

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO GROUNDWORK NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WHICH IS A  
MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF GROUNDWORK TRUSTS

**SAFEGUARDING – CHILD PROTECTION**

Approved by board

.....01/06/19.....

Signature (Chairman)

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Signature (Executive Director)

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Date of next review

.....01/06/20.....

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## **Named staff and initial contacts**

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Kate Williams

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/s: Kimberley Lawson

Nominated Safeguarding Board Member:

## **Safeguarding, advice and training contacts:**

### **Safeguarding Referrals must be made in one of the following ways:**

- By telephone contact to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0300 126 1000;
- By e-mail to: [MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk);
- By using the online referral form found at <http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/more/borough-and-district-councils/how-to-make-an-online-referral/>
- In an emergency outside office hours, by contacting the Emergency Duty Team or the Police.
- If a child is in immediate danger at any time, left alone or missing, you should contact the police directly and/or an ambulance using 999.

### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (M.A.S.H)**

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) deals with referrals from professionals and members of the public who may have concerns about a child's welfare following contact with the helpline that is now also based in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. It makes the process of dealing with referrals quicker and more effective by improving the way County Council: Children's Social Care, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), Youth Offending Service (YOS) and education, work alongside other partner agency colleagues including Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire health partners, National Probation Service, and the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) to share information.

### **For referrals regarding vulnerable adults:**

**Designated Officers (formerly LADO)**

**01604 367677**

[LADOREferral@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:LADOREferral@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and young people. Children and Young People's welfare and safety are of paramount importance. The aim of the policy is to safeguard and promote participants welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate.

1.2 Groundwork Northamptonshire are clear that safeguarding is what we do for all children and Child Protection is what we do for children who have been harmed or at risk of being harmed. Our policy supports the following:-

- the legal duty on schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as described in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 [or section 157 of the Education Act 2002 for independent schools and academies]
- the statutory guidance "*Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges*" –2015
- The government's '*Working Together 2015*' which sets out statutory guidance for agencies
- The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Procedures, which contain procedures and guidance for safeguarding children.

1.3 There are four main elements to our Child Protection Policy:

- **Prevention** (e.g. positive, supportive atmosphere and environment, teaching and pastoral support to participants, safer recruitment procedures for all staff and volunteers);
- **Protection** (by following agreed procedures, ensuring all staff and volunteers are trained and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to Child Protection concerns);
- **Support** (to participants, all staff and volunteers and to children and young people who may have been abused);
- **Working with parents** (to ensure appropriate communications and actions are undertaken).

1.4 This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and visitors to the Groundwork Northamptonshire. We recognise that child protection is the responsibility of **all** staff. We ensure that all parents and other working partners are aware of our child protection policy by highlighting it in our promotional materials and correspondence, displaying appropriate information on our notice boards and by raising awareness at meetings with parents.

1.5 Extended Programme Activities

Where the Groundwork Northamptonshire provides services or activities directly

under the supervision or management of cadet staff, Groundwork Northamptonshire arrangements for child protection will apply. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body, Groundwork Northamptonshire's Safeguarding Lead will seek assurance in writing that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place to safeguard and protect children and young people and that there are arrangements to liaise with Groundwork Northamptonshire on these matters where appropriate.

## 2 Safeguarding Commitment

2.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire adapts an open and accepting attitude towards children and young people as part of its responsibility for pastoral care. All staff and volunteers encourage children, young people and parents to feel free to talk about any concerns and to see any Groundwork Northamptonshire provision as a safe place when there are difficulties. Children and young people's fears and concerns will be taken seriously and children are encouraged to seek help from members of staff.

2.2 Groundwork Northamptonshire will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an ethos where children and young people feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are always listened to;
- Ensure that children and young people know that there are adults in the within Groundwork Northamptonshire whom they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty;
- Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship which equip children and young people with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse (including online), and know to whom they can turn for help;
- Provide opportunities to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies;
- Operate safer recruitment procedures and make sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with children and young people, including references, Criminal Record and police vetting.

2.3 Safeguarding in the Curriculum

The following areas are among those addressed in PSHE and in the wider curriculum:  
Bullying/Cyberbullying

Diversity issues e.g. Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV)

Domestic violence / Relationships

Drug, alcohol and substance abuse

E Safety / Internet Safety

Extremism/Radicalisatio including PREVENT

Fire and Water Safety

Protective Behaviours

Road Safety

Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSE)

Sexting

Stranger Awareness Teenage

Relationship Abuse

Other safeguarding issues as relevant. Eg gang activity

### **3 Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **3.1 General**

All adults working with or on behalf of children and young people have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes a responsibility to be alert to possible abuse and to record and report concerns without delay to staff identified with child protection responsibilities within the scheme.

