



RESET

WSM

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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To be reviewed every year.

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PART 1: Policy

1.1 Definitions

Safeguarding 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 the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring 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 defined in the Children Act 1989 (s.47) as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Under statutory guidance and legislation action must be taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

The term child/ children refers to all persons under the age of 18 years old.

1.2 Introduction

At Reset WSM

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play.

- In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should always consider what is in the best interests of the child.
- We take an 'it can happen here' approach where safeguarding is concerned.
- Everyone who comes into contact with children has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
- Victims of harm should never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Nor should a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report.

Reset WSM is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by:

- The provision of a safe environment in which children and young people can learn.
- Acting on concerns about a child's welfare immediately.
- Fulfilling our legal responsibilities to identify children who may need early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All action taken by Reset WSM will be in accordance with:

- **Current legislation** (these are summarised within Working Together to Safeguard Children: statutory framework)
- **Statutory, national, and local guidance** – this includes:
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children** which sets out the multiagency 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 provisions.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education** which is statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education which all provisions and colleges must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- **Local Guidance from the Local Safeguarding Partnership:** Information on arrangements can be found on the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Website- [Children's Safeguarding Board | Children's Safeguarding Board \(nsscp.co.uk\)](http://nsscp.co.uk)
- Government guidance in relation to:
 - COVID19: The full collection is available on the government website.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safer Recruitment
- Whistleblowing and Public Interest Disclosure
- Code of Conduct for Staff
- Behaviour and relationship (which includes measures to prevent bullying, including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- E-Safety
- Attendance (including the safeguarding response to children who go missing from education)
- Health and Safety

Directors should ensure that the above policies and procedures, adopted by all staff, are accessible, understood and followed by all staff, parents and where appropriate, children.

1.3 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:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
2. Advance equality of opportunity and good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. 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 Reset WSM's equality statement and measurable objectives.

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

Reset WSM also adheres to the principals of and promotes anti-oppressive practice in line of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Act 1998.

1.4 Overall Aims

This policy will contribute to the safeguarding of children at Reset WSM:

- Clarifying safeguarding expectations for members of the provision community, staff, children, and their families.
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient, and robust safeguarding culture in the provision built on shared values; that children and young people 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 provision site can be a location where harm can occur.
- Setting expectations for developing knowledge and skills within the provision community (staff, children and young people, parents/carers) to the signs and indicators of safeguarding issues and how to respond to them.
- Early identification of need for vulnerable children and young people and provision of proportionate interventions to promote their welfare and safety.
- Working in partnership with children and young people, parents, and other agencies in the Local Safeguarding Partnership.

1.5 Professional expectations, roles, and responsibilities

1.5.1 Role of all staff

- All staff will read and understand Part 1 of statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education. Those working directly with children will also read Annex B. Those who do not work directly with children will have the option of reading Annex A instead
- In addition to this all staff will be aware of the systems in place which support safeguarding including reading the Safeguarding/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 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Know who and how to contact the DSL and any deputies.

- All staff will be able to identify vulnerable children and young people and take action to keep them safe. Information or concerns about children 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.
- Be clear as to the setting's policy and procedures about [child on child abuse](#), children missing from education and [those requiring mental health support](#), and the [impact of technology in relation to online safety](#).
- Be involved where appropriate, in the implementation of individual plans to further safeguard vulnerable children and young people, understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
- Record concerns appropriately and in a timely manner by using the setting's safeguarding systems.
- To be aware of the need to raise to the senior leadership team any concerns they have about safeguarding practices within the provision.

1.5.2 - Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Duties are further outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex C)

Details of our DSL and Deputy DSL are available on the Reset WSM website and the notice boards in both bases.

- The DSL is a senior member of staff who undertakes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within the setting.
- The DSL takes lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that learners in need are experiencing or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on learner's attendance, engagement and achievement.
- Activities include the management of work undertaken by any Deputy DSLs.
- Manages early identification of vulnerability of learners and their families from staff through cause for concerns or notifications. This will ensure detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals.
- Manages referrals to local safeguarding partners where learners with additional needs have been identified. These can include those –
 - who need a social worker and may be experiencing abuse or neglect;
 - requiring mental health support;
 - who may benefit from early help;
 - where there is a radicalisation concern;
 - where a crime may have been committed.

The DSL will also:

- Work with others – acting as a point of contact for outside agencies about safeguarding.
- Support and advise other staff in making referrals to other agencies.
- When required, liaise with the case manager and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) in relation to child protection cases which concern a staff member.
- Coordinate safeguarding training and raise awareness and understanding to all staff and volunteers around policies and practice in relation to safeguarding.
- Help promote educational outcomes by sharing information about vulnerable learners with relevant staff. This includes ensuring that staff:
 - know who these children are,
 - understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort.
 - Are supported to identify the challenges that children in this group might face.
 - Provide additional academic support or make reasonable adjustments to help children who have **or have had** a social worker to reach their potential.
- Ensure the successful transfer of the Safeguarding/Child Protection File when a learner moves on to a new setting within 5 days for in year transfer or the first 5 days of the start of a new term.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding cover and availability during term time/ any out of hours/out of term activities managed by

1.6 Safeguarding training for staff**1.6.1 - All staff:**

- Directors will ensure that all staff members undergo safeguarding and child protection training (including online safety, which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles, and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) at induction.
- Will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection refresher training (including online safety incorporating staff responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) at least annually (via formal training and staff meetings).
- All staff must complete FGM awareness training and will understand their legal duty under the Mandatory Reporting Duty.
- All staff must complete Prevent awareness training. This is to ensure that they can comply with the legal expectations under the Prevent duty.
- All staff must complete FGM awareness training and will understand their legal duty under the Mandatory Reporting Duty.

