obtains an enhanced criminal records check (DBS) in respect of every person aged 16 and over, including volunteers, who: -

- work directly with children
- live on the premises on which the childcare is provided (unless there is no access to the part of the premises when and where children are cared for) and/or
- work on the premises on which the childcare is provided (unless they do not work on the part of the premises where the childcare takes place, or do not work there at times when children are present)

An additional criminal records check (or checks if more than one country) will be made for anyone who has lived or worked abroad.

Mother Hen Nursery ensures that there is at least one person on every recruitment panel who has completed safer recruitment training, if there is not a panel conducting interviews then the individual will have completed the safer recruitment training.

Mother Hen Nursery will record information about staff qualifications and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed. This information is stored on our single central record.

Mother Hen Nursery will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service and Ofsted where a member of staff is dismissed (or would have been, had the person not left the setting first) because they have harmed a child or put a child at risk of harm ([Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)).

Training and Induction

All staff receive information about the safeguarding arrangements upon induction, including the safeguarding statement, staff behaviour policy (code of conduct), Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, the role and names of the DSL, and any Deputy DSL's

The name of the DSL and DDSL for Safeguarding and Child Protection, are advertised around the nursery with a statement explaining our role in referring and monitoring cases of suspected harm and abuse.

All staff will read and have relevant training to help them understand Part 1 of the statutory guidance KCSIE (2024). Those working directly with children will also read Annex B and will sign to say they have read and receive training to ensure they understand it.

All staff receive Safeguarding and Child Protection training at induction in line with advice from [Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) which is regularly updated.

All staff are trained in and receive regular updates on online safety and reporting concerns (for example, via email, e-bulletins, and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually. We send out a newsletter that includes safeguarding updates and We hold fortnightly staff meetings in which we go over safeguarding training and ask scenario-based questions.

All staff will receive training to ensure they are aware of indicators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation understanding that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of the setting, inside and outside of the home, and online. Exercising professional curiosity and knowing what to look for is vital for the early identification of abuse, neglect, and exploitation so that staff can identify cases of children who may need help or protection.

If a staff member is taking medication that may affect their ability to care for children, the staff member should seek medical advice. We will ensure that staff members only work directly with children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's ability to look after children properly. All medications on the premises are securely stored, and out of reach of children, at all times.

Mother Hen Nursery will advise staff that they have a duty to disclose any reason that may affect their suitability to work with children including convictions, cautions, court orders, and warnings.

All staff, the manager, and directors have regular safeguarding training, this is updated by the DSL as appropriate, to ensure they maintain their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect.

All staff will be provided with a copy of our setting's positive behaviour engagement and physical intervention policy

All staff will be made aware of the expectations relating to how mobile phones, cameras, and other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities are used in the setting... All staff will be made aware of the professional risks associated with the use of social media and electronic communication. Staff will adhere to relevant setting policies including staff code of conduct policy, Acceptable Use Policies, Image Use, and Mobile Technology.

Staff support and Supervision:

Mother Hen Nursery will follow its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 including the fair and equal treatment of practitioners regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Mother Hen Nursery has regular supervision in place for all staff members who have contact with children and families, in line with Early Years Foundation Stage 2023.

The Early Years Foundation Stage states that 'effective supervision provides support, coaching and training for the practitioner and promotes the interests of children'. Supervision should foster a culture of mutual support, teamwork, and continuous improvement, which encourages the confidential discussion of sensitive issues.

Supervision will provide opportunities for staff to:

- discuss any issues – particularly concerning children's development or well-being, including Child Protection concerns
- identify solutions to address issues as they arise
- receive coaching to improve their effectiveness
 - View key children's tracking on your learning journals and discuss the children's development and any ideas for home learning.
 - Discuss each child's early language monitoring tool.

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff:

Have a key role to play in identifying concerns early and in providing help for children. To achieve this, they will:

- Maintain an attitude of “It could happen here” with regard to safeguarding.
- Understand that safeguarding is “everyone’s responsibility”.
- Maintain a “zero-tolerance” approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- Read and understand Part 1 of statutory guidance KCSIE. Those working directly with children will also read Annex B
- In addition to this all staff will be aware of the systems in place that support safeguarding including reading this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; the Behaviour Policy; the Staff Behaviour Policy (code of conduct); safeguarding response to children who go missing from education; and the role of the DSL
- Know who and how to contact the DSL and DDSL, the Chair of Governors/Proprietor/ Management committee [or equivalent – amend as necessary], and the Governor/ Proprietor/ Management committee member responsible for safeguarding.
- Be aware of indicators of abuse and neglect understanding that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of the setting, inside and outside of home, and online. Exercising professional curiosity and knowing what to look for is vital for the early identification of abuse and neglect so that staff are able to identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.
- Be able to identify vulnerable learners and take action to keep them safe. Information or concerns about learners will be shared with the DSL where it includes those:
 - who may need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse or neglect?
 - requiring mental health support
 - may benefit from early help.
 - where there is a radicalisation concern
 - where a crime may have been committed
- Attend training in order to be aware of and alert to the signs of abuse and neglect, so they are able to identify cases of children who may need help or protection.
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- Have a duty of care to take appropriate action and work with other services as needed.
- Be prepared to identify children who may benefit from Early Help
- Be aware of the local Early Help process and their role in it.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the setting who they can approach if they are worried or have concerns.
- Be aware that mental health issues can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- Ensure only appropriately trained professionals attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.
- Respond appropriately to mental health issues.
- Understand the setting’s Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and procedures
- Record concerns if they are worried that a child is being abused and report these to the DSL immediately that day. If the DSL is not contactable immediately a DDSL should be informed.
- Be prepared to refer directly to the Children’s Single Point of Access (C-SPA), and the Police if appropriate, if there is a risk of significant harm and the DSL or their Deputy is not available.
- Follow the allegations procedures, as set out in this policy and KCSIE 2024, if the disclosure is an allegation against a member of staff, supply staff, volunteer or contractor.
- Report low-level concerns (as defined in KCSIE 2024) about any member of staff/supply staff/volunteer or contractor to [insert your agreed internal procedures for reporting low level concerns in line with [Surrey LADO guidance](#) and [Ofsted guidance](#)].
- Notify the DSL or their DDSL of any child on a child protection plan or child in need plan who has unexplained absence.
- Be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to someone they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may does not recognise these experiences as harmful.

