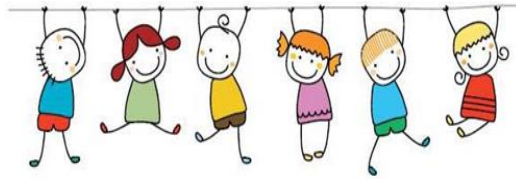


Clwb Penmorfa

Registration Number: W1400002698



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Children are the most vulnerable group in society. They have no voting rights and no formal avenues to exercise power. Adults in positions of authority and responsibility therefore have a duty to ensure that the rights of children and young people are represented and protected.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as anyone up to the age of 18 years. With regard to the protection of children, it deals with the exploitation of children at work; physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; and other mistreatments, which many may still suffer.

Every Local Authority has a legal duty to establish an Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) made up from agencies including Children's Services, Education, Health, Police and Voluntary Organisations.

If you have any reason to think that a child is being neglected or abused in any way, it is hoped that you will share your concerns with professional who have a duty and responsibility to protect children. You do not have to give your name and any information given will be treated in strictest confidence. You should contact the duty social worker at your local Children's Services Office, or the Police, or the NSPCC and when the phone is answered say, "I wish to report a child who may be at risk".

The overriding principle, which governs all areas of work with children and families, is that **the child's welfare should be the paramount consideration.**

Confidentiality

In all situations the protection of the child must take precedence over all other considerations. In all cases where a child has been abused, or is at risk of abuse, there is a duty to share all relevant information amongst the agencies concerned. Both parents and children **must be made aware** that information, which has

relevance to child protection, is shared. It is important not to promise a child complete confidentiality in the hope of encouraging that child to make a disclosure of abuse. Such a pledge cannot be kept. A referrer should be assured that alerting the professionals to a family in crisis is of prime importance when it is necessary to protect a child.

What is child abuse?

The Children Act 1989 refers to the concept of 'significant harm' and defines the term 'harm'. An abused child is a person under the age of 18 years who is suffering significant ill treatment which results in the significant impairment of physical or mental health or of physical, intellectual, emotional social or behavioural development.

A child in need of protection is a child who is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. (i.e. there is a "real possibility" of abuse), this being supported by factual evidence.

Categories of abuse

The categories of abuse are:

- **Neglect** - persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect from exposure to any kind of danger.
- **Physical Injury** - actual or likely physical injury to a child.
- **Sexual Abuse** - actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or developmentally immature.
- **Emotional Abuse** - actual or likely severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or rejection. All abuse forms involve some degree of emotional ill treatment.
- **Modern Slavery** - forced labour and forced marriage. Both refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuse of power.
- **Self-neglect** - Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety. Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings. Inability to avoid harm as a result of self-neglect. Failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs.
- **Discriminatory** - is the unequal treatment of an individual based on age, disability, gender and gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation.

- **Financial** - is a common tactic used by abusers to gain power and control in a relationship. The forms of financial abuse may be subtle or overt but in general, include tactics to conceal information, limit the victim's access to assets, or reduce accessibility to the family finances.
- **Bullying** - is behaviour that hurts someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone.
- **Online** - is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web, like computers, tablets and mobile phones. It can happen anywhere online, including social media, text messages and messaging apps.
- **Scamming** - to deceive and defraud
- **Grooming** - is when a person builds a relationship with a child, young person or an adult who's at risk so they can abuse them and manipulate them into doing things.
- **Self-harm** - is when you hurt yourself as a way of dealing with very difficult feelings, painful memories or overwhelming situations and experiences.
- **County Lines** - is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

Radicalisation and Terrorism

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme.

Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

The process of radicalisation may involve:

- Being groomed online or in person
- Exploitation, including sexual exploitation
- Psychological manipulation
- Exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information
- The risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts
- It happens gradually so children and young people who are affected may not realise what it is that they are being drawn into.

Recognising child abuse

Awareness of abuse

Always be alert to the possible indicators of child abuse. Anyone who has knowledge, concerns or suspicions that a child is being harmed, or is at risk of significant harm, has a responsibility to pass those concerns on to the agencies who have a duty to investigate and intervene (i.e. Children's Services, Police or NSPCC).

Child abuse may be the result of direct acts towards a child, or by the failure of those who have a duty to care, or both.

Child abuse may be carried out by parents or other family members, carers, neighbours, professional working with children, or any adult known or not known to the child, (although the last case is unusual). A child may also be the victim of abuse where the abuser is also another child.

The first indications of abuse may not be the presence of an injury. Suspicions may be aroused by overheard remarks made by a child, family members or friends, or by noticeable changes in the behaviour or reactions of a child.

Indicators of child abuse

Some general points which give indications of possible child abuse:

- A history or other evidence of frequent, repeated injuries
- Repeated attendance at clinic or hospital, or frequent hospital admissions
- A delay in seeking medical advice or treatment which is obviously necessary
- Conflicting accounts and explanations of how an injury or incident has occurred by the child or carers
- An unawareness or denial of an injury or incident by the carer
- Very low self-esteem
- Fearful and withdrawn behaviour
- An adult who has very noticeable unrealistic expectations of a child
- Failure to thrive and meet developmental milestones.

Talking to children

Follow these principles in all cases:

- The child should be listened to but not interrogated nor asked to repeat their account.
- Care should be taken not to make assumptions about what the child is saying or to make interpretations.
- The child should not be interrupted when recalling significant events.
- The discussion should be noted carefully, and details such as timing, setting, who was present and what was said should be recorded.
- All actions taken should be noted.
- The child should never be promised complete confidentiality.

Always refer concerns regarding child abuse, or the risk of child abuse to the Children's Services, Police, or NSPCC without delay.

Do not approach parents if suspicions of Sexual abuse.

This procedure is to support both the settings Safeguarding Policy and Professional Involvement Policy.

If you are not certain whether the situation warrants a child protection referral, discuss your concerns with the settings **Safeguarding Officer** or with the duty social worker.

DENBIGHSHIRE SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILDREN & FAMILY SUPPORT GATEWAY
01824 712200
CARE INSPECTORATE FOR WALES (CIW)
0300 790 0126
NORTH WALES POLICE, CHILD PROTECTION TEAM
01492 517171
NSPCC
0800 800 5000

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