1.6.2 - Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies:

- Will undergo formal training to provide them with the knowledge and skills (including online safety, which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) training required to carry out the role. The training will be updated at least every two years.
- Deputies will be trained to the same level as the DSL.
- The DSL and any deputies will liaise with the Local Safeguarding Partnership to ensure that their knowledge and skills are updated via e-bulletins, attend DSL network meetings, and take time to read and digest safeguarding bulletins.

1.6.3 - Other training considerations:

- The directors will ensure that at least one person on any appointment panel will have undertaken safer recruitment training, in line with Provision Staffing (England) Regulations 2009.
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team will make themselves aware of and understand their role within the local safeguarding arrangements. This will ensure that those who have responsibility for the management of behaviour, inclusion, Special Educational Needs, attendance, and exclusions will carry out their duties with a safeguarding consideration.
- The Designated Teacher for Children in Care will undergo appropriate training to fulfil their role to promote the educational achievement of registered pupils who are in care.
- The mental health lead has access to appropriate training.
- Training around safeguarding topics in Annex B (including online safety which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring) will be integrated, aligned, and considered as part of a whole provision safeguarding approach.
- Appropriate colleagues have received training in relation to use of reasonable force and positive handling.

1.7 Safeguarding in the curriculum

Reset WSM is dedicated to ensuring that children and young people are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. We recognise that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate for all children and young people, and a more personalised or contextualised approach for more vulnerable children and young people, victims of abuse and some SEND children might be needed. This is part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

This includes:

- Working within statutory guidance in respect to [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-in-the-curriculum);
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, to explore key areas such as self-esteem, emotional literacy, assertiveness, power, building resilience to radicalisation, e-safety and bullying.

- Appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to ensure that ‘over-blocking’ does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children and young people can be taught about online safety and safeguarding.
- The curriculum will be shaped to respond to safeguarding incident patterns in the setting identified by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and safeguarding team (e.g., to respond to an increase in bullying incidents).
- Providing engagement opportunities with parents and carers to consult on key aspects of the curriculum.
- Children and young people can inform the curriculum via discussions with staff.

1.8 Safer recruitment and safer working practice

1.8.1 - Safer recruitment

Reset WSM pays full regard to the safer recruitment practices detailed in ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (Part 3)

- This includes scrutinising applicants, verifying identity and academic or vocational qualifications, obtaining professional and character references, checking previous employment history, and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. References are always obtained, scrutinised and concerns resolved satisfactorily before appointment is confirmed.
- It also includes undertaking appropriate checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), the barred list checks and prohibition checks (and overseas checks if appropriate), dependent on the role and duties performed, including regulated and non-regulated activity.
- All recruitment materials will include reference to Reset WSM’s commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people.

1.8.2 - Use of reasonable force

‘Reasonable force’ refers to the physical contact to restrain and control children using no more force than is needed.’ The use of reasonable force is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and will be determined by individual circumstances and the vulnerability of any child with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) will be considered.

- The use of reasonable force will be minimised through positive and proactive behaviour support and de-escalation and will follow government guidance (Use of Reasonable Force in Provisions 2013; Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention, 2019).
- There is robust recording of any incident where positive handling or restraint has been used. Further review of the incident is carried out to reflect on how the incident could be avoided, this will involve the child and their family.

Any concerns about a staff member's handling of a child should be discussed with the Directors.

1.8.3 - Whistleblowing procedures

Staff are aware of the following whistleblowing channels for situations where they feel unable to raise an issue with the senior leadership team or feel that their genuine concerns are not being addressed:

- General guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing
<https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>.
- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available here for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. 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.
- The above channels are clearly accessible to all staff (code of conduct and on staff notice boards).

Parents and carers should also have access to this policy and know the channels they can use if they have a concern about a staff member.

1.9 Key safeguarding areas

These topics are themes that can impact on children and families, there are specific areas of safeguarding that the setting has statutory responsibilities to address which are hyperlinked:

- Children in the court system – Guidance to support children is available
 - Young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
 - Young witness booklet for 12 to 17 year olds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Children affected by parental offending/imprisonment.
- Children missing from education – including persistent absence.
- Child Exploitation (including both Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation and county lines, modern day slavery and trafficking)
- Cybercrime · Domestic Abuse
- Homelessness
- So-called Honour based Abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage),
- Online Safety
- Mental health
- Child on child abuse:
 - Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying).

