

March 2016

Child Protection Policy

This document is relevant to:	
Central Support Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>

Introduction

- 1 The document should complement and be used in conjunction with the relevant local authority child protection and safeguarding procedures for the area where the service is provided.
- 2 This document reflects most relevant Government guidance including 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and "Keeping children safe in education".
- 3 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.

Policy

- 4 All child protection concerns should be acted on immediately.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

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

7.1 Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children explicitly stated in key policy documents and commissioning strategies.

7.2 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 and a governor (for schools) to lead on safeguarding and responsibilities under the prevent duty.
- Easy access for staff - to a designated safeguarding officer.

7.3 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.

7.4 A clear line of accountability and governance throughout the organisation.

7.5 Trustee Board approval for Livability safeguarding and child protection policy and procedure.

7.6 Recruitment and human 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.

7.7 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.

7.8 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.

7.9 All staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children, are made aware of both the establishment's arrangements and their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting their welfare.

7.10 Procedures that ensure regular supervision, sufficient to support staff to recognise children in need of support and safeguarding, and which is appropriate to their responsibilities within the organisation.

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

7.12 Arrangements to work effectively with other agencies to protect and promote the welfare of children, including arrangements for sharing information.

7.13 Arrangements for effective internal and external challenge, conflict resolution and complaints in relation to delivery of services.

7.14 Appropriate whistle blowing procedures and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

7.15 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.

8 Prevent Duty

We have a duty under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn in to terrorism. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The statutory Prevent guidance summarises the requirements in terms of four themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies. Prevent is seen as part of our wider safeguarding duty.

Each children's service must have a Prevent lead and Prevent Governor

- 9 Instructions for staff and volunteers on how to report a child protection concerns are contained within the child protection procedure.

Policy Ownership:

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Approval status:

Approved By:	Signature:	Date:
Chair of Safeguarding Board		March 2016

Consult the Intranet for the latest version of this document.

Document Control:**Reviewers:****Name**

	Position

Issue:	Date:	Author:	Reason:
2.0	July 2013	Kim Pearson	Planned review
2.1	August 2013	Kim Pearson	Correct Drafting Errors
3.0	November 2014	Kim Pearson	Separate Policy & Procedure Documents
4.0	March 2016	Liz Mell	Planned review

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