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Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

This document relates to

Central Support Services



Operational Services



Contents

Introduction	3
What is child abuse?	3
General signs of abuse	3
Types of Abuse	4
What to do if you suspect or witness Abuse of a child or young person visiting our services	14
Disclosure	14
Allegations against Staff	15
Recording of information, suspicions or concerns	15
Policy	16
Prevent Duty	18
Policy Ownership	20

Introduction

The document should complement and be used in conjunction with the relevant local authority child and safeguarding procedures for the area where the service is provided.

This document reflects most relevant Government guidance including 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and "Keeping children safe in education".

All Local Authorities (LA) have specific legal duties in respect of children under the Children Act 1989 which imposes a general duty to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children. The LA is also required to make enquiries when it has reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Local authorities must undertake this work with parents, carers and other agencies such as Livability.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse happens when a person harms a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can also involve neglect. Children may be abused by:

- family members
- friends
- people working or volunteering in organisational or community settings
- people they know
- strangers

General signs of abuse

Children experiencing abuse often experience more than one type of abuse over a period of time. Children who experience abuse may be afraid to tell anybody about the abuse. They may struggle with feelings of guilt, shame or confusion – particularly if the abuser is a parent, caregiver or other close family member or friend.

Many of the signs that a child is being abused are the same regardless of the type of abuse. Anyone working with children or young people needs to be able to recognise the signs.

These include a child:

- being afraid of particular places or making excuses to avoid particular people
- knowing about or being involved in 'adult issues' which are inappropriate for their age or stage of development, for example alcohol, drugs and/or sexual behaviour
- having angry outbursts or behaving aggressively towards others
- becoming withdrawn or appearing anxious, clingy or depressed
- self-harming or having thoughts about suicide

- showing changes in eating habits or developing eating disorders
- regularly experiencing nightmares or sleep problems
- regularly wetting the bed or soiling their clothes
- running away or regularly going missing from home or care
- not receiving adequate medical attention after injuries.

These signs do not necessarily mean that a child is being abused. There may well be other reasons for changes in a child's behaviour such as a bereavement or relationship problems between parents or carers. If you have any concerns about a child's wellbeing, you should report them following Livability's safeguarding and child protection procedures.

Types of Abuse

Types of abuse include, but are not limited to

- **Physical abuse**
- **Neglect**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Emotional abuse**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Bullying and cyberbullying**
- **Child Trafficking**
- **Female Genital Mutilation**

Physical abuse

What is physical abuse?

Physical abuse happens when a child is deliberately hurt, causing physical harm. It can involve hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or suffocating. It's also physical abuse if a parent or carer makes up or causes the symptoms of illness in children. For example, they may give them medicine they don't need, making them unwell. This is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

Spotting the signs of physical abuse

All children have trips, falls and accidents which may cause cuts, bumps and bruises. These injuries tend to affect bony areas of their body such as elbows, knees and shins and are not usually a cause for concern.

Injuries that are more likely to indicate physical abuse include:

Bruising

- bruises on babies who are not yet crawling or walking
- bruises on the cheeks, ears, palms, arms and feet
- bruises on the back, buttocks, tummy, hips and backs of legs
- multiple bruises in clusters, usually on the upper arms or outer thighs
- bruising which looks like it has been caused by fingers, a hand or an object, like a belt or shoe
- large oval-shaped bite marks.

Burns or scalds

- any burns which have a clear shape of an object, for example cigarette burns
- burns to the backs of hands, feet, legs, genitals or buttocks.

Other signs of physical abuse include multiple injuries (such as bruising, fractures) inflicted at different times. If a child is frequently injured, and if the bruises or injuries are unexplained or the explanation doesn't match the injury, this should be investigated. It's also concerning if there is a delay in seeking medical help for a child who has been injured.

Neglect

What is neglect?

Neglect is not meeting a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs. This can result in serious damage to their health and development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer not:

- providing adequate food, clothing or shelter
- supervising a child or keeping them safe from harm or danger (including leaving them with unsuitable carers)
- making sure the child receives appropriate health and/or dental care
- making sure the child receives a suitable education
- meeting the child's basic emotional needs – this is known as emotional neglect.

Neglect is the most common type of child abuse. It often happens at the same time as other types of abuse.

Spotting the signs of neglect

Neglect can be difficult to identify. Isolated signs may not mean that a child is suffering neglect, but multiple and persistent signs over time could indicate a serious problem.

Some of these signs include:

- children who appear hungry - they may not have lunch money or even try to steal food
- children who appear dirty or smelly
- children whose clothes are inadequate for the weather conditions
- children who are left alone or unsupervised for long periods or at a young age
- children who have untreated injuries, health or dental problems
- children with poor language, communication or social skills for their stage of development
- children who live in an unsuitable home environment.

Sexual abuse

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. It doesn't necessarily involve violence and the child may not be aware that what is happening is abuse. Child sexual abuse can involve contact abuse and non-contact abuse. Contact abuse happens when the abuser makes physical contact with the child. It includes:

- sexual touching of any part of the body whether the child is wearing clothes or not
- rape or penetration by putting an object or body part inside a child's mouth, vagina or anus
- forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activity
- making a child take their clothes off or touch someone else's genitals.

Non-contact abuse involves non-touching activities. It can happen online or in person and includes:

- encouraging or forcing a child to watch or hear sexual acts
- making a child masturbate while others watch
- not taking proper measures to prevent a child being exposed to sexual activities by others
- showing pornography to a child
- making, viewing or distributing child abuse images
- allowing someone else to make, view or distribute child abuse images.
- meeting a child following online sexual grooming with the intent of abusing them.

Online sexual abuse includes:

- persuading or forcing a child to send or post sexually explicit images of themselves, this is sometimes referred to as sexting
- persuading or forcing a child to take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone

- having sexual conversations with a child by text or online.

Abusers may threaten to send sexually explicit images, video or copies of sexual conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity. Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the abuse has stopped. Abusers will often try to build an emotional connection with a child in order to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse. This is known as grooming.

Spotting the signs of sexual abuse

There may be physical signs that a child has suffered sexual abuse.

These include:

- anal or vaginal soreness or itching
- bruising or bleeding near the genital area
- discomfort when walking or sitting down
- an unusual discharge
- sexually transmitted infections (STI)
- pregnancy.

Changes in the child's mood or behaviour may also cause concern. They may want to avoid spending time with specific people. In particular, the child may show sexual behaviour that is inappropriate for their age. For example:

- they could use sexual language or know things about sex that you wouldn't expect them to
- they might become sexually active or pregnant at a young age

Child sexual exploitation

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Young people may be coerced or groomed into exploitative situations and relationships. They may be given things such as gifts, money, drugs, alcohol, status or affection in exchange for taking part in sexual activities. Young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They often trust their abuser and don't understand that they're being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what's happening. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol before being sexually exploited. They can also be groomed and exploited online. Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs (Berelowitz et al, 2013). Child sexual exploitation can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults and involve multiple perpetrators.

Spotting the signs of child sexual exploitation Sexual exploitation can be very difficult to identify.

Young people who are being sexually exploited may:

- go missing from home, care or education
- be involved in abusive relationships
- hang out with groups of older people
- be involved in gangs or anti-social groups
- have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- spend time at places of concern, such as hotels or known brothels
- be involved in petty crime such as shoplifting
- have access to drugs and alcohol
- have new things such as clothes and mobile phones, which they aren't able to easily explain

Harmful sexual behaviour

What is harmful sexual behaviour?

Harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour which is displayed by children and young people and which may be harmful or abusive. It may also be referred to as sexually harmful behaviour or sexualised behaviour. HSB encompasses a range of behaviour, which can be displayed towards younger children, peers, older children or adults. It is harmful to the children and young people who display it, as well as the people it is directed towards.

HSB can include:

- using sexually explicit words and phrases
- inappropriate touching
- using sexual violence or threats
- sexual activity with other children or adults.

Sexual behaviour between children is considered harmful if one of the children is much older – particularly if there is more than two years' difference in age or if one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other isn't (Davies, 2012). However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled (Rich, 2011).

Spotting the signs of harmful sexual behaviour

It's normal for children to show signs of sexual behaviour at each stage in their development. Children also develop at different rates and some may be slightly more or less advanced than other children in their age group. Behaviours which might be concerning depend on the child's age and the situation.

Emotional abuse

What is emotional abuse?

- Emotional abuse involves:
- humiliating, putting down or regularly criticising a child
- shouting at or threatening a child or calling them names
- mocking a child or making them perform degrading acts
- constantly blaming or scapegoating a child for things which are not their fault
- trying to control a child's life and not recognising their individuality
- not allowing a child to have friends or develop socially
- pushing a child too hard or not recognising their limitations
- manipulating a child
- exposing a child to distressing events or interactions
- persistently ignoring a child
- being cold and emotionally unavailable during interactions with a child
- not being positive or encouraging to a child or praising their achievements and successes.