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

· Preventing Radicalisation (The Prevent Duty)

· Serious Youth Violence

· Substance Misuse

· Private Fostering

· Young Carers

Additional information about key safeguarding areas can also be found in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex B); the NSPCC website - Types of Abuse;

PART 2: Procedures

2.1 Reporting concerns

- All staff are clear about recording and reporting concerns to the DSL/DSL deputies in a timely way. In the case a child or young person is in immediate danger, staff should phone the police.
- All staff are aware of and follow the procedures to respond to a concern about a child detailed in Appendix B. This includes responses to peer on peer harm and children and young people who present with a mental health need.
- At Reset WSM children and young people can raise their concerns via any adult in provision and they will be treated seriously.

2.2 Information Sharing

Reset WSM is committed to have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow for sharing (and withholding) personal information as provided for in the Data protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations. This includes how to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal and should be treated as 'special category personal data'. Staff at the setting are aware that:

- 'Safeguarding' and 'individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data.
- Practitioners will seek consent to share data where possible in line with Information Sharing for Safeguarding Practitioners 2024.
- It is recommended that staff should read the Department for Education Data Protection Guidance for Schools.

There may be times when it is necessary to share information without consent such as:

- To gain consent would place the child at risk,
- By doing so will compromise a criminal investigation,
- It cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent,
- or, if by sharing information it will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent.

There are also times when Reset WSM will not provide pupil's personal data where the serious harm test under legislation is met, (by sharing the information the child may be at further risk). When in doubt Reset WSM will seek legal advice.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR do not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

The DSL and Deputy DSL will regularly review and monitor those students who have been identified as vulnerable. This can include reviewing attendance data, behaviour data, attainment data and safeguarding records. This is to ensure that:

- Proportionate and early interventions can be taken to promote the safety and welfare of the child and prevent escalation of harm.
- Information about vulnerable children and young people is shared with provision leadership staff to promote educational outcomes.
- Children and young people who currently have, or have had, a social worker will have their academic progress and attainment reviewed and additional academic support will be provided to help them reach their full potential.

- Reasonable adjustments are made in relation to provision-based interventions – for example responding to behaviour.

2.4 Multi-agency working

Reset WSM is a relevant agency in the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership and will work with appropriate agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children to identify and respond to their needs. This is in compliance with statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Occasions that warrant a statutory assessment under the Children Act 1989:

- If the child is in need under s.17 of the Children Act 1989 (including when a child is a young carer and or subject to a private fostering arrangement).
- Or if the child needs protection under s.47 of the Children Act 1989 where they are experiencing significant harm, or likely to experience significant harm.

Referrals in these cases should be made by the DSL (or Deputy DSLs) to Children's Social Care in the local authority in which that child resides. The list of safeguarding contact and other key agencies are listed in [Appendix B](#).

Where the child already has a social worker, the request for service should go immediately to the social worker involved or, in their absence, to their team manager. If the child is a child in care, notification should also be made to the Virtual Provision.

Reset WSM will co-operate with any statutory safeguarding assessments conducted by children's social care: this includes ensuring representation at appropriate inter-agency meetings such as integrated support plan meetings initial and review child protection conferences and core group meetings.

2.4.1 Additional considerations:

- Where a child or young person and/or their family is subject to an child protection plan or a multiagency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meeting, the setting will contribute to the preparation, implementation, and review of the plan as appropriate.
- In situations where a child in care may be put on to part time timetable, the provision will consult with the Virtual Provision following local procedures.
- If a crime has been suspected or committed that involved the bringing of an offensive weapon on to the site, the setting will liaise with the Local Authority Violence Reduction Unit who will consider a proportionate response.
- If there is a risk of harm, the police should be called via 999. For other concerns of criminality, Avon and Somerset Police have produced a helpful guide When to Contact the Police or provisions can contact the local PCSO/Provision Police Beat Officer/Provision Officer for advice.

- In the rare event that a child death occurs, or a child is seriously harmed, Reset WSM Provision will notify the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership as soon as is reasonably possible.

2.5 Suspensions, permanent exclusions, and commissioning of Alternative Provisions - (To be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy)

- When the setting is considering suspending or permanently excluding a learner where additional vulnerability is identified it is important that the learner's welfare is a paramount consideration. The director will consider their legal duty of care when sending a learner home and should be alert to the need for early help for a child who:
 - is frequently missing/goes missing from education, home or care
 - has experienced multiple serious incidents, is at risk of losing their placement.
- Reset WSM will exercise their legal duties in relation to their interventions. This includes:
 - whether a statutory assessment should be considered in line with the principles of Children Act 1989,
 - that decisions are made in an anti-discriminatory manner in line with the Equality Act 2010 (including having regard to the SEND Code of Practice)
 - and takes into consideration the learner's rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.
 - Interventions will be consistent with statutory guidance School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

2.5.1 - Actions to take

- · An assessment of need should be undertaken with multi-agency partners with a view to mitigate any identified risk of harm this in line with 2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable learners.
- · If the child is subject to a child protection plan or where there is an existing child protection file, we will call a multiagency risk-assessment meeting prior to making the decision to exclude.
- · In the event of a one-off serious incident resulting in an immediate decision to exclude, the risk assessment must be completed prior to convening a meeting with the governing body.

2.5.2 - Commissioning Alternative Provisions

- In the event where Reset WSM commissions another alternative provision, the local Alternative Learning Provision process will apply and guidance followed to ensure clear agreement of roles and responsibilities to maintain safeguarding arrangements for learners who are not taught on site.