The names of the Designated Safeguarding Leads for the current year are listed at the start of this document.

#### **3.2 Groundwork Northamptonshire Board of Trustees will ensure that:**

- The scheme has a child protection/safeguarding policy, procedures and training in place which are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Groundwork Northamptonshire operates safer recruitment practices, including appropriate use of references and checks on new staff and volunteers. Furthermore, the Operations Director and staff involved in the recruitment process have undertaken appropriate Safer Recruitment training;
- There are clear procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers;
- There is a senior member of the Groundwork Northamptonshire Staff team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with child protection (the "Designated Safeguarding Lead") and that there is always cover for this role;
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes local training (in addition to basic child protection training) and this is refreshed every two years;
- All staff and volunteers who work with children, undertake appropriate training which is regularly updated (in compliance with the NSCB Learning and Development Strategy) and that new staff and volunteers who work with children are made aware of the Groundwork Northamptonshire arrangements for child protection and their responsibilities.
- Any deficiencies or weaknesses brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees will be rectified without delay;

- The Chair of the Board of Trustees deals with any allegations of abuse made against the Operations Director, in liaison with the Designated Officer formerly (LADO);
- Effective policies and procedures are in place and updated annually including a behaviour policy/“code of conduct” for staff and volunteers.
- There is an individual member of the Board of Trustees who will champion issues to do with safeguarding children and child protection within Groundwork Northamptonshire, liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and provide information and reports to the Board of Trustees;
- Groundwork Northamptonshire contributes to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance  
*“Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2015* and *Northamptonshire County Council’s “Thresholds and Pathways Document”* Safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practice of the local authority and the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB).

### 3.3 Operations Director

The Operations Director of Groundwork Northamptonshire will ensure that:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees are effectively implemented, and followed by all staff and volunteers;
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Safeguarding Lead and other staff and volunteers to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing to the assessment of children;
- Allegations of abuse or concerns that a member of staff or volunteer may pose a risk of harm to a child or young person are notified to the Designated Officer (formerly LADO);
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and young people, and such concerns are addressed sensitively, confidentially and effectively in a timely manner;
- All staff and volunteers are made aware that they have an individual responsibility to pass on safeguarding concerns and that if all else fails to report these directly to Children’s Social Care Services or the Police

### 3.4 Designated Safeguarding Lead

The responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead include

- Provision of information to the LSCB/Local Authority on safeguarding and child

protection;

- Liaison with the Groundwork Northamptonshire Board of Trustees and the Local Authority on any deficiencies brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees and how these should be rectified without delay;
- Referral of cases of suspected abuse to Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (and/or Police where a crime may have been committed);
- Acting as a source of support, advice and expertise within Groundwork Northamptonshire;
- Attending and contributing to child protection conferences when required;
- Ensuring every member of staff and volunteer has access to and understands Groundwork Northamptonshire's child protection policy especially new staff and volunteers who may work with different agencies;
- Ensuring all staff have induction training covering child protection and are able to recognise and report any concerns immediately they arise.
- Keeping detailed, accurate and secure written records of concerns and referrals;
- Obtaining access to resources and training for all staff and attend refresher training courses every two years;
- Maintaining and monitoring child protection records, including monitoring and acting upon individual concerns, patterns of concerns or complaints, in accordance with section on "Records and Monitoring" below.

#### **4 Records, Monitoring and Transfer**

- 4.1 Well-kept records are essential to good child protection practice. All staff are clear about the need to record and report concerns about a child or young person within Groundwork Northamptonshire. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for such records and for deciding at what point these records should be shared with other agencies.
- 4.2 Records relating to actual or alleged abuse or neglect are stored separately and securely from normal participant or staff records. Normal records have markers to show that there is sensitive material stored elsewhere. This is to protect individuals from accidental access to sensitive material by those who do not need to know.
- 4.3 Child protection records are stored securely, with access confined to specific staff, e.g. the Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Lead and the Board member responsible for Safeguarding.



- 4.4 Child protection records are reviewed regularly to check whether any action or updating is needed. This includes monitoring patterns of complaints or concerns about any individuals and ensuring these are acted upon.

## **5 Support for Groundwork Northamptonshire Participants, Staff and Volunteers**

### **5.1 Support for Participants**

Groundwork Northamptonshire recognises that children and young people who are abused or who witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and view the world in a positive way. For such children and young people the scheme may be one of the few stable, secure and predictable aspects of their lives. Other children and young people may be vulnerable because, for instance, they have a disability, are in care, or are experiencing some form of neglect. We will actively seek to provide such children and young people with the necessary support and to build their self-esteem and confidence.

