



Harrogate District of Sanctuary

Safeguarding Children And Young People Policy and Procedure

Version 4

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POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Aims and Objectives of Harrogate District of Sanctuary (The Charity)

Our vision is of a community open and supportive of refugees and asylum seekers, where they are able to integrate and be successful.

We work in the following ways:

- We help refugees and asylum seekers who come to live in the Harrogate district by offering friendship and practical support, in partnership with other charitable, faith, voluntary and community services.
- We offer social activities that bring the families together to gain mutual support and confidence.
- We provide opportunities for language acquisition to assist in the pursuit of fulfilment and success and to promote social inclusion.
- We celebrate the achievements of refugees in our community.
- We seek to raise awareness locally of the needs and challenges of being a refugee so as to counter prejudicial attitudes and seek support.
- We campaign to influence political and other leaders to ensure humane and compassionate action in the national sphere.

We work with and on behalf of Resettled Families, Asylum Seekers and Refugees. These groups may be families or single adults, with children of all ages. Also at times the asylum seekers may be vulnerable young people aged 16 or 17 who are classed as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

The charity recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse and exploitation. Safeguarding is a key governance priority for members of the charity. We take seriously our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse or exploitation, and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns;
- have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse and exploitation;
- maintain good links with statutory child care authorities.

THE POLICY

Harrogate District of Sanctuary recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly, the organisation has adopted the policy contained in this document (hereafter "the policy"). The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against members or volunteers and recognises the need to build constructive links with the child care agencies. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the Children and Social Work Act.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/contents/enacted>

They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all Trustees and volunteers who act on behalf of the charity and who come directly into contact with children. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the Safeguarding Lead or their deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The Safeguarding Lead must decide if the concerns should be communicated to **Children's Social Care** or the police. **They can be contacted through NYC customer services on 01609 780780. This number is also available outside of office hours. The Minicom number is 01609 779838. All calls are taken seriously and can be made in confidence. In an emergency, always ring 999**

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Child/Young Person

This means anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her/their status or entitlements to services or protection.

ABUSE: Definitions

Abuse is form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or 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, clothing and 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-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

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

Physical Abuse

This form of 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.

Emotional Abuse

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 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 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.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), which may not necessarily involve a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. (See below)

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.

Child sexual exploitation

The definition of child sexual exploitation is as follows:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs 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 activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Like all forms of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years, including 16 and 17 year olds who can legally consent to have sex;
- can still be abuse even if the sexual activity appears consensual;
- can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative acts) and non-contact sexual activity;
- can take place in person or via technology, or a combination of both;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and may, or may not, be accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- may occur without the child or young person's immediate knowledge (through others copying videos or images they have created and posting on social media, for example);
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. The abuse can be a one-off occurrence or a series of incidents over time, and range from opportunistic to complex organised abuse;
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the abuse. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

Further information "Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers..." published by Department for Education, can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf

SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURE

Awareness of Abuse and Neglect and Duty of Care

Harrogate District of Sanctuary will provide all committee members and volunteers with appropriate safeguarding training in order to carry out their role and responsibilities under this policy. Volunteers working with the charity need to be alert to the potential abuse of children both within their families and also from other sources including abuse by trustees and volunteers.

All committee members and volunteers of Harrogate District of Sanctuary have a responsibility to respond to any suspected or actual abuse of a child in accordance with these procedures.

What to do if children talk to you about abuse or neglect

It is recognised that a child may seek you out to share information about abuse or neglect, or talk spontaneously to individuals or in groups. In these situations you must:

- Listen carefully to the child. DO NOT directly question the child.
- Give the child time and attention.
- Allow the child to give a spontaneous account; do not stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make an accurate record of the information you have been given taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, the child's presentation as well as what was said. Recordings must be kept secure and in accordance with organisation procedures.
- Use the child's own words where possible.
- Explain that you cannot promise not to speak to others about the information they have shared.
- Reassure the child that:
 - you are glad they have told you;
 - they have not done anything wrong;
- Explain what you are going to do next.
- Explain that you will need to get help to keep the child safe.
- Children should not be required to provide multiple accounts of events within the organisation

You must:

- treat all children and young people with respect;
- ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people or at least that you are within sight or hearing of others;

- respect a young person's right to personal privacy;
- encourage young people and adults to be comfortable;
- recognise that caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people;
- operate within the charity's principles and guidance;
- challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse.

