

Becky's Childminding

My Safeguarding Children policy and procedure

Rationale

first responsibility and priority is towards the children in my care and their welfare and well-being is paramount to me. Child abuse happens to children and young people of both sexes, at all ages and in all cultures, religions and social classes and both to children and young people with and without disabilities. Abuse includes the risk of peer on peer abuse which may happen in person or online. If I have any cause for concern, I will report it, following the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

Prevent Duty

As a registered childminder, I have a duty to have due regard to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. If I have concerns that a child or young person is being at risk of radicalisation, extremism and being drawn into terrorism. I can seek advice from the Prevent Engagement Officers at the local Police or contact the Department for Education's dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. If I have identified patterns of behaviour to lead me to believe a child or young person is *engaged* in an ideology or is *intent* in causing harm or are *capable* of committing violent acts I will contact the Local MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) team.

Female Genital Mutilation

Early years practitioners are required by law to report to the police known cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) involving a girl under the age of 18. If I am concerned that a girl has or is at risk of FGM I will report this to the designated safeguarding lead immediately.

FGM is illegal in the UK. It is a practice that takes place worldwide in at least 28 African countries and in parts of the Middle and Far East. It also takes place within parts of Western Europe and other developed countries, primarily among immigrant and

refugee communities. UK communities that are at risk of FGM include Somali, Kenyan, Ethiopian, Sierra Leonean, Sudanese, Egyptian, Nigerian, Eritrean, Yemeni, Kurdish and Indonesian women and girls.

Procedure

The relevant local procedures that I am familiar with are held by me and are available on request or by viewing the LSCB website. I am aware of the indicators of physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect, or a mixture of these types of abuse. I am aware of specific types of abuse that also come under these main categories such as domestic abuse, forced marriage, substance misuse, gang activity, female genital mutilation, radicalisation and child sexual exploitation. I am also aware of inappropriate adult behaviour that may constitute to the grooming or conditioning of children for an abusive interaction. I aim to provide an environment where all children feel safe and can talk to me when they are worried about anything, so that I can offer or seek any additional support needed. Any instances of discriminatory or derogatory language or behaviour (including language that is about disabled people or is homophobic or racist) will be challenged and an explanation given as to why it is unacceptable.

I am aware that children who have special educational needs or disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse due to factors such as lack of communication skills, reliance on others for intimate care and limited social experiences. I recognise the need to consider changes of behaviour and not attribute them to their disability but consider abuse as for any other child.

I keep up to date with child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses (completing a refresher course every 2 years) and regularly check that I have the latest version of the relevant procedures by going online. This helps me be aware of the signs of abuse or neglect and what to do if I have a concern. I am registered with the LSCB to receive e-mails alerts informing me of any changes if this is possible.

I also have regard to the government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'. As the registered childminder, I take the lead responsibility for safeguarding children within my setting.

I understand that children will be absent from my setting for varying reasons. For some children, repeated unexplained periods of absence; or leaving unexpectedly can mean that they are subject to or at risk of abuse or exploitation. I use attendance records to monitor children's attendance and absences and will report any concerning periods of absence to the MASH team.

With the increase in usage of technology within today's society, it is vital to safeguard children against potentially harmful exploitation. Any IT equipment used within my setting has appropriate filters in place to protect children from harmful online material. It is requested that any IT equipment children bring from home is also protected with appropriate filters. Children will be able to use IT equipment where I can safely

supervise their activity and only allowed to play computer games or use social media sites that are listed as suitable for their age. I understand the risks involved with games that can be played online with users from outside my setting. I will help children to understand that they shouldn't give any personal information to people they don't know because sometimes people pretend to be someone else when online. I will tell children that I understand the internet is a great tool for fun and learning but that they should speak up and not keep secrets if something is worrying them. I will help them to know how to identify and use the report abuse buttons that appear on websites and games if they experience something that upsets them online. I use the NSPCC's Share Aware information to help me understand the apps, games and networks that are commonly used by children of different ages and the potential dangers with these. If I become aware of a situation that is potentially abusive, I will report to the MASH team.

Consent for taking photographs and the use of these images if applicable will be given by you in my consent agreements. I use photographic equipment including mobile phones to take images of your child's development. These images will only be stored and used in line with parental written consent and images will be shared with parents/carers, giving the opportunity for parents/carers to decide if any images are deleted. I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as a data controller, which means I abide by strict guidelines for the storage and use of photographic images. I ensure that all my minded children are protected against exploitation from others by never leaving a child alone with another individual who is in possession of a camera or photographic device which may be used inappropriately (children will not have access to mobile phones whilst in my care without my permission). My mobile phone will only be used for essential calls enabling me to meet the needs of the children at all times and is password protected to prevent others using it. I aim to ensure that any photographic equipment is not accessible by anyone else without permission.

Parents/carers must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any pre-existing accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded and signed by you on the day of entry.

If I am concerned about a child's welfare and wish to discuss my concerns, I may contact the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children or other relevant or local support services for advice. Confidentiality will be assured only when there is no risk of harm to a child. In the case of an emergency, I will contact the police directly or the local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team.

If I notice:

significant changes in children's behaviour

unexpected bruising or marks or signs of possible abuse

any comments made which give me cause for concern

deterioration in general wellbeing which causes concern

signs of neglect or abuse outside the setting

inappropriate behaviour displayed by any other adult

I will keep a factual record of the concern and will ask the parents/carers for an explanation, and signature on the same day providing it would not put the child at risk. I will implement the LSCB procedures without delay to minimise any risk to the child. Unless I believe it may place the child at risk, I will advise the parent/cares that I intend to make a referral.

I must notify Ofsted of any allegations and any action taken in respect of the accusation of abuse that is alleged to have taken place while the child is on my premises or elsewhere. Notifications to Ofsted will be made as soon as reasonably practicable, but at least within 14 days of the allegations being made.

If a child tells me that they or another child is being abused, I will:

show that I have heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously
encourage the child to talk, but I will not prompt them or ask them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account

explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child

write down what I have been told using exact words where possible

make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion

then I would report the concerns immediately to the Local Assessment Team who have the experience and responsibility to make an assessment of the situation

If an allegation is made against my family, or me I will report it to Ofsted, follow the LSCB's procedures, and report it directly to the Designated Officer (DO) formally known as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) within 1 working day of the allegation being made. I will also contact my insurance company; I may contact any local support that is available to me. If I am observed displaying inappropriate behaviour, then the observer must report the incident directly to Ofsted on and the DO within 1 working day following the procedure stated above.

In all instances, I will record:

the child's full name and address

the date and time of the record

factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present

details of any previous concerns

details of any explanations from the parents/carers

any action taken such as speaking to parents/carers

It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.

Childminder's Signature:

Date: