

Safeguarding Children

Introduction

The Every Child Matters outcomes underpin everything that goes on in our setting. The Every Child Matters document was the result of a green paper produced in the aftermath of the Victoria Climbié murder where it was acknowledged that all agencies should be working together and communicating to ensure the basic rights for children are addressed.

- Be healthy
- Enjoy and achieve
- Achieve economic well-being
- Make a positive contribution
- Stay Safe

These outcomes can only be achieved when procedures for safeguarding children are in place.

Principles

- All children have a fundamental right to be protected from abuse.
- Adults have a responsibility to protect children from harm.
- Those adults who work with or on behalf of children and young people have an even greater responsibility to safeguard children.

The **Children's Act** in 1989 stated:-

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Work must be conducted in partnership. Professionals are expected to work together and work in a co-operative way with parents.
- There should be no delay.

National Standards for Under 8s Day Care (Standard 13)

- The registered person complies with local child protection procedures approved by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board and ensures that all adults working and looking after children in the provision are able to put the procedures into place.

Points to consider from the Standard ...

- The protection of the child is the first priority
- The registered person has a written statement of the arrangements in place for the protection of children, including arrangements to safeguard the children from abuse or neglect and procedures to be followed in the event of allegations of abuse or neglect.
- The statement should be based on the procedures laid out in the booklet "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused" - Summary
- This statement should clearly state staff responsibilities with regard to the reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures and should include contact and telephone numbers for the local Police and Children's Social Care
- It should include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Designated member of staff for child protection.
- All staff are aware of possible signs and symptoms of children at risk.

What do we mean by Child Abuse?

- Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing 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 a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children. *Working Together 2006:8*

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. *Working Together 2006:8*

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 feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interactions. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious 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. *Working Together 2006:8*

Sexual Abuse

- Involves the forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrative (eg rape, buggers or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at or in the production of pornographic materials or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. *Working Together 2006:8*

Neglect

- 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 misuse. 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, failing to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs. *Working Together 2006:8*

If there is concern that a child has injuries of a non accidental nature, or if a child displays any characteristic signs of child abuse, then the named officer in charge of child protection will follow the procedure as set out in the Lancashire County Council guidance on child protection, and share these concerns with the Child Protection Unit at the Social Services Department. The Lancashire County Council guidance is contained within the Safeguarding Children Folder at nursery.

The named officer in charge of child protection is Mrs Wendy Embisu, who holds a current certificate in child protection/safeguarding children.

What to do if you are worried about a child's welfare ...

- Make sure the child is ok
- No secrets
- Make a note of what you have seen, heard or been told. **DON'T INVESTIGATE**
- Discuss your concerns with the parents unless you have reason to believe this would place the child or anyone else at risk.
- Advise the CP officer of your concerns.
- Don't try to deal with your worries by yourself.

Dated Sept 2016