This could be due to their vulnerability, disability, and/or sexual orientation or language barriers.

The Nominated Individual

In addition to the role and responsibilities of all staff The Nominated Individual will ensure that:

- All directors and management receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety) training at induction.
- There is a whole setting approach to Safeguarding and the setting fully contributes to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance.
- The setting has an effective Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, a Staff code of conduct Policy, and a Positive Behaviour Engagement Policy to ensure appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare.
- That the setting has appropriate policies in place that make it clear that sexual harassment, online sexual abuse, and sexual violence (including sexualised language) is unacceptable, with appropriate sanctions and support in place.
- That the setting's staff have appropriate knowledge of KCSIE. part 5.
- That all children are supported to report concerns about harmful sexual behaviour freely. That concerns are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately, and children are confident that this is case. Comprehensive records of all allegations are kept.
- Ensure recruitment, selection and induction follow safer recruitment practice including all appropriate checks.
- Take a proportionate risk-based approach to the level of information that is provided to temporary staff, volunteers, and contractors.
- Staff have been trained appropriately and this is updated in line with guidance and mechanisms are in place to assist staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities as set out in the guidance. This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenges to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in the setting are effective.
- All staff are aware of the role of the DSL, including the identity of the DSL and any DDSL's.
- All staff are provided with the setting's Child Protection policy and a Staff Behaviour Policy or Code of Conduct, a Behaviour Policy.
- Policies are consistent with SSCP and statutory requirements, are reviewed annually (as a minimum), and are updated as required..
- The setting has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against staff (including the Manager, Directors Nominated Individual, volunteers, and against other children, and that a referral is made to the DBS and Ofsted if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have had they not resigned.
- Policies and processes are in place to deal with concerns (including allegations) that do not meet the allegation/harm threshold, or "low-level concerns" as defined in KCSIE.
- All staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practices and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistle-blowing procedures.
- The DSL will take lead responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection and the role is explicit in the role holder's job description.
- That on appointment, the DSL and deputy(ies) undertake Surrey County Council DSL New to Role training, with 'Refresher' training every two years.
- Sufficient time, training, support, funding, and resources, including cover arrangements where necessary, are allocated to the DSL to carry out their role effectively, including the provision of advice and support to setting staff on safeguarding and child protection matters, to take part in strategy discussions/meetings and other inter-agency meetings and/or support other staff to do so; and to contribute to the assessment of children.
- Children are taught about safeguarding (including online safety).
- The setting has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place for all devices owned and used.

- Staff have received training to ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe online.
- Alongside the setting Directors will regularly review the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring systems in place to safeguard children online.
- Directors will do all they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to risks through the setting's IT system.
- Clear systems and processes are in place for identifying possible mental health concerns, including routes to escalate and clear referral and accountability systems.
- Ensure that safeguarding and child protection files are maintained as set out in KCSIE Annex C.
- Any weaknesses in safeguarding are remedied immediately.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

The EYFS states; 'a practitioner must be designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in every setting'. The Nominated Individual have appointed Sharon Lewis as the DSL for our setting; they are appropriately qualified and experienced to enable them to fulfill this role.

In addition to the role and responsibilities of all staff the DSL will:

Hold the lead responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection (including online safety) and be available for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns.