- 5.2 Groundwork Northamptonshire recognises that children and young people sometimes display abusive behaviour and that such incidents must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention.

- 5.3 Complaints or concerns raised by children and young people will be taken seriously and followed up in accordance with the Groundwork Northamptonshire complaints process.

### **5.4 Support for Staff and Volunteers**

As part of their duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people staff and volunteers may hear information, either from the child/young person as part of a disclosure or from another adult that will be upsetting. Where a member of staff or volunteer is distressed as a result of dealing with a child protection concern, he/she should in the first instance speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead about the support he/she requires. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should seek to arrange the necessary support.

## **6 Working with Parents/Carers**

Groundwork Northamptonshire will:

- Ensure that parents/carers have an understanding of the responsibility placed on Groundwork Northamptonshire, staff and volunteers for child protection by setting out its obligations in welcome letters.
- Undertake appropriate discussion with parents/carers prior to involvement of CYPS Specialist Services (Children's Social Care) or another agency, unless to do so would place the child at risk of harm or compromise an investigation.

## **7 Other Relevant Policies**

- 7.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire's statutory responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of children goes beyond simply child protection. The duty is to ensure that safeguarding

permeates all activity and functions. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other policies, for instance:

- Compliments and Complains
- Equality
- Internet Usage
- Health and Safety
- Security
- Trips and Visits

The above list is not exhaustive but when undertaking development or planning of any kind Groundwork Northamptonshire needs to consider the implications for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

## **8 Recruitment and Selection of Staff**

8.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire has an open safeguarding ethos regularly addressing safeguarding responsibilities during staff and volunteer meetings, support and supervisions and fostering an ongoing culture of vigilance.

8.2 All new staff and volunteers receive a safeguarding induction and are briefed on the code of conduct for adults working with children this will include staff relationships with children and young people and abuse of trust.

The "Staff Code of Conduct" is given to all staff and volunteers and is the basis for the safeguarding induction.

8.3 At every interview for staff and volunteers at least one interviewer will have undertaken safer recruitment training either online or by attending other another appropriate local or national accredited training course.

## **9 Information Sharing**

9.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire recognises the importance of Information sharing and follows statutory guidance as set out in 'Information Sharing' – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers – March 2015

## **10 Staff Relationships with Participants**

As already described all staff will be made aware of their position of trust and we will adhere to regulations relating to the sexual offences act 2003. This trust extends to use of social media

## **11 Communications on Social Media**

We will comply with the Home Office and DFE guidance on use of social media and online activity by extremists to radicalise and recruit young people July 2015. We will take advice and use existing LSCB safeguarding and child

protection procedures to refer if we have a concern. We will make use of the national helpline 0207 3407264

## **12 Children and Young People Missing from Project**

- 12.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire recognises that a child or young person who is missing from focused projects with no contact may be a potential indicator of abuse or neglect
- 12.2 Groundwork Northamptonshire will follow procedures regarding welfare checks and report and respond to incidences on an individual basis.
- 12.3 Groundwork Northamptonshire will ensure that additional risks are considered including those who may be potential victims of sexual exploitation, FGM, forced Marriage or have potential safeguarding concerns due to travelling to conflict zones

## **13 Child Sexual Exploitation**

- 13.1 Groundwork Northamptonshire is committed to ensuring that all incidences of potential child sexual exploitation are reported and acted upon. The scheme follows the guidance and Procedure set out in the NSCB CSE Toolkit.

## **14 Female Genital Mutilation**

- 14.1 If staff or volunteers have concerns they activate NSCB local procedures on responding and reporting FGM as found in the NSCB procedures manual.
- 14.2 Mandatory reporting commenced in October 2015, local procedures remain when dealing with concerns regarding the potential for FGM to take place. Where a member of staff or volunteer discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18, there is a statutory duty upon that individual to report it to the police. The failing to report of such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. Further information can be found in Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015)

## **15 Preventing Radicalisation**

- 15.1 Preventing Radicalisation is seen as part of Groundwork Northamptonshire's wider safeguarding duties. The scheme supports the notions that it is possible to intervene and prevent vulnerable people becoming radicalised.
- 15.2 Staff and Volunteers should use their professional judgement in identifying children and young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral.
- 15.3 Groundwork Northamptonshire accepts its duty under the *Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales* which places requirements on the scheme under four themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

## **Useful Links**

## Local

### **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB):**

Ground Floor

John Dryden House

8-10 The Lakes

Northampton NN4

7YD

01604 364036 [http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/worried-about-a-child-/](http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/worried-about-a-child/)

“Making Children Safer” – A Pocket Guide download  
at: <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/mcs>

### **Thresholds and Pathways document:**

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/children/protecting-children/Pages/northamptonshire-thresholds-and-pathways.aspx>

### **Early Help – Request for Services**

Early Help Co-ordinator

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/earlyhel](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/earlyhelp)

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### **Multi-agency referral form download at:**

[http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/client\\_supplied/LSCBNForm\\_May2014\\_2003version.doc](http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/client_supplied/LSCBNForm_May2014_2003version.doc)

e-mail multi-agency form to:

[MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.u](mailto:MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

### **k Online Referral Form:**

<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/more/borough-and-district-councils/how-to-make-an-online-referral/>

### **Directory of services for Early Help**

<http://families.northamptonshire.gov.uk/directory-search> **Directory of services for children with disabilities**

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/children/disabled-children/pages/default.aspx>

Education Inclusion Partnership New from September 2015. More details to follow  
**Safeguarding Adults access advice:**

Safeguarding Adults Team

Northamptonshire County Council

John Dryden House, 8-10 The

Lakes Northampton NN4 7YD

01604 362900 (Internal Ext 62900)

[adultssafeguardingadmin@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:adultssafeguardingadmin@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk) (secure

email) e-referral form at:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/socialcare/adults/Pages/Safeguarding-Adults.aspx>

### **Complex Case Meetings and Locality Forums operate across Northamptonshire:**

#### **Complex Case Meetings**

Meetings take place every two weeks in each district or borough – and more frequently if needed. The aim is to provide a responsive service to families and professionals. Agencies can complete an online request form e-mailed to the appropriate address for your area, detailing the risks and issues and intended outcomes from a case discussion. Agencies must have the family's consent for case discussion. If the concerns raised can be resolved without coming to a meeting, an Early Help Co Ordinator will contact the Agency to offer advice and to agree actions. If the outcome of a complex case meeting is a referral to a particular service, this will be made by the chair of the meeting.

#### **Locality Forums**

The County's Early Help Forums have been replaced by ten Locality Forums that will build on existing relationships between professionals. This will help us all to move to an early intervention response that addresses the needs of the local area and build a shared understanding of the profile and emerging priorities of each local area.

Joining up resources and developing solutions to address local needs will be a key role of the new Locality Forums, which will be made up of key local stakeholders including schools, children's centre's, NCC education, GPs and school nurses.

#### **National**

**National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC):**

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

**0808 800 5000**

**Childline:**

<http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

**0800 1111**

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection**

**(CEOP): <http://ceop.police.uk/>**

**0870 000 3344**

## APPENDIX 1

### **DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE**

*(from 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2015)*

#### **What is Child Abuse?**

“A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. 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.

#### **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, rubbing or 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, or 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 commit sexual abuse, as can 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.

Once a child is born Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food and clothing, shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care takers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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

## **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is 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 children 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 the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of Emotional Abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.



## APPENDIX 2

### PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IN CASES OF POSSIBLE, ALLEGED OR SUSPECTED ABUSE, OR SERIOUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

#### Contents

<b>A</b>	<b>General</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults - main procedural steps</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead – main procedural steps</b>	

#### **A. General**

- 1) The Local Safeguarding Children Board for Northamptonshire Procedures contains the inter-agency processes, protocols and expectations for safeguarding children. (Available on NSCB website [www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk](http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk)). The Designated Safeguarding Lead is expected to be familiar with these, particularly the referral processes and with NCC "Thresholds and Pathways".
- 2) It is important that all parties act swiftly and avoid delays.
- 3) Any person may seek advice and guidance from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub particularly if there is doubt about how to proceed (see contacts at the start of this policy document). Any adult, whatever their role, can take action in his/her own right to ensure that an allegation or concern is investigated and can report to the investigating agencies.
- 4) Written records, dated and signed, must be made to what has been alleged, noticed and reported, and kept securely and confidentially.
- 5) In many cases of concern there will be an expectation that there have already been positive steps taken to work with parents and relevant parties to help alleviate the concerns and effect an improvement for the child. This is appropriate where it is thought a child may be in need in some way, and require assessment to see whether additional support and services are required. An example might be where it is suspected a child may be the subject of neglect. In most cases the parents' knowledge and consent to the referral are expected, unless there is reason for this not being in the child's interest. However, there will be circumstances when informing the parent/carer of a referral that might put the child at risk, and in individual cases advice from Children's Social Care will need to be taken.

#### **B. Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults – main procedural steps**

- 1) When a child makes a disclosure, or when concerns are received from other sources, do not investigate, ask leading questions, examine children, or promise confidentiality. Children making disclosures should be reassured and if possible at this stage should be informed what action will be taken next.

- 2) As soon as possible write a dated, timed and signed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done and report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in the scheme
- 3) If the concern involves the conduct of a member of staff or volunteer, a visitor, a trustee, a trainee or another young person or child, the Operations Director must be informed. The Operations Director will contact the Designated Officer formerly LADO to seek advice.
- 4) If the allegation is about the Operations Director, the information should normally be passed to the Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Designated Officer (formerly LADO). See contacts on Pages 3 and 4 of this policy.
- 5) If this has not already been done, inform the child (or other party who has raised the concern) what action you have taken.

### **C. Designated Safeguarding Lead – Main Procedural Steps**

- 1) Begin a case file for cadets where there are concerns, with an overview chronology, which will hold a record of communications and actions. This must be stored securely (see Section on Records and Monitoring).
- 2) Where initial enquiries do not justify a referral to the investigating agencies inform the initiating adult and monitor the situation. If in doubt, seek advice from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0300 126 1000.
- 3) Share information confidentially with those who need to know.
- 4) Where there is a child protection concern requiring immediate, same day, intervention from Children's Social Care (Priority 1), the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub should be contacted immediately by phone. Written confirmation should follow within 24 hours on the NSCB Agency Referral Form. All other referrals should be made firstly through a telephone conversation with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and then by following up with the online form, where requested to do so. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub is available for advice on the advice line number given in the contact details on page 3 of this document.
- 5) If it appears that urgent medical attention is required arrange for the child to be taken to hospital (normally this means calling an ambulance) accompanied by a member of staff or volunteer who must inform medical staff that non-accidental injury is suspected. Parents must be informed that the child or young person has been taken to hospital.
- 6) Exceptional circumstances: If it is feared that the child might be at immediate risk on leaving the scheme, take advice from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (for instance about difficulties if the session has ended, or on whether to contact the police). Remain with the child until the Social Worker or Police take responsibility. If in these circumstances a parent arrives to collect the child, the member of staff or volunteer has no right to withhold the child, unless there are current legal restrictions in force (e.g. a restraining order). If there are clear signs of physical risk or threat, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub should be updated and the Police should be contacted immediately.

### APPENDIX 3

#### **PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

These procedures should be followed in all cases in which there is an allegation or suspicion that a person working with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or young person, or may have harmed a child or young person;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or young person; or
- behaved towards a child, young person, children or young people in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children or young people.

Relevant documents:

- NSCB Procedures manual Section 5
  - 5.1, Selection and Supervision of Staff
  - 5.2 Managing Allegations Against Adults who work with Children

#### **A. Individual Staff/Volunteers/Other Adults who receive the allegation:**

- 1) Write a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.
- 2) Report immediately to the Operations Director
- 3) Pass on the written record.
- 4) If the allegation concerns the conduct of the Operations Director, report immediately to the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Pass on the written record. (If there is difficulty reporting to the Chair of the Board of Trustees contact the Designated Officer formerly LADO as soon as possible or if unavailable contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on the same day.)

#### **B. Operations Director**

- 1) If there is no written record, write a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.
- 2) Before taking further action notify and seek advice from the Designated Officer Formerly LADO, or if unavailable the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on the same day.
- 3) You may be asked to clarify details or the circumstances of the allegation, but this must not amount to an investigation.

4) Report to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub if the Designated Officer Formerly LADO, so advises or if circumstances require a referral.

5) Ongoing involvement in cases:

- Liaison with the Designated Officer formerly LADO
- Co-operation with the investigating agency's enquiries as appropriate.
- Consideration of employment issues and possible disciplinary action where the investigating agencies take no further action.

**C. Chair of Board of Trustees (only relevant in the case of an allegation against the Operations Director)**

1) If there is no written record, write a dated and timed note of what has been disclosed or noticed, said or done.

2) Notify the Designated Officer formerly LADO, or if unavailable the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on the same day.

3) You may be asked to clarify details or the circumstances of the allegation, but this must not amount to an investigation.

4) Report to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub if the Designated Officer formerly LADO so advises or if circumstances require a referral.

5) Ongoing involvement in cases:

- Liaison with the Designated Officer formerly LADO
- Co-operation with the investigating agency's enquiries as appropriate.
- Consideration of employment issues and possible disciplinary action where the investigating agencies take no further action.