Spotting the signs of emotional abuse

There aren't usually any obvious physical signs of emotional abuse but you may spot changes in a child's actions or emotions. Some children are naturally quiet and self-contained whilst others are more open and affectionate. Mood swings and challenging behaviour are also a normal part of growing up for teenagers and children going through puberty. Be alert to behaviours which appear to be out of character for the individual child or are particularly unusual for their stage of development.

Babies and pre-school children who are being emotionally abused may:

- be overly-affectionate towards strangers or people they haven't known for very long
- not appear to have a close relationship with their parent, for example when being taken to or collected from nursery
- lack confidence or become wary or anxious
- be unable to play
- be aggressive or nasty towards other children and animals.

Older children may:

- use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect for their age
- struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts
- seem isolated from their parents
- lack social skills or have few, if any, friends
- fear making mistakes
- fear their parent being approached regarding their behaviour
- self-harm.

Domestic abuse

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are, or who have been in a relationship, regardless of gender or sexuality. It can include physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse. Exposure to domestic abuse is child abuse. Children can be directly involved in incidents of domestic abuse or they may be harmed by seeing or hearing abuse happening. Children in homes where there is domestic abuse are also at risk of other types of abuse or neglect.

Spotting the signs of domestic abuse

It can be difficult to tell if domestic abuse is happening, because abusers can act very differently when other people are around.

Children who witness domestic abuse may:

- become aggressive
- display anti-social behaviour
- suffer from depression or anxiety
- not do as well at school – due to difficulties at home or disruption of moving to and from refuges.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

What are bullying and cyberbullying?

Bullying is when individuals or groups seek to harm, intimidate or coerce someone who is perceived to be vulnerable.

Bullying includes:

- verbal abuse, such as name calling
- non-verbal abuse, such as hand signs or glaring
- emotional abuse, such as threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- exclusion, such as ignoring or isolating someone
- undermining, by constant criticism or spreading rumours
- controlling or manipulating someone
- racial, sexual or homophobic bullying
- physical assaults, such as hitting and pushing
- making silent, hoax or abusive calls.

Bullying can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. When bullying happens online it can involve social networks, games and mobile devices.

Online bullying can also be known as cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying includes:

- sending threatening or abusive text messages
- creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos
- 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
- excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- encouraging young people to self-harm
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

Spotting the signs of bullying and cyberbullying It can be hard to know whether or not a child is being bullied. They might not tell anyone because they're scared the bullying will get worse. They might also think that the bullying is their fault. No one sign indicates for certain that a child's being bullied, but you should look out for:

- belongings getting 'lost' or damaged
- physical injuries such as unexplained bruises
- being afraid to go to school, being mysteriously 'ill' each morning, or skipping school
- not doing as well at school
- asking for, or stealing, money (to give to a bully)
- being nervous, losing confidence or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- problems with eating or sleeping
- bullying others.

Child trafficking

What is child trafficking?

Child trafficking is child abuse. It involves recruiting and moving children who are then exploited. Many children are trafficked into the UK from overseas, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another.

Children may be trafficked for:

- child sexual exploitation

- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal exploitation such as cannabis cultivation, pickpocketing, begging, transporting, drugs, selling pirated DVDs and bag theft.

Children who are trafficked experience many forms of abuse and neglect. Physical, sexual and emotional abuse is often used to control them and they're also likely to suffer physical and emotional neglect. Child trafficking can require a network of organised criminals who recruit, transport and exploit children and young people. Some people in the network might not be directly involved in trafficking a child but play a part in other ways, such as falsifying documents, bribery, owning or renting premises or money laundering (Europol, 2011). Child trafficking can also be organised by individuals and the children's own families. Traffickers trick, force or persuade children to leave their homes. They use grooming techniques to gain the trust of a child, family or community. Although these are methods used by traffickers, coercion, violence or threats don't need to be proven in cases of child trafficking - a child cannot legally consent to their exploitation so child trafficking only requires evidence of movement and exploitation. Modern slavery is another term which may be used in relation to child trafficking. Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking (HM Government, 2014). The Modern Slavery Act passed in 2015 in England and Wales categorises offences of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. For further details please refer to the Modern Slavery Policy

Spotting the signs of child trafficking Signs that a child has been trafficked may not be obvious but you might notice unusual behaviour or events.

Children who have been trafficked may:

- have to do excessive housework chores
- rarely leave the house and have limited freedom of movement
- not have any documents (or have falsified documents)
- give a prepared story which is very similar to stories given by other children
- be unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or personal details
- not be registered with a school or a GP practice
- have a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- be cared for by adults who are not their parents or carers • not have a good quality relationship with their adult carers
- be one among a number of unrelated children found at one address
- receive unexplained or unidentified phone calls whilst in a care placement or temporary accommodation.

There are also signs that an adult is involved in child trafficking, such as:

- making multiple visa applications for different children
- acting as a guarantor for multiple visa applications for children
- having previously acted as the guarantor on visa applications for visitors who have not left the UK when the visa expired.

Female genital mutilation

What is female genital mutilation?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting. The age at which FGM is carried out varies. It may be carried out when a child is new-born, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy (Home Office et al, 2016). FGM is child abuse. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It's dangerous and a criminal offence.

Spotting the signs of female genital mutilation

A child at risk of FGM may not know what's going to happen. But they might talk about or you may become aware of:

- a long holiday abroad or going 'home' to visit family
- relative or cutter visiting from abroad
- a special occasion or ceremony to 'become a woman' or get ready for marriage
- a female relative being cut – a sister, cousin or an older female relative such as a mother or aunt
- missing school repeatedly or running away from home

A child who has had FGM may:

- have difficulty walking, standing or sitting
- spend longer in the bathroom or toilet
- appear withdrawn, anxious or depressed
- have unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college
- be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations • ask for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

Reporting requirements Regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales must report 'known' cases of FGM in under-18s to the police (Home Office, 2016).

What to do if you suspect or witness Abuse of a child or young person visiting our services

The following action should be taken by someone who has concerns about the welfare of a child or young person.

NON-ACTION IS NOT AN OPTION.

Child abuse can and does occur outside the family setting, and abuse that takes place within a public setting is rarely an isolated event. It is crucial that people are aware of this possibility and that all allegations are treated seriously and appropriate actions taken.

Disclosure

If a child or young person should engage any member of staff in a disclosure information exchange they should do the following:

- React calmly so as not to frighten the child or young person;
- Tell the child or young person that they are not to blame and that they are right to tell someone of their problems;
- Take seriously what the child or young person says;
- Avoid leading the child or young person and keep any questions to the absolute minimum to ensure a clear understanding of what has been said;
- Re-assure the child or young person; however, do not promise confidentiality or outcomes that might not be kept to in the light of further developments;
- Record in full what has been seen and heard as soon as possible to a manager or on call manager immediately;

The manager will then take advice from the Local and or National Safeguarding Lead. They will make the initial referral to the appropriate agency. All managers will be aware of their roles and responsibilities using the guidance issued by the local authority. Confidentiality should be maintained on a strictly 'need to know' basis, and relevant documents stored in a secure location. Advice will be given to the manager in regard to any actions which are deemed necessary.

It can be more difficult for some children to disclose abuse than for others, e.g. disabled children and vulnerable adults will have to overcome additional barriers.

Those working with these groups need to be especially vigilant and give extra thought to how to respond.

Allegations against Staff

If a member of staff has concerns, or receives a complaint or allegation about another member of staff who has

- behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against, or in relation to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may be unsuitable to work with children;

then you must immediately report to your line manager who will telephone the National Safeguarding Lead, who will advise on the action to take next. If the allegation relates to your line manager, please contact your Service Safeguard Lead. In the event of an incident occurring outside of working office hours, please contact national on call.

If a concern is raised outside of office hours, and you think a referral to social services is required contact local or national on call. They will advise you should contact the Emergency Duty Team and inform either the Children's Safeguarding Service or Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at the first available opportunity during working hours.

Recording of information, suspicions or concerns

Information passed to the Social Services Department or to the police must be as informative as possible, as it may be used in any subsequent legal action; hence there is the necessity for making a factual, detailed record of the following:

- The child or young person's name, address and date of birth.
- The nature of the allegation.
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries.
- The child's or young person's account, in their own words if possible, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
- Any observation made by yourself.
- Any times, locations, dates or other relevant information.
- A clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.
- Your knowledge of and relationship to the child or young person.