Manage referrals:

The DSL is expected to refer cases:

- Of suspected abuse and neglect to the C-SPA and support staff to make these referrals.
- To the Channel program (where there is a radicalisation concern) and support staff to make these referrals.
Report concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, and use the Prevent referral form. If the matter is urgent then Police must be contacted by dialing 999. In cases where further advice is required, dial 101 or contact - **Claire McDonald - Prevent Supervisor - Surrey Counter Terrorism Policing South East** - claire.mcdonald@sussex.pnn.police.uk or Mobile: 07795 043842 or **Helene Morris - Dfe Regional Prevent Co-ordinator for South East - Counter- Extremism.**
Department for Education Prevent Coordinator for South-East - Prevent.SouthEast@service.education.gov.uk
- To the Disclosure and Barring service (where a person is dismissed/left due to risk/harm to a child)
- To the Police (where a crime may have been committed)

Work with others:

- Act as a source of support, advice, and expertise for all staff
- Act as a point of contact for the safeguarding partners; Local Authority, Police and Health
- Liaise with the "case manager" and the Local Authority Designated Officer
- Liaise with staff and external agencies on matters of safety and safeguarding (including online and digital safety) so that children's needs are considered holistically.
- Liaise with the senior mental health lead/ the mental health support team
- Promote supportive engagement with parents and/or carers in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including where families may be facing challenging circumstances.
- Know who its cohort of children who have or have had a social worker are, understanding their academic progress and attainment, and maintaining a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
- Support staff to provide additional academic support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential, recognising that even when statutory social care intervention has ended, there is still a lasting impact on children's

educational outcomes.

Raise awareness:

- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Ensure the policy is reviewed annually (as a minimum)
- Ensure the policy is available upon request and parents are aware of the setting's obligations to refer cases where necessary.
- Link with safeguarding partners to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and SSCP arrangements.
- Help promote the educational and developmental outcomes by sharing information about the welfare, safeguarding and Child Protection issues that a child is experiences or has experienced with appropriate staff members.

Training, knowledge, and skills

- Undergo training to provide them with knowledge and skills required to carry out the role (refreshed at least every two years)
- Understand Surrey's Effective Family Resilience assessment process and request for support pathway for providing Early Help and statutory intervention.
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a Child Protection case conference/ review conference and attend/contribute effectively.
- Understand the importance of the role in providing information and support to children's social care.
- Understand the lasting impact that adversity and trauma can have, including on children's behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, and what is needed in responding to this in promoting educational outcomes.
- Are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with additional needs and disabilities, those with health conditions and young carers
- Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the setting, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations, and practitioners
- Understand and support staff with regards to the requirements of the Prevent duty and can provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- Are able to understand the unique risks associated with online safety and be confident that they have the relevant knowledge and up to date capability required to keep children safe whilst they are online at the setting.
- Can recognise the additional risks that children with additional needs and disabilities face online.
- Obtain access to safeguarding resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses.

In addition to the formal training set out above, D/DSL's must keep their knowledge and skills up to date, (this might be via e-bulletins, meeting other DSL's, attending Early Years network meetings or simply taking time to read and digest safeguarding developments) at regular intervals, as required, and at least annually, to allow them to understand and keep up with any developments relevant to their role.

Providing support to staff

Support and advise staff and help them feel confident on welfare, safeguarding and Child Protection matters. This includes specifically to:

- ensure that staff are supported during the referrals processes; and
- support staff to consider how safeguarding, welfare and educational outcomes are linked, including to inform the provision of academic and pastoral support

Understanding the views of children

- Encourage a culture across the setting, of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings and ensure measures the setting may put in place to protect them.
- Understand the difficulties that children may have in approaching staff about their

circumstances and consider how to build trusted relationships that facilitate communication.

Holding and sharing information

- Understand the importance of information sharing, both within the setting and with other settings on transfer including in-year, and with the safeguarding partners, other agencies, organisations and practitioners.
- Understand relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals and understand the purpose of this record-keeping.
- Step 1: Be clear about how data protection can help you share information to safeguard a child.
- Step 2: Identify your objective for sharing information, and share the information you need to, in order to safeguard a child.
- Step 3: Develop clear and secure policies and systems for sharing information.
- Step 4: Be clear about transparency and individual rights.
- Step 5: Assess the risks and share as needed.
- Step 6: Enter into a data sharing agreement.
- Step 7: Follow the data protection principles.
- Step 8: Share information using the right lawful basis.
- Step 9: Share information in an emergency.
- Step 10: Read our data sharing code of practice.

Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures

At Mother Hen Nursery if a member of staff suspects abuse, spots signs or indicators of abuse and neglect, or they have a disclosure of abuse made to them they must:

- Listen carefully to the child, reflecting the concern back to the child.
- Use the child's language.
- Be non-judgmental.
- Use open questions to clarify information e.g. Tell, Explain, Describe (TED)
- Not promise confidentiality.
- Explain that they need to pass information to the DSL/other professionals to help keep the child and/or other children safe.

The following procedures apply to all staff working in the setting and will be covered in training to enable staff to understand their role and responsibilities.

The procedures aim to provide a robust framework that enables staff to take appropriate action when they are concerned that a child is being harmed or abused or is at risk of harm or abuse.

The prime concern at all stages must be the interests and safety of the child. Where there is a conflict of interest between the child and an adult, the interests of the child must be paramount.

All staff is aware that very young children and those with disabilities, special needs or with language delay may be more likely to communicate concerns with behaviours rather than words. Additionally, staff will question the cause of knocks and bumps in children who have limited mobility.

