

Safeguarding Children Policy

Our first responsibility and priority is towards the children in our care. If we have any cause for concern we will report it, following the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The relevant local procedures that are held by us are available on request.

We understand that child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, neglect or a mixture of these. We must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse which are alleged to have taken place while the child is in our care.

Mobile Phones, Cameras, E-safety

Only Su and Rebecca will take photos of the children with mobile phones or digital camera. These pictures will be deleted from both the camera and the computer as soon as they have been used eg: printed out or posted onto Tapestry. Both mobile phones and the work laptop are password protected, known only to Su and Rebecca.

Photographs of children will only be used as per the individual child's photograph permission form.

Children are encouraged to use the Internet at an early age. Su or Rebecca will vet all websites before use. Very young children will access the Internet only when Su or Rebecca is constantly present. Social media sites will not be used.

Procedure

Su and Rebecca have undertaken advanced child protection training, which enables them to be aware of the signs of abuse or neglect and what to do if we have a concern.

We have copies of, and are familiar with, the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures (see below). Every six months we check that we have the latest version of the relevant procedures (or any documents that may replace them in the future).

If we are concerned about a child's welfare, we may contact the local authority, the NSPCC, the National Childminding Association (NCMA), or other relevant support services for advice, providing this does not affect confidentiality.

Child protection concerns that could identify a particular child are kept confidential and only shared with people who need to know this information.

Parents must notify us of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded.

If we notice:

- significant changes in behaviour
- unexpected bruising or marks
- any comments made which give me cause for concern
- deterioration in general well-being which causes concern

We will implement the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures without delay to minimise any risk to the child. We will call the local social services' duty desk and follow it up with a letter within 48 hours. We will keep a factual record of the concern and will ask the parents for an explanation, providing it would not put the child at risk.

The statutory requirements for the Early Years Foundation Stage require us to let Ofsted know of any concerns that we have reported without delay.

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

- show that we have heard what they are saying, and that we take their allegations seriously
- encourage the child to talk, but we will not prompt them or ask them leading questions. We will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account
- explain what actions we must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child
- write down what we 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 report our concerns immediately to the duty social worker who has the experience and responsibility to make an assessment of the situation.

If an allegation is made against either of us or a member of our families, we will report it to our Local Authority Designated Officer:-

Amanda Glover
 01323 466606
 07825 782793
 amanda.glover@eastsussex.gov.uk

We will take advice from the LADO re notifying the police, DBS and Ofsted.

In all instances we 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
- any action taken such as speaking to parents.

It is not our responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation ourselves.

Telephone numbers

NCMA's Safeguarding Children Service
 0845 880 0044

NSPCC 24-hour child protection Helpline
 0808 800 5000

Ofsted
 0300 123 1231

Duty & Assessment Team Wealden (during working hours)
 01323 747373

(Out of hours 01273 335905 or 01273 335906)

Safeguarding Children Board procedures can be found at

http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/pr_contacts.html#east_sussex

The Prevent Duty

We have read and understand our duties with regard to the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. We have completed the Channel general Awareness module online training as part of the Prevent Strategy.