Whenever possible, referrals to Social Services Department should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours and the appropriate notification completed and sent to the regulator.

Keep a record of the name and designation of the social services member of staff or police officer to whom concerns were passed and record the time and date of the call, in case any follow-up is needed

Policy

All child protection and safeguarding concerns should be acted on immediately.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children – and in particular protecting them from significant harm is dependent upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise, and who may be in different geographical areas.

In order to achieve joint working there needs to be constructive relationships between individual workers, promoted and supported by the commitment of chief officers in all agencies involved. To ensure our part in this work, staff and volunteers at Livability should:

- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect.
- Be alert to the risks which individual or potential abusers may pose to children.
- Share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the child's needs and circumstances.
- Contribute to whatever actions are needed to protect and promote the child's welfare.
- Take part in regularly reviewing outcomes for the child against specific plans.
- Work co-operatively with parents and carers, unless this is inconsistent with ensuring the child's safety.
- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect.

To fulfil its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, Livability (in line with all of its partners) will have in place:

- Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children explicitly stated in key policy documents and commissioning strategies.
- Clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting a child's welfare through both the commissioning and the provision of services. Demonstrated by:
 - One or more senior members of staff at each service to lead on safeguarding and responsibilities under the prevent duty.
 - Easy access for staff - to a designated safeguarding officer.

A culture of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children – seeking their views in ways appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those views whether in individual decisions or in the establishment, development and improvement of services.

A clear line of accountability and governance throughout the organisation.

Trustee Board approval for Livability Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.

Recruitment and People resources management procedures and commissioning processes, including contractual arrangements, that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers and adoption of best practice in their recruitment.

Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers and/or contractual arrangements with providers that ensure these procedures are in place.

Arrangements to ensure that all staff and volunteers undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively and keep this up to date by refresher training at regular intervals.

Policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including a child protection and safeguarding policy in line with local authority procedures, which are known and easily accessible to all staff.

A clear procedure to ensure the recognition and reporting of child protection and safeguarding concerns.

Arrangements to ensure all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children:

- are made aware of the establishment's arrangements and their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
- have a clear understanding of how to work together to help keep children safe by being adequately trained and equipped to understand, identify and mitigate the risks of new technology.
- have a clear understanding of how to report child protection and safeguarding concerns
- Procedures that ensure regular supervision, sufficient to support staff to recognise children in need of support safeguarding and which is appropriate to their responsibilities within the organisation.
- Arrangements to work effectively with other agencies to protect and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information.
- Arrangements for effective internal and external challenge, conflict resolution and complaints in relation to delivery of services.
- Appropriate whistle blowing procedures and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

- Where a child is missing, clear guidance is given in the missing person's policy in line with the Children missing in Education guidance keeping children safe in education 2018-19.

Prevent Duty

Background

Livability has a duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) to have due regard to the need to help prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This duty, known as the Prevent Duty, is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. The duty covers all types of extremism, whether political, religious or ideological.

The Act states that authorities subject to the provisions must also have regard to the statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Act when carrying out the duty. The guidance summarises requirements in terms of four themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies. Livability recognises that Prevent is part of its wider safeguarding duty.

The Prevent duty is consistent with existing duties, such as the requirement to abide by the Equality Act 2010, promote 'fundamental British values', secure a balanced presentation of political issues and promote community cohesion.

Protecting the people who use our services from the risk of radicalisation

The duty to protect people who use our service from the risk of radicalisation is seen as a part of the wider safeguarding duties of Livability's education centers, similar to the responsibility to protect students from harm caused by, for example, drugs, gangs, neglect or sexual exploitation. Livability's education centres and children's residential homes will have a named Prevent Lead.

Livability also recognises the potential vulnerability of many of those we work with in our other services. For this reason, as well as specific training for staff within our education services, all Livability staff will receive appropriate training on radicalisation. Prevent awareness training will also be provided for members all member of staff, volunteers and Board members.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in radicalisation of young people.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in behavior which could indicate that those we work with may be in need of help or protection. Staff, in liaison with the adult safeguarding manager should use their professional judgement in identifying anyone who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Every local authority has a Channel programme which provides a source of advice - anyone can make a referral.

Adult safeguarding managers and Prevent leads will undertake awareness training to support them in identifying those at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. In addition, procedures will be kept under review in order that amendments can be made as required as a result of changes in the regulations and/or external guidance.

Policy Ownership

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