If a member of staff suspects abuse, spots signs or indicators of abuse, or they have a disclosure of abuse made to them they must:

Make an initial record of the information related to the concern on our record of concern form (these are kept in the room file) as soon as possible.

including details of:

- Date
- Time
- Place
- Who was present?
- Context

- Details of disclosure/concern (using the child's words)
- Demeanour/non-verbal behaviours of the child
- Any injuries
- Rationale for decision making.
- Actions taken.

Report it to the DSL immediately.

The DSL will consider if there is a requirement for immediate medical intervention, however urgent medical attention should not be delayed if the DSL is not immediately available.

The records must be signed and dated by the author.

In the absence of the DSL or DDSL, staff must be prepared to refer directly to C-SPA (and the Police if appropriate) if there is the potential for immediate significant harm or contact the consultation line at the C-SPA for support and advice.

In all cases, if staff are unsure, they will always speak to the DSL (or deputy).

Following a report of concerns the DSL must:

Use the SSCP Continuum of Need Matrix to decide the relevant actions to be taken.

If we suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, harm, or abuse the DSL will contact the C-SPA.

By sending a Request for Support Form by secure email to: cspa@surreycc.gov.uk.

If a child is in immediate danger and urgent protective action is required, the Police (dial 999) must be called. The DSL must also notify the C-SPA of the occurrence and what action has been taken made to the C-SPA and the Police if it is appropriate. If there is no risk of significant harm, the DSL will either actively monitor the situation or consider offering Early Help.

The DSL may seek advice or guidance from the C-SPA consultation line before deciding next steps.

When a child needs urgent medical attention and there is suspicion of abuse the DSL or their Deputy should take the child to the accident and emergency unit at the nearest hospital, having first notified the C-SPA. The DSL will seek advice about what action to take and whether to inform the parents/carers, remembering that parents/carers would usually be informed when a child requires urgent hospital attention.

The exception to this process will be in those cases of known FGM where there is a mandatory requirement for the teacher to report directly to the Police, or where informing parents/carers would put the child at further risk The DSL will also be made aware.

At Mother Hen Nursery we will make all attempts to discuss any concerns about a child's welfare with the family and where possible to seek their agreement before making a referral to the C-SPA. Where there are doubts or reservations the DSL should clarify with the C-SPA or the Police as to whether the parents should be told about the referral and, if so, when and by whom.

However, if it is suspected that by informing the parents will place increased risk to the child or impede a Police investigation, advice will be sought from the C-SPA and or the Police about the next steps.

What happens next?

It is important that concerns are followed up and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they are. The member of staff should be informed by the DSL what has happened following a report being made. If they do not receive this information, they should seek it out.

If we have concerns that the concern/s have not been acted upon appropriately, we will follow Surrey's Escalation Process (Finding a Solution Together).

Record Keeping

At Mother Hen Nursery we maintain records and obtain and share information (with parents and carers, other professionals working with the child, the Police, social care, and Ofsted, as appropriate) to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, and to help ensure the needs of all children are met.

At Mother Hen Nursery we record any concerns about a child's welfare or safety on a concerns form. This record will include a clear and comprehensive summary of any concerns, details of how concerns

were followed up and resolved, and a note of any action taken, decisions reached, and outcomes. A body map will be completed if injuries are observed.

The record will always be signed and dated by the person making the report and will be shared immediately with the DSL. If there is an immediate concern the member of staff will discuss the concern with the DSL first to ensure the safety of the child and then will complete the report after. The DSL will record any discussions, decisions, and reasons for those decisions on the child's Safeguarding and Child Protection file.

{Insert here your setting's policy for retention and destruction}.

Information sharing and managing the Child Protection file

At Mother Hen Nursery we ensure:

Safeguarding and Child Protection files are kept up to date. Information will be kept confidential and stored securely. Safeguarding and Child Protection concerns and referrals will be kept in a separate Child Protection file for each child.

Safeguarding and Child Protection files are only accessible to the DSL team in line with information-sharing advice.

Where children leave the setting (including in-year transfers) the DSL will ensure their Safeguarding and Child Protection file is transferred to the new setting as soon as possible, and within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term. This should be transferred separately from the main pupil file, ensuring secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained.

Receiving settings and schools should ensure key staff such as DSLs and SENCOs are aware as required.

If the setting is unable to locate the new setting/school the file will be kept until the child is 25 (this is seven years after they reach the school leaving age) (Information and Records Management Society (IRMS), 2019).

Where a child joins the setting and no safeguarding and child protection files are received, the DSL will proactively seek to confirm with the previous setting whether a file exists for the child, and if so, request the file be sent to the setting.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

At Mother Hen Nursery all matters relating to Child Protection will be treated as confidential and only shared as per the [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#). All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children and that the Data Protection Act 1998 and GDPR are not a barrier to sharing information where a failure to do so would place a child at risk of harm. There is a lawful basis for Child Protection concerns to be shared with agencies that have a statutory duty for Child Protection. Information will be shared with staff within the setting who 'need to know'.

Staff must know and understand GDPR principles which allow them to share (and withhold) information.

All staff must be aware that when a disclosure is made, they cannot promise child confidentiality and should explain that they need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child and/or other children safe. The degree of confidentiality should always be governed by the need to protect the child.

All staff will gain parent/carers consent to refer a child to Social Care unless doing so could put the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. Mother Hen's trained Data Protection Officer (DPO) is Georgia Sunnucks. It is a requirement by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) to ensure that our setting is compliant with all matters relating to confidentiality and information sharing.

Allegations against/concerns raised in relation to a member of staff, agency staff, volunteers, and contractors.

Mother Hen Nursery will follow [Surrey Safeguarding Children's Partnerships procedure for](#)

allegations against adults who work with Children.

This procedure should be used in all cases that may meet the harm threshold in which it is alleged a member of staff, including agency staff, volunteers, and contractors or another adult who works with children 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; or*
- *behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children.*
- *behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.*

The last bullet point above includes behaviour that may have happened outside of the setting, that might make an individual unsuitable to work with children, this is known as transferable risk.

Allegations against a member of staff who is no longer at the setting should be referred to the Police. Historical allegations of abuse should also be referred to the Police.

In dealing with allegations or concerns against an adult, staff must:

- Report any concerns about the conduct of any member of staff, volunteer, contractor or other adult to Sharon Lewis immediately.
- If an allegation is made against the Manager or Nominated Individual, the concerns need to be raised with Michael Olayinka Director as soon as possible. If not available, then the LADO and Ofsted should be contacted directly.
- Once an allegation has been received by the Director they will contact the LADO and Ofsted (as part of their mandatory duty) on 0300123 1650 option 3 LADO or Email: LADO@surreycc.gov.uk immediately and before taking any action or investigation.
- Following consultation with the LADO inform the parents of the allegation unless there is a good reason not to.

In liaison with the LADO and Ofsted, the setting will determine how to proceed and if necessary, the LADO will refer the matter to Children's Social Care and/or the Police.

Mother Hen Nursery has a duty to inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere). We must also notify Ofsted of the action taken in respect of the allegations. Notifications will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made. We understand that if we fail to comply with this requirement, we will commit an offence.

Low-level concerns that do not meet the allegation/harm threshold.

At Mother Hen Nursery we have a policy and process in place to deal with low-level concerns (including allegations) that do not meet the allegation/harm threshold set out above.

The term low-level concern does not mean that it is insignificant. A low-level concern is any concern – no matter how small, and even if no more than causing a sense of unease or a 'nagging doubt' - that an adult working in or on behalf of the setting may have acted in a way that:

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

The purpose of reporting low-level concerns is to create and embed a culture of openness, trust, and transparency in which the setting's values and expected behaviour set out in the staff code of conduct are lived, monitored, and reinforced constantly by all staff.

The setting creates an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation.

Reports should be made to Sharon Lewis in a timely manner and follow procedures by informing Ofsted. If Sharon Lewis has any doubt as to whether the information which has been shared about the individual as a low-level concern in fact meets the harm threshold, they will consult with the LADO.

Whistleblowing

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they exist, about the management of Safeguarding and Child Protection, which may include the attitude or actions of colleagues, poor or unsafe practices and potential failures in setting safeguarding arrangements.

Staff are encouraged to use an external, independent, and confidential service provided by Navex Global, who can be contacted on their freephone helpline number 0800 069 8180 and through the Navex Global web pages.

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is also available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding Child Protection failures internally or have concerns about the way a concern is being handled by their setting. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday, and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

- known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery)
- Upskirting, which typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress, or alarm; and
- Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

We believe that all children have a right to attend our setting and learn in a safe environment.

Children should be free from harm by adults and other children in [name of setting].

We recognise that children are capable of abusing other children and their peers and this will be dealt with under our child protection policy and in line with KCSiE.

We are clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable.

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

- making clear that there is a zero-tolerance approach to sexual violence and sexual harassment, that it is never acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It will never be passed off as “banter”, “just having a laugh”, “a part of growing up” or “boys being boys”. We believe that failure to do so can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviour, an unsafe environment and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse, leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.
- recognising, acknowledging, and understanding the scale of harassment and abuse and that even if there are no reports it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported.
- challenging physical behaviour (potentially criminal in nature) such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia, pulling down trousers, flicking bras and lifting up skirts. As we believe that dismissing or tolerating such behaviours risks normalising them.

Specific safeguarding issues

At Mother Hen Nursery we are aware of a range of specific safeguarding issues and situations that can put children at greater risk of harm. Whilst some of these issues may be more likely to involve older children, early years children may still be at risk of harm, or concerns may be identified where there are risks for children's family members or siblings, and/or young staff members, including for example, children on work placements/experience.

Child on Child abuse

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

Children who are victims of sexual violence and sexual harassment will find the experience stressful and distressing. This will, in all likelihood, adversely affect their educational attainment as well as their emotional well-being. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and offline (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable. All victims must be reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

Reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment are extremely complex to manage. It is essential that victims are protected, and offered appropriate support, and every effort is made to ensure their education is not disrupted. It is also important that other children, adults, and setting staff are supported and protected as appropriate.

At Mother Hen Nursery we recognise that child on child abuse is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- Bullying (including, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element that facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)
- Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)
- Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse.
- Causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party.

Consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes' images and or videos (also

Responding

Children making any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment including “upskirting” (The Voyeurism Offences Act 2019) will be taken seriously, kept safe and be well supported.

If a member of staff becomes aware of an incident, they will follow the Child Protection procedures and refer to the DSL immediately.

If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a Request for Support will be made to the C-SPA.

Risk Assessment

Following a report, the DSL will make an immediate risk and needs assessment on a case-by-case basis.

The risk assessment will consider.

- The victim, especially their protection and support.
- The alleged perpetrator, their support needs, and any disciplinary action.
- All other children in the setting.
- The victim and the alleged perpetrator sharing space at the setting.
- The risk assessment will be recorded and kept under review.

Where there have been other professional intervention and/or other specialist risk assessments, these professional assessments will be used to inform the setting's approach to supporting and protecting children.

Support regarding risk assessments can be accessed from the Education Safeguarding Team –

Action:

All victims must be reassured that they are being taken seriously, regardless of how long it has taken them to come forward, and that they will be supported and kept safe. Abuse that occurs online or outside of the setting should not be downplayed and should be treated equally seriously. A victim should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. It is important to explain that the law is in place to protect children rather than criminalise them, and this should be explained in such a way that avoids alarming or distressing them.

The DSL will consider

- The wishes of the victim.
- The nature of the incident including whether a crime has been committed and the harm caused.
- Ages of the children involved.
- Developmental stages of the children.
- Any power imbalance between the children.
- Any previous incidents.
- That sexual violence and sexual harassment can take place within intimate personal relationships between children.
- Importance of understanding intra familiar harms and any necessary support for siblings following incidents
- Ongoing risks to victim, other children, adult students, or staff.
- Other related issues or wider context.

Confidentiality:

The victim may ask the setting not to tell anyone about the sexual violence or sexual harassment. If the victim does not give consent to share information, staff may still lawfully share it, if there is another legal basis under the UK GDPR that applies. The DSL should consider:

- parents or carers should normally be informed (unless this would put the victim at greater risk)
- the basic safeguarding principle is: if a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger, or has been harmed, a referral should be made to local authority children's social care.
- Where a report of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault is made, this should be referred to the police. Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is ten, if the alleged perpetrator is under ten, the starting principle of referring to the police remains. The police will take a welfare, rather than a criminal justice approach, in these cases.

The DSL will have to balance the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and other children.

Options:

- Manage internally.
- Early Help intervention
- Request for support to the C-SPA
- Report to the Police (generally in parallel with a request for support to the C-SPA)

All concerns, discussions, decisions and reasons for decision will be recorded [insert written or electronic].

Ongoing Response:

The DSL will manage each case individually and will ensure the risk assessment is reviewed regularly with relevant partner agencies, for example the Police and Children's Social Care.

Where an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, settings should be aware of anonymity, witness support, and the criminal process in general so they can offer support and act appropriately.

Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator should be removed from any classes they share with the victim.

The DSL will consider how best to keep the victim and perpetrator a reasonable distance apart on the setting's premises and on transport where appropriate.

Where a criminal investigation into a rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, the setting will take suitable action. In all but the most exceptional of circumstances, the rape or assault is likely to constitute a serious breach of discipline and may lead to the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the same setting would seriously harm the education or welfare of the victim (and potentially themselves and other children).

Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the setting will, if it has not already, consider any suitable sanctions in light of their behaviour policy, which may include consideration of permanent exclusion. Where the perpetrator is going to remain in the setting, the Nominated Individual should continue keeping the victim and perpetrator in separate classes and continue to consider the most appropriate way to manage potential contact on the premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution and the wishes of the victim will be especially important in determining how to proceed in such cases.

- The victim, alleged perpetrator and any other children and adults affected will receive appropriate support and safeguards on a case-by-case basis.
- The setting will take any disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator in accordance with the setting behaviour policy.
- The setting recognises that taking disciplinary action and providing appropriate support are not mutually exclusive actions and will occur at the same time if necessary.
- The setting will consider the potential impact of social media in facilitating the spreading of rumours and exposing victims' identities.
- The setting recognises that children who have experienced sexual violence display a wide range of responses to their experiences including clear signs of trauma, physical and emotional responses, or no overt signs at all.

Physical Abuse

While a clear focus of child-on-child abuse is around sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation violence, and rituals from children to children can also be abusive.

These are equally not tolerated and if it is believed that a crime has been committed, will be reported to the Police.

The principles from the anti-bullying policy will be applied in these cases, with recognition that any Police investigation will need to take priority.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

By categorising sexual behaviours, the setting can work with other agencies to the same standardised criteria when making decisions and can protect children with a multi-agency approach. The setting recognises that it is vital that professionals agree on how behaviours should be categorised regardless of culture, faith, beliefs, and their own experiences or values.

Mental Health

At Mother Hen Nursery staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Staff are aware of how children's experiences, can impact their mental health, behaviour, and education.