- Reset WSM will continue to be responsible for the safeguarding of that learner and will make necessary checks on the provider to meet the needs of the learner. Written confirmation from the alternative provider will be obtained of the checks on staff that we would otherwise perform for our own staff.

2.6 Children Missing from Education

(To be read in conjunction with the Attendance Policy)

A child or young person missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect, or maybe an indicator of need for early help support. Staff should follow procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. These should be reported to the DSL and reviewed in line with 2.3 Identifying and monitoring the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

Reset WSM will follow the guidance detailed in Children Missing Education (2016) Government guidance and Children Missing Education North Somerset Policy. This will include notifying the local authority in which the child lives:

- of any pupil who fails to attend provision regularly,
- or has been absent without the provision's permission for a continuous period of 10 provision days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the provision and the local authority.

2.6.1- Elective Home Education

Reset WSM will notify the Local Authority and or referring school of every child or young person where a parent has exercised their right to educate their child at home. Safeguarding files should be shared with the Local Authority Elective Home Education service and consideration of whether additional support from children's social care should be made in line with the Children Act 1989.

2.7 Respond to incidents of peer on peer harm.

All staff should recognise that children can abuse other children (including online). It is important that incidents of abuse and harm are treated under safeguarding policy in conjunction with the behaviour policy. However, concerns regarding the welfare of children requires process and records to be kept on the child's safeguarding/child protection file.

Further examples of child on child harm this can be found under section [1.9 Key Safeguarding Areas](#). It is recognised that child on child abuse can happen inside and outside of school/college or online.

At Reset WSM

- We have a 'zero tolerance' approach to abuse. Incidents are taken seriously. These will never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter,' just having a laugh' or 'part of

growing up.’ Banter and teasing can and should be acknowledged and recognised as bullying behaviour and may require proportionate intervention.

- Even with a zero-tolerance approach, we take steps to educate and take action ensure to mitigate the risk of contributing to a culture of unacceptable behaviours or a culture that normalises abuse.
- It is understood that child on child harm may reflect equality issues in terms of those who may be targeted are more likely to have protected characteristics.
- Early identification of vulnerability to child on child harm is made by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.

There are clear systems in place (which are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible) for children and young people to confidently report abuse. Our provision has taken steps to ensure students know how their concerns will be dealt with as detailed in section 2.1 Reporting a concern of this policy. Reset WSM Provision will handle initial reports of harm by:

- Securing the immediate safety of children and young people involved in an incident and sourcing support for other young people affected.
- Listening carefully to the child, being non-judgmental, being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed, not asking leading questions and only prompting the child where necessary with open questions using the Tell, Explain, Describe (TED) method to establish where, when, what, etc;
- Ensuring that victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. They will never be made to feel ashamed for making a report.
- Ensuring the child’s wishes are taken into consideration in any intervention and any action is taken to ensure safety of the target and other members of the wider setting cohort.
- All staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.
- Not promising confidentiality as it is highly likely that information will need to be shared with others.

2.7.1 Actions to take in relation to sexual violence and sexual harassment.

Reference to Keeping Children Safe In Education (Part 5) and guidance Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in provisions and colleges 2021 should be made in relation to taking protective action. Reset WSM will take the following actions when responding to incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment:

- Incidents will be reported immediately to the DSL/ Deputy DSL who will undertake further assessment of what action should be taken proportionate to the factors that

have been identified. The Brook - Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Assessment Tool should be utilised by trained staff to inform assessment of risk and actions to subsequently take. This may include seeking additional advice from Children's Social Care

- DSLs/Deputies will take proportionate action and consider whether a case can be managed internally, through early help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with the section [2.4 - Multi-Agency Working section](#).
- When an incident involves an act of **sexual violence** (rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault) the starting point is that this should be passed on to police immediately **regardless** of the age of criminal responsibility (10 years old). This must be reported directly via 101 for recording purposes and accountability. This is on the understanding that the police will take a welfarist approach rather than a criminal justice one. A concurrent referral to social care must also be made. A strategy can be requested where education can voice explicitly concerns of criminalisation in a multi-agency context.
- When the children involved require a statutory assessment either under s.17 or s.47 of the Children Act 1989 a referral to social care should be undertaken.
- Where the report includes an online element, the setting will follow [Searching, screening and confiscation at school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and [Sharing nudes and semi-nudes: advice for education settings working with children and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The key consideration is for staff not to view or forward illegal images of a child. The highlighted advice provides more details on what to do when viewing an image is unavoidable.
- Risk assessments and or safety plans will be developed for individual children who have been involved in an incident including any bystanders. This should be reviewed at least every 3 months or every time there is an occurrence of an incident. These should involve the child and parents/carers and address contextual risks.

There are 4 different pathways provisions may wish to take based on a case-by-case basis

- Manage internally
- Early help
- Referral to children's social care
- Report to the police

2.7.2 - Contextual safeguarding approach to peer on peer harm:

Reset WSM will minimise the risk of peer on peer abuse by taking a contextual approach to safeguarding by increasing safety in the contexts of which harm can occur – this can include the provision environment itself, peer groups and the neighbourhood.

