



Safeguarding Children/Young People Policy

Spring North is concerned with the safeguarding and well-being of all people. We recognise that it is the responsibility of all staff, volunteers, directors and members to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of every member of our community, and in particular the abuse of the most vulnerable amongst us.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to ensure that all staff members, volunteers and directors are aware of our policy relating to risk of harm to children and young people and any other policies and procedures related to the specific activities that they are involved in.

Spring North's policy complies with the recommendations of the Local Safeguarding Children's Assurance Board. For further information go to;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Aims of the policy

The aim of this policy is to raise awareness of the safeguarding children agenda and provides a clear framework for allegations of abuse. All staff, volunteers and directors will be aware of this policy and it will be available for perusal by member organisations/funders if required.

Definitions of abuse

Spring North accepts the following definitions of abuse:

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. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsive to, a child's basic emotional needs

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to the child. Physical harm may also be caused what a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using terms such as Induced/Fabricated Illness by carer or Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware or not of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative and non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking



at or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment 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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a child. It may involve 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 ill treatments of a child, though it may occur alone.

Dealing with a situation

Allegations of Physical Injury or Neglect or sexual abuse

Suspected physical abuse or neglect

If medical assistance is not required immediately the concern should be passed on to the nominated person. The nominated person would contact Area Social Services staff. Accurate and detailed recordings would be made of all action taken. These will be signed and dated.

Suspected sexual abuse

If the suspicion is raised through something the child has said follow the do's and don'ts listed below.

If the suspicion is raised through physical and behavioural symptoms the child should not be questioned, concerns should be discussed with a senior person in the organisation, recordings should be made, and concerns should not be shared with parents at this stage.

How to Respond to a Child Wanting to Talk about Abuse

It is considered unlikely that a Spring North staff member or volunteers will be working directly with children and young people. However in the possibility that this might occur the following advice should be followed.

Do:

- Treat any allegations extremely seriously and act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying.
- Tell the child they are right to tell you
- Reassure them that they are not to blame
- Be honest about your own position, who you will have to tell and why
- Tell the child what you are doing and when, and keep them up to date with what is happening
- Take further action – you may be the only people in a position to prevent future abuse – tell your nominated abuse immediately
- Write down everything said and what was done

Don't

- Don't make promises you can not keep

- Don't interrogate the child – it is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in this
- Don't cast doubt in what the child has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject
- Don't say anything that makes the child feel responsible for the abuse
- Don't do nothing – make sure you tell your nominated child protection person immediately – they will know how to follow this up and where to go for further advice.

What to do once a Child has talked about Abuse

Make a record of everything said and done.

Keep the child informed.

Tell someone in authority or contact the Social Care team

Keep a record of everything.

Good practice guidelines

- ✓ Ensure that another adult is present when you are in the company of young people (ideally mixed genders)
- ✓ Take care to ensure your use of language is appropriate
- ✓ Comments and actions should also be appropriate, do not make suggestive remarks or gestures
- ✓ Do not touch or make unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person
- ✓ Be cautious in situations of high emotion or sensitivity
- ✓ Do not rely on your good name or that of the Spring North to protect you
- ✓ Be aware at all times that your actions or comments could be misinterpreted however well intentioned
- ✓ Respect a young persons right to personal privacy
- ✓ Remember that some issues need to be treated confidentially

If you are alone with a young person or child

- ✓ Tell some one else where you are going, what you are doing and why
- ✓ Ensure you are accessible to others
- ✓ If possible move to an area where there are more people
- ✓ Make sure that one to one contact is for a short a time as possible

If you suspect or are told that a young person is being abused

- ✓ Do not investigate yourself
- ✓ Listen, but do not pass judgement on what is being said
- ✓ Make it clear that you can offer support, and that you **must pass on the information**
- ✓ Write down facts, as you know them
- ✓ Ensure that the young person can talk to you or to an independent person
- ✓ Refer incident to or appropriate person as soon as possible

These are only guidelines, it is important to use your own common sense and experience to protect yourself from misinterpretation or accusation and to safe guard

the well being of those around you. If you are arranging an activity or if you think you may be in a situation that involves working with young people, it is good practice to carry out a simple risk assessment first.


Spring Norths safeguarding policy is based on key principles:

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children:**
A Guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. (D.O.H.2006/2010) These documents define the categories of child abuse and provide a useful list of signs and symptoms.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942455/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_Statutory_framework_legislation_relevant_to_safeguarding_and_promoting_the_welfare_of_children.pdf
- **The Children Act 1989**
Places a legal duty on the local authority to make enquiries if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm to enable them to decide whether to take any action in order to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>
- **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child –**
The ASSET PEOPLE SOLUTIONS believe's that every child has the right to be loved and cared for and to be safe and well, to be offered a good standard of education, to be protected from exploitation and to have opportunities for rest and play (1991). Similarly, all children have the same rights and the same value, regardless of age, race, culture, gender, disability, or social/economic background.
<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>
- **Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People 2006 (CAF)**
All children who need additional services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health and development will be identified using the common assessment framework.
http://complexneeds.org.uk/modules/Module-2.4-Assessment-monitoring-and-evaluation/All/downloads/m08p050d/caf_managers_guide.pdf
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**
Created the Independent Safeguarding Authority along with Vetting and Barring Scheme to help prevent unsuitable people from working (paid or otherwise) with children and vulnerable Adults.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/contents>
- **No Secrets (DOH2000)**
Named local Authorities as the lead agency to create a framework for action so that all responsible agencies would work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of vulnerable adults. This document describes the

different definitions of categories of adult abuse and provides a useful list of signs and symptoms.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008486

- **National Framework - Safeguarding Adults** (Association of Directors of Social Services 2005) Issued National Standards for multi-agency responses to protect and safeguard vulnerable adults. It covers the need for training as well the need for multi-agency procedures.
<http://www.adass.org.uk/old/publications/guidance/safeguarding.pdf>
- **Mental Capacity Act DOH 2005**
Provides a statutory framework to empower and protect vulnerable people who are not able to make their own decisions. It makes it clear who can take decisions, in which situations, and how they should go about this.
<http://www.publicguardian.gov.uk/mca/mca.htm>
- **Safer Working Practices DCSF 2007**
This practice guidance provides clear advice on appropriate and safe behaviours for all adults working with children in paid or unpaid capacities, in all settings and in all contexts.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00311/>
- **Recruiting Safely – DWDC 2009**
This provides an overview for individuals and organisations seeking to understand the task of safer recruitment within the wider safeguarding agenda. It provides a list of key issues that need to be considered when undertaking safe recruitment.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-safer-recruitment-in-education>
- **Sharing Information DCSF 2008**
This guidance is for front-line staff from all sectors who have to make decisions about sharing personal information on a case-by-case basis, whether they are providing services to children, young people, adults and families. The guidance is also for managers and advisors who support these practitioners in their decision-making and for others with responsibility for information governance.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>



Signature:

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