If a child is displaying any mental health problems staff will raise this with Georgia Sunnucks who will liaise will record all the relevant details and liaise with Sharon Lewis and refer to Cspa

Safeguarding Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities

At Mother Hen Nursery we acknowledge that children with SEND or certain medical or physical health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges. These can include:

- Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration
- These children are more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children
- The potential for children with additional needs and disabilities or certain medical conditions to be disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
- Communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.

Any reports of abuse will require close liaison with the DSL and the SENDCO Chris Fuller, The setting will consider extra pastoral support and attention for these children, along with ensuring any appropriate communication support is in place.

Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying

Our setting's policy on anti-bullying includes measures to prevent bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).

All staff are aware that children with SEND and/or children who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) are more susceptible to being bullied/victims of child abuse.

The fact that a child or a young person may be LGBT is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, children who are LGBT can be targeted by other children. In some cases, a child who is perceived by other children to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBT.

Risks can be compounded when children who are LGBT lack a trusted adult with whom they can be open. It is therefore vital that staff endeavor to reduce the additional barriers faced and provide a safe space for them to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.

When there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm' a bullying incident should be addressed as a child protection concern. If the anti-bullying procedures are seen to be ineffective, the Headteacher/Principal and the DSL will also consider child protection procedures.

Online Safety

At Mother Hen Nursery we have an online safety policy that explains how we keep children safe in our setting and how we respond to online safety incidents. {Insert the name of this policy and where it can be accessed. If you do not have a separate policy then you will need to provide greater detail within this section follow Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations guidance}.

At Mother Hen Nursery we recognise the specific risks that can be posed by mobile and smart technology, including mobile/smart phones, cameras and wearable technology. In accordance with the EYFS 2023 Mother Hen Nursery has appropriate policies in place which address the use of mobile and smart technology and cameras and are shared and understood by all members of the community. {Insert the name of this policy and where it can be accessed. If you do not have a separate policy then you will need to provide greater detail within this section follow Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations guidance}.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorised into four areas of risk, content, contact, conduct and commerce.

At Mother Hen Nursery we will follow the guidance around harmful online challenges and online hoaxes when supporting children and sharing information with parents/carers.

Children are taught about online safety and all staff receive online safety training, which includes the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring. this is regularly updated and revisited. Our online safety co-ordinator is Chris Fuller

We ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place. Through our business BTpackage, we have high-filtering specifications, this is monitored weekly. We delete all photos from tabs daily.

Radicalisation, Extremism and Terrorism

The Prevent Duty for England and Wales (2023) under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on education and other children's services to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Staff at Mother Hen Nursery are clear that exploitation of vulnerable children and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Staff receive training to help identify early signs of radicalisation and extremism.

Opportunities are provided in the curriculum to enable children to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture. The setting promotes and embeds the fundamental British values in the setting through activities and within policies.

The Nominated Individual and the DSL will assess the level of risk within the setting and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include, due diligence checks for external speakers and private hire of facilities, the anti-bullying policy, and other issues specific to the setting's profile, community and philosophy.

When any member of staff has concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the DSL in the first instance. They should then follow the safeguarding procedures and refer cases by e-mail to preventreferrals@surrey.pnn.police.uk following the Prevent referral form. If the matter is urgent then Police must be contacted by dialing 999.

In cases where further advice from the Police is sought dial 101 or 01483 632982 and ask to speak to the Prevent Supervisor for Surrey.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. It occurs regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, age, religion, mental or physical ability. Children can be victims of domestic abuse. They may see, hear, or experience the effects of abuse at home and/or suffer domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (teenage relationship abuse). All of which can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn.

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

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

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The DSL is aware of contact details and referral routes into the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

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

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may happen without the child's immediate knowledge for example through others sharing videos or images of them on social media. CSE can affect any child who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence.

Any concerns that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually exploited should be passed immediately to the DSL.

The setting is aware there is a clear link between regular non-attendance and CSE. Staff will consider a child to be at potential CSE risk in the case of regular non-attendance at and make reasonable enquiries with the child and parents/carers to assess this risk.

All staff are aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside the setting and/or can occur between children outside of these environments. All staff, but especially the DSL will consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Extra-familial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be

vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence.

In all cases, if the DSL identifies any level of concern the DSL should contact the C-SPA and if a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 999.

The setting is aware that often a child is not able to recognise the coercive nature of the abuse and does not see themselves as a victim. As a consequence, the child may resent what they perceive as interference by staff. However, staff must act on their concerns as they would for any other type of abuse. Children also rarely self-report CSE so staff must be particularly vigilant to potential indicators of risk.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

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

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. Children are exploited to move, store and sell drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation, as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt.

Any concerns that a child is being or is at risk of being criminally exploited will be passed without delay to the DSL. The DSL will then contact the C-SPA and if there is concern about a child’s immediate safety, the Police will be contacted on 999.

The setting is aware there is a clear link between regular non-attendance at setting and exploitation. Staff will consider a child to be at potential risk in the case of regular non-attendance at setting and make reasonable enquiries with the child and parents/carers to assess this risk.