Following any incidents of peer on peer harm, the DSL/Deputies will review and consider whether any practice or environmental changes can be made in relation to any lessons learned. This can include making changes to staffing and supervision, making changes to the

physical environment and considering the utilisation and delivery of safeguarding topics on the curriculum.

2.8 Responding to allegations of abuse made against professionals.

Staff must report any concerns or allegations about a professional's behaviour (including staff, volunteers, and contractors) where they may have:

- 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.

2.8.1 - Immediate action must be taken:

- Do not speak to the individual it concerns.
- Allegations or concerns about colleagues visitors, volunteers and contractors must be reported directly to the Head Teacher/Principal who will follow guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part four: Safeguarding concerns and allegations made about staff, including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors).
- If there is a conflict of interest which inhibits this process of reporting, staff can report directly to the LADO and they will decide on action required.
- If allegations are regarding a member of supply staff, the provision will take the lead and progress enquiries with the LADO, whilst continuing to engage and work with the employment agency.
- If the concern relates to Directors, it should be reported to the [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#) and they will decide on any action required.
- Allegations regarding foster carers or anyone in a position of trust working or volunteering with children should be referred to the LADO on the day that the allegation is reported. The allocated social worker should also be informed on the day. The provision should not undertake any investigation unless the LADO advises this.

2.8.2 - Low level concerns

This should be read in conjunction with the staff code of conduct and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021, Part 4). A low-level concern is not insignificant. This process should be used in events where a concern about professional conduct does not meet the threshold set out at the beginning of this section.

- Reports should be made to the directors. Reset WSM creates an environment where staff are encouraged and feel confident to self-refer where they have found themselves in a situation.

- DSLs will address unprofessional behaviour and support the individual to correct it at an early stage providing a responsive, sensitive, and proportionate handling of such concerns when they are raised.
- Review and correct any deficits in the setting's safeguarding system.

2.9 Mental health and wellbeing

Provisions and colleges have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their children and young people. 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, and or may require early help support.

Reset WSM will commit to undertake the following.

- The appointment of a senior mental health lead who can support the development of knowledge and act as a point of expertise to promote the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. This colleague will have sufficient training in mental health and safeguarding for them to carry out their role effectively.
- Early identification of vulnerability to mental health problems by reviewing attendance, behaviour, attainment, and safeguarding records at least on a termly basis.
- Ensure that children and young people can report and share concerns in line with section 2.1 Reporting a concern of this policy.
- Staff will follow a safeguarding process in terms of reporting concerns so the DSL/Deputy DSLs (and wider members of the safeguarding team) can assess whether there are any other vulnerabilities can be identified and proportionate support considered.
- Staff will ensure the immediate health and safety of a child or young person who is displaying acute mental health distress. This may require support from emergency services via 999 if the learner is at risk of immediate harm.
- DSLs/Deputies will consider whether a case can be managed internally, through early help, or should involve other agencies as required in line with section 2.4 - Multi-Agency Working.
- The setting will communicate and work with the child or young person and parents/carers to ensure that interventions are in the best interests of the child.
- DSLs will liaise with staff to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and develop ways to support positive educational outcomes.
- Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem – DSLs and the senior leadership team should be able to access specialist advice through targeted services or through their locality. The North Somerset Emotional Health for Children and Young People guide highlights services in our area.

2.9.1 - Contextual safeguarding approach to mental health

Reset WSM will ensure that preventative measures in terms of providing safeguarding on the curriculum will provide opportunities for children and young people to identify when they may need help, and to develop resilience.

Reset WSM will take a ‘whole provision approach’ to:

- deliver high quality teaching around mental health and wellbeing on the curriculum.
- having a culture and environment that promotes mental health and wellbeing;
- making sure pupils and staff are aware of and able to access a range of mental health services;
- supporting staff wellbeing
- being committed to pupil and parent participation

2.10 Online Safety

Online safety is an integrated and interwoven theme with other safeguarding considerations. It is essential that the DSL takes a lead on ensuring that interventions are effective. This means coordinating support and engaging with other colleagues in the setting who may have more technological expertise such as the IT manager. Reset WSM is committed to addressing online safety issues around content, contact and conduct. This includes:

- Ensuring that online safety is included in relevant policies and procedures.
- Online safety is interwoven in safeguarding training for staff and safeguarding on the curriculum for children and young people.
- Acknowledging that child on child abuse can happen via mobile and smart technology between individuals and groups. This should be approached in the same process outlined in section [2.7 Responding to incidents of child on child harm](#)
- Provision of education via remote learning will comply with governmental advice Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- The effectiveness of the setting’s ability to safeguard learners in respect to filtering and monitoring, information security and access management alongside the above will be reviewed annually in line with the digital and technology standards in schools and colleges [Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK](#) (www.gov.uk)

Appendix A

Types of abuse and neglect

Abuse is defined as the maltreatment of a child or young person whereby someone may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

All provision staff should be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label. In most cases multiple issues will overlap with one another. For children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) additional barriers can exist when identifying abuse and neglect, these include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration; being more prone to peer group isolation than other children;
- the potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

To address these additional challenges, provisions and colleges should consider extra pastoral support for children with SEND (KCSIE, 2023). The following are the definition of abuse and neglect as set out in Working Together to Safeguard children. However, the ultimate responsibility to assess and define the type of abuse a child or young person may be subject to is that of the Police and Children's Services – our responsibility is to understand what each category of abuse is and how this can impact on the welfare and development of our children and where we have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of abuse and neglect (one or more categories can apply) to take appropriate action as early as possible.