You must not:

- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people;
- allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour/ make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people;
- reach conclusions about others without checking facts;
- either exaggerate or trivialise safeguarding issues;
- show favouritism to any individual.

What you should do if you suspect abuse

You may become concerned about a child for a number of reasons, for example:

- They have become withdrawn.
- They are upset.
- Because of your observations, or
- You are given information from another party about a child.

It is good practice to ask a child why they are upset or how a cut or bruise was caused or respond to a child wanting to talk to you. This practice can help clarify concerns and result in appropriate action.

If you are concerned about a child you must share your concerns. Initially you should talk to the Safeguarding Lead or their deputy. (See above) You should make a note of your concerns and any actions agreed following your discussion with the Safeguarding Lead or their deputy.

Informing parents

It is good practice to be open and honest at the outset with the parents/carers about concerns, and the need for a referral. All reasonable efforts should be made to inform parents/carers prior to discussing concerns with Children's Social Care; however, this should not be delayed if concerns cannot be discussed with the parents.

Where the child expresses a wish for his or her parents not to be informed, their views should be taken seriously and a judgement made based on the child's age and understanding, as to whether the child's wishes should be followed.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines>

Consultation with Children's Social Care

Where concerns have been highlighted to the Safeguarding Lead, they will contact the Customer Contact Screening Centre to discuss the concerns with Children's Social Care. Please see below for contact information.

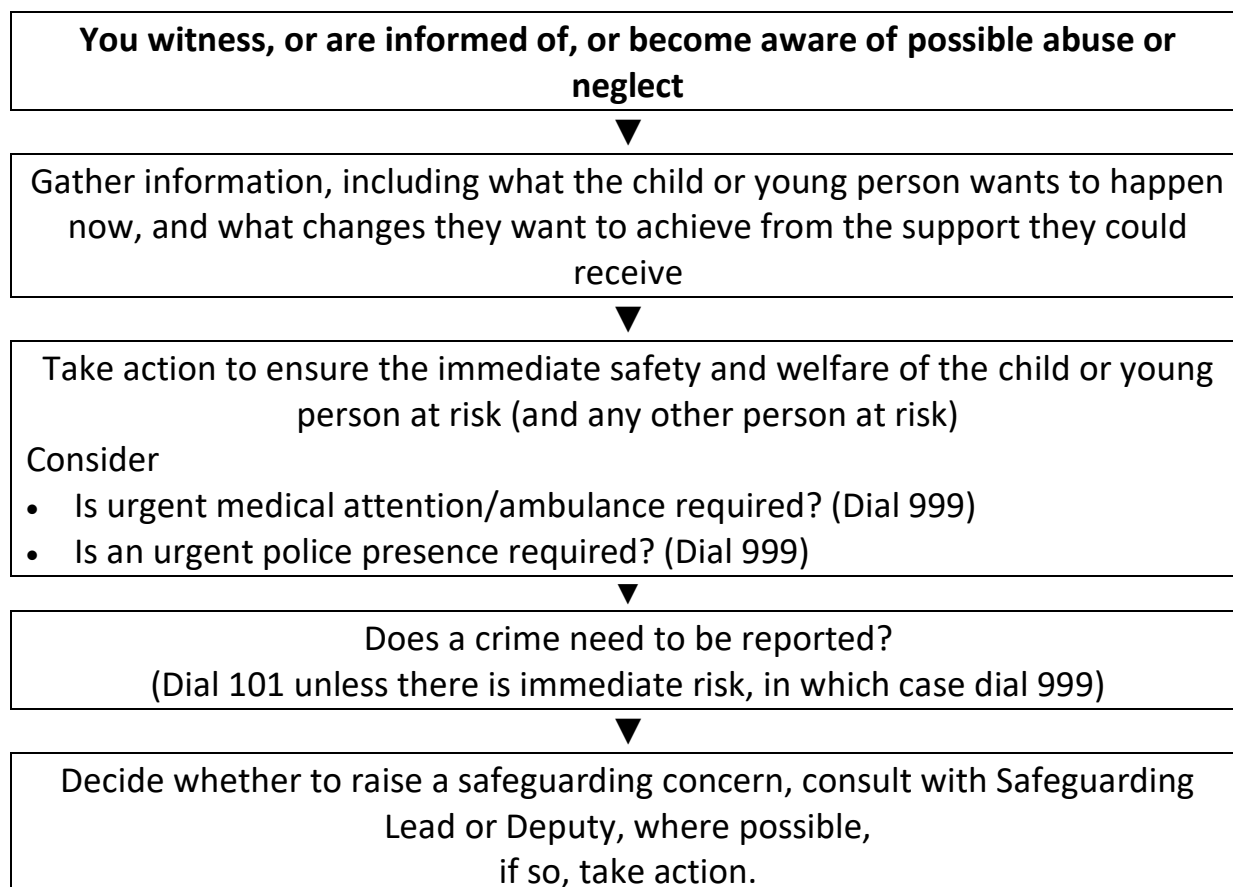
You may also wish to consult with Children's Social Care in the following circumstances:

- When you have been unable to contact the Safeguarding Lead or their deputy and you believe the child is at risk of harm
- When you remain unsure after internal consultation as to whether safeguarding concerns exist
- When there is disagreement as to whether safeguarding concerns exist, or
- When the concerns relate to any member of the organising committee.

Consultation is not the same as making a referral but should enable a decision to be made as to whether a referral to Social Services or the Police should progress.

Raising a Safeguarding Concern

Raising a safeguarding concern means reporting abuse to the local authority under the safeguarding procedure. Anyone can raise a safeguarding concern, often however this is undertaken by the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy.



Do this:

- Immediately where the concern is urgent and serious
- Within the same day where possible for any other concerns



Document the incident and any actions or decisions taken.
Use HDS Safeguarding Incident Report form where possible



Ensure key people are informed:



Provide support for the person identifying the safeguarding concern

Making a Referral to Children’s Social Care

In order to make a referral to Children’s Social Care, the Customer Contact Screening Centre should be contacted in the first instance. This will usually be by the Safeguarding Lead or their deputy. If there is a delay in contacting the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy then a referral can be made directly to Children’s Social Care.

The Customer Contact Centre can be contacted by the following methods

During Office Hours

By Phone: 01609 780780

Email: social.care@northyorks.gov.uk

Outside Office Hours

Emergency Duty Team (for evenings, weekends and bank holidays): 01609 780780

Confirmation of Referral

A written confirmation of the referral must be completed and submitted within 24 hours. This will normally be completed by the Safeguarding Lead. Where possible, North Yorkshire CYPS request that you use their “Referral Form to Children’s Social Care or Disabled Children’s Service” to ensure that all relevant information is provided to ensure that the referral can be progressed as effectively as possible.

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/Resources/universal-referral-form/>

When contacting the Customer Service Centre the Trustee or volunteer should:

- Clearly identify themselves, their agency/relationship with the child(ren) and family,
- Give details of where they can be contacted.

- Provide as much relevant family information as possible and clearly state the name of the child, the parents/carers and any other children known to be in the household, the dates of birth and addresses and any previous addresses known
- Provide details of any special needs or communication needs of either the child or any family member
- State why they feel the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.
- Share their knowledge and involvement of the child(ren) and family
- Share their knowledge of any other agency involved
- Indicate the child's, parent's/carers' knowledge of the referral and their expectations
- Ensure they record within their agency files the concerns and action taken

Contact Details

- North Yorkshire Customer Contact Screening Centre: 01609 780780
Social.care@northyorks.gov.uk
- North Yorkshire Police: Emergency 999; Non-Emergency 101
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection): www.ceop.police.uk
- Harrogate District of Sanctuary Safeguarding Children Lead:
Margaret Bond
0788 0677 332
chair@harrogatedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org

Harrogate District of Sanctuary Safeguarding Children Deputy Lead:
Dennis Brickles
07747 864461
treasurer@harrogatedistrict.cityofsanctuary.org