Serious Violence

There are a number of indicators, which may signal children are at risk from, or are involved with, serious violent crime. These may include:

- increased absence from the setting
- a change in friendships or relationships with older individuals or groups
- a significant decline in performance
- signs of self-harm or a significant change in wellbeing, or signs of assault or unexplained injuries
- Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

Staff are aware that violence can often peak in the house just before and after the children attend the setting which includes travelling to and from the setting.

Modern Slavery

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

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act (2003). It is a form of child abuse and violence against women. A mandatory reporting duty requires teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s, which are identified in the course of their professional work, to the Police.

The duty applies to all persons in Mother Hen Nursery who are employed or engaged to carry out 'teaching work', whether or not they have qualified teacher status.

The duty applies to the individual who becomes aware of the case to make a report. It should not be transferred to the DSL; however, the DSL should be informed.

If a teacher is informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her or a teacher observes physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 and they have no reason to believe the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth, the teacher should personally make a report to the Police force in which the girl resides by calling 101. The report should be made immediately.

Staff at Mother Hen Nursery are trained to be aware of risk indicators of FGM.

Concerns about FGM outside of the mandatory reporting duty should be reported using the setting's Child Protection procedures. Staff should be particularly alert to suspicions or concerns expressed by female children about going on a long holiday during the summer holiday.

There should also be consideration of potential risk to other girls in the family and the wider community. Where there is a risk to life or likelihood of serious immediate harm the teacher should report the case immediately to the Police, including dialling 999 if appropriate.

There are no circumstances in which a teacher or other member of staff should examine a girl.

N.B - Definition of teacher is this includes qualified teachers or persons who are employed or engaged to carry out teaching work in schools and other institutions (Pg. 25 HM Government - Multi-agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (publishing.service.gov.uk))

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities cannot) consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Coercion may include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. It may also involve physical or sexual violence and abuse.

Forced marriage is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. Since June 2014 forcing someone to marry has become a criminal offence in England and Wales under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage which is common in many cultures. The families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.

Following Forced marriage guidance staff should never attempt to intervene directly or through a third party. Contact should be made with the C-SPA and/or the Forced Marriage Unit 200 7008 0151

Mother Hen Nursery recognises that under The Marriage and Civil Partnership Act 2022, it is an illegal offence for a child under the age of 18 to enter a marriage in any circumstances, even if they have parental consent. This includes non-legally binding 'traditional' ceremonies which would still be viewed as marriages by the parties and their families.

So-Called 'Honour-based abuse'

Honour based abuse (HBA) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Honour based abuse might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion.
- want to get out of an arranged marriage; become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion.
- want to get out of an arranged marriage.
- want to get out of a forced marriage.
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture

It is considered a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual abuse.

Private Fostering Arrangements

A private fostering arrangement occurs when someone other than a parent or close relative cares for a child for a period of 28 days or more, with the agreement of the child's parents. It applies to children under the age of 16 years old or 18 years old if the child is disabled.

Looked After Children by the local authority or those who are placed in residential school/colleges, children's homes, or hospitals are not considered to be privately fostered.

Private fostering occurs in all cultures and children may be privately fostered at any age.

Mother Hen Nursery recognises that most privately fostered children remain safe and well but are aware that safeguarding concerns have been raised in some cases. Therefore, all staff are alert to possible safeguarding issues, including the possibility that the child has been trafficked into the country.

By law, a parent, private foster carer or other persons involved in making a private fostering arrangement must notify Children's Social Care immediately. However, when a member of staff becomes aware that a child may be in a private fostering arrangement, they will raise this with the DSL and the DSL will notify the C-SPA immediately.

Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

The most common reason for children becoming looked after is because of abuse and or neglect.

Mother Hen Nursery will ensure that staff have the necessary skills and understanding to keep looked after children safe. Appropriate staff have information about a child's looked after legal status and care arrangements, including the level of authority delegated to the carer by the authority looking after the child and contact arrangements with birth parents or those with parental responsibility.

A previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

The Designated Teacher is Chris Fuller, and they will have the appropriate level of training to equip them with the knowledge and skills to undertake their role.

The Designated Teacher for looked after children and the DSL have details of the child's social worker and the name and contact details of Surrey County Council's Head of Virtual School.

The designated teacher will work with

Surrey's Head of virtual School for both looked after children and previously looked after children.

Physical Intervention

We acknowledge that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, when a child is at immediate risk of harming themselves or others, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person. Such events should be fully recorded and signed by a witness.

Staff understand that physical intervention of a nature that causes injury or distress to a child may be considered under child protection and/or disciplinary procedures.

We recognise that sometimes touch is appropriate in the context of working with children, and all staff have been given safe practice guidance to ensure they are clear about their professional boundaries. When applying disciplinary measures such as physical intervention or isolation for children with SEND the setting will consider the risks, given the additional vulnerabilities of these children.

Appendix one: What is child abuse?

The following definitions are taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023). In addition to these definitions, it should be understood that children can also be abused by being sexually exploited, honour-based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation. To support the local context, all staff have access to the [Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership Levels of Need Threshold Document](#).

What is abuse and neglect?

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 in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

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

Emotional abuse

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, although it may occur in isolation.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including online).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

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

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

The Neglect Risk Assessment Tool is used to support with the initial identification of neglect.