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

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and 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 cyberbullying), 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 alone.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether the child is aware of what is happening or not. 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 via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

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. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment), protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, an unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs, failing to ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers) or ensure access to appropriate medical care, treatment or attend or receive an education.

Appendix B

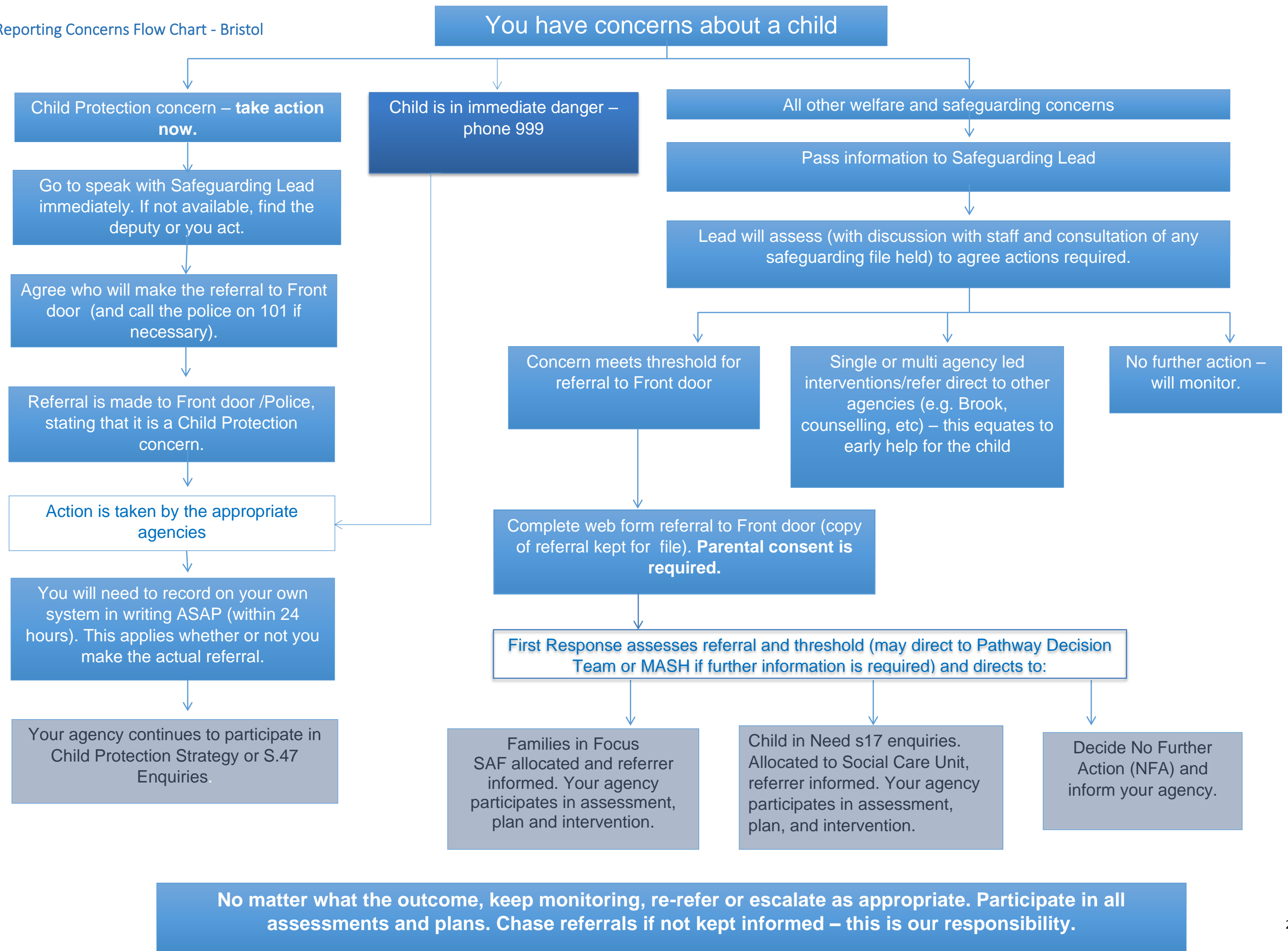
Reporting a concern

All concerns about children or families whether big or small will be shared with the DSL (or deputy if the DSL is unavailable) in a timely matter. In our provision, this is recorded via Cpoms/Bromcom.

Staff will be mindful that they should write the concern in the child's own words as much as possible, being careful to maintain fact rather than personal opinion or interpretation. Where injuries are observed this will be recorded on a body map, staff know they must not take photographs of injuries.

Any cause for concern will be shared only with those who need to know. The DSL will ultimately decide next steps and where a referral is required liaise with the Front Door to Children's Services for next steps. This will be done with consent of the parents unless by doing so would put the child at further risk.

When reporting concerns about staff, the Directors will be contacted. Where this is not possible, staff will contact the LADO. Staff should refer to the whistleblowing policy for more information.



Appendix C- Further information

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

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse. Both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual or criminal activity.

The abuse may be perpetrated by an individual or groups, males or females, adults or children. It can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and can be facilitated in-person or wholly online.

Gangs and youth violence

Designated staff have a range of powers to discipline and tackle problems, including violence, in the provision environment. Such powers include the power to restrain violent pupils, and the power to search pupils for prohibited items.

Serious Violence

All staff should be aware of the signs that indicate a child is at risk of, or involved with serious violence, this includes: absence from provision, changes of friendship group, unexplained injuries, self-harm, unexplained gifts or possessions. Staff should also be aware of relevant guidance: Preventing youth violence and gang involvement

Drugs

As part of provision's duty to promote pupils' wellbeing, we have a role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of our pastoral responsibilities (health and wellbeing/Healthy Provisions) and to support the Government's drug strategy (2017). Our provision will support students by providing information, advice and support via the curriculum and give students the confidence, resilience and risk management skills to resist risky behaviours and recover.

The Department of Education and Association of Chief Police Officers have provided Drug Advice for Provisions to support this aim. Provisions also have the power to search pupils for drugs where there is a belief this student is in possession of criminal property.

Radicalisation

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to

influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Our provision is aware of its responsibilities under the Prevent Statutory Duty through the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The duty requires provisions to consider the need to safeguard children from being drawn into terrorism. The duty is designed to help ensure that vulnerable individuals who are at risk of radicalisation are supported. We provide a safe environment for our pupils to explore, understand and discuss sensitive topics including terrorism and extremist ideology. We use the curriculum and pastoral care to educate our pupils and to enable them to challenge these ideas and build their resilience to radicalisation. Staff are aware of the risk posed by other students and adults who may have been radicalised and the impact of radicalisation via social media. Staff have received appropriate training and have the knowledge and confidence to identify pupils at risk of being drawn into supporting terrorism and extremism and challenge extremist ideals. Our IT filters are regularly reviewed and monitored in order to prevent and identify access to terrorist and extremist materials on line at the provision.

For advice and guidance in making a referral or about a student causing concern: Tel. 01278 647466.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for provisions to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Guidance on Channel is available at: Channel Guidance.

The provision or college's Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) should be aware that as a Channel partner, the provision or college may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required.

Educate Against Hate, a website launched by Her Majesty's Government has been developed to support and equip provision and college leaders, teachers, and parents with information, tools and resources (including on the promotion of fundamental British values) to help recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. The platform provides information on and access to training resources for teachers, staff and provision and college leaders, some of which are free such as

Prevent e-learning, via the Prevent Training catalogue.

Honour Based Abuse

So-called 'honour-based' Abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving "honour" often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding

action to take. All forms of HBA (regardless of the (motivation) should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

If you have concerns about an individual, the following helplines will be able to support you
Honour Network (Karma Nirvana): 0800 5999 247 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Government Forced Marriage Unit 0207 008 0151 or 0207 008 1500 (out of hours)

In emergencies, dial 999.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences.

Professionals in all agencies, individuals and groups from the wider communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. There are a range of potential risk indicators which are detailed in the Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation issued by the home office.

Whilst all staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) in regard to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific legal duty on Staff. If a staff member, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the staff member must report this to the police via 101 (KCSIE). This should be completed in consultation with the DSL but the responsibility of reporting lies with the staff member who identified the concern.

Child on child abuse

Child on Child Abuse includes:

- Bullying, including cyber bullying
- Physical Abuse including intimate partner abuse
- Sexual Violence including CSE, Sexual Harassment, Sending nudes and upskirting
- Initiation and Hazing type violence including rituals, challenges, and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation as a way of initiating a person into a group
- Gang violence, threats or coercion

All provisions are required to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010. Provisions should tackle prejudice and promote understanding between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, as set out in the Equality Act 2010. The definition that has been adopted by the government and should be used when

considering prejudice related incidents 'A prejudice related incident is any incident which is perceived to be prejudice by the victim or any other person'

Faith abuse

The National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief is intended to help raise awareness of the issue of child abuse linked to faith or belief and to encourage practical steps to be taken to prevent such abuse. Provisions should promote equality and awareness around cultural and religious practices and be aware of risk factors such as belief in exorcism and spirit possession and children who are scapegoated or blamed for negative events.

Domestic violence and abuse, Gender-based violence and teenage relationship abuse

Domestic abuse (over 16 years) and teenage relationship abuse (under 16 years) involves any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who are, or have been in relationships or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. It can impact children greatly who witness domestic abuse at home (children are now seen as victims in their own right as per changes to the Domestic Abuse Bill) as well as those who experience it through their personal relationships.

The curriculum should enable children and adolescents to understand what constitutes a healthy relationship, consent and tackle gendered stereotypes.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Sexual Violence and harassment can occur between two children of any sex. They can also occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children.

Sexual violence and sexual harassment exists on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable. It is important that all children involved are taken seriously and offered appropriate support. The law says anyone under the age of 13 can never legally give consent. This means that anyone who engages in any sexual activity with a child who is 12 or younger is breaking the law. Sexual activity with a child who is under 13 should always result in a child protection referral. Sexually harmful incidents should be viewed by professionals as a safeguarding concern and both victim and perpetrator should be supported. The provision should have systems in place to support both students in the provision setting to feel safe and heard should an incident occur.

Provision staff should be alert to negative sexualised or gendered language and behaviours and should be robust in tackling these, not brushing them off as 'part of growing up', 'boys will be boys' or 'banter'. All staff should be confident of their response to peer or peer abuse as detailed in our [Behaviour Policy].

Online Sexual Abuse

Online sexual abuse involves the use of technology to manipulate, exploit, coerce or intimidate a child to (but not limited to) engage in sexual activity, produce sexual material/content, force a child to look at or watch sexual activities, encourage a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or groom a child in preparation for sexual abuse (either online or offline). It can also involve directing others to, or coordinating, the abuse of children online. As with other forms of sexual abuse, online abuse can be misunderstood by the child and others as being consensual, occurring without the child's immediate recognition or understanding of abusive or exploitative conduct. In addition, fear of what might happen if they do not comply can also be a significant influencing factor. No child under the age of 18 can consent to being abused or exploited. Financial gain can be a feature of online child sexual abuse, it can involve serious organised crime and it can be carried out by either adults or peers.

Online Safety

The topic of online safety is considerable and can be linked to issues such as child sexual exploitation, bullying and radicalisation. Issues can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material; e.g. Pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views;
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; e.g. commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; e.g. making, sending and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

The provision will ensure it is proactive in addressing online safety through:

Education of pupils through the curriculum;

- Keeping parents up to date on how to support their children to keep safe online;
- Reviewing online safety practices as part of a whole provision approach to online safety;
- Filtering and monitoring to protect users but not leading to unreasonable restrictions;
- Staff training which is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the overarching safeguarding approach;
- Information sharing to enable the provision community to be kept up to date.

For further information see government guidance Teaching online safety in provision

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

All staff should also be 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.

Only appropriately trained professionals should 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.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education.

If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, following their child protection policy and speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy.

Good mental health and resilience are fundamental to our children's physical health, relationships, education and to achieving their potential. The provision should promote positive self-esteem and tackling behaviours such as bullying that can impact a young person's self-esteem. Pastoral care should be available to those with mental health concerns as well as staff being aware of pathways for young people to Early Help and CAHMS.

In North Somerset, provisions are encouraged to have a designated Mental Health Lead and offers Mental Health First Aid training as part of the 2020-2021 training offer to embed positive mental health practice in provisions.

Fabricated or induced illness

This supplementary guidance, Safeguarding Children in whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced (2008), sets out a national framework within which agencies and professionals at local level – individually and jointly – draw up and agree upon their own more detailed ways of working together where illness may be being fabricated or induced in a child by a carer who has parenting responsibilities for them.

Homelessness

Being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless presents a real risk to a child's welfare. The designated safeguarding lead (and any deputies) should be aware of contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so they can raise/progress concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Children and the Court System

A child may at some point experience the court system for a number of different reasons this may include being a witness to a crime or it could be as a result of child care arrangement being made in the Family Court. Whatever the reasons it is important the child is supported through this process. Children with a Family Member in Prison Children and young people whereby a family member is in prison are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. The National Information Centre on

Children of Offenders (NICCO) provides information designed to support professionals working with offenders and their children, to help mitigate negative consequences for those children.

Appendix D

Dealing with a Disclosure of Abuse

When a child tells me about abuse s/he has suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell her/him you are pleased that s/he is speaking to you.
- Never promise confidentiality. Assure her/him that you will try to help but let the child know that you may have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information.
- Utilise TED questions- Tell, Explain, Describe
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that s/he has a right to be safe and protected. Ensure the child knows that they are not causing a problem by reporting abuse
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged offender.
- Be aware that the child may retract what s/he has told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations.

NB It is not education staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

- The 5 'R's are helpful in understanding what professional's duties are in relation to responding to an incident.

Recognise – Respond – Reassure – Refer – Record

Appendix E

Key Documentation, procedures and guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners
- Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education plus Covid Addendum
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Designated teacher for looked after children
- Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales .
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers
- The Teachers' Standards
- Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation – procedural information
- Listening to and involving children and young people
- Alternative provision
- Behaviour and discipline in schools
- Children Missing Education
- School behaviour and attendance: parental responsibility measures
- Multi-Agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation
- Promoting the education of looked-after children
- Supervision of activity with children
- Disqualification under the Childcare Act
- Education for children with health needs who cannot attend school
- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges
- Use of Reasonable Force in Schools
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice
- Preventing and tackling bullying
- The Equality Act
- Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England

Appendix F

If you have concerns about a child who lives in North Somerset contact:

01275 888 808 – Front Door to Early Help and Children’s Social Care

Monday-Thursday 8.45am-5pm, Friday 8.45am-4.30pm

01454 615165

Out of hours/Weekends

Remember in an emergency please ring 999

For further details on North Somerset policies and procedures, visit their website [here](#)