



Ecclesall Kids Club

1.0 Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy

Ecclesall Kids Club is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation. We publicise our [Safeguarding Policy](#) on our Club notice board and our policy on our Website.

Our policy is supplemented by detailed procedures provided by the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP). Our policy signposts staff to the **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)** responsible for Safeguarding in our setting, the forms to use, key contacts and procedures set out in the SCSP Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Our Policy and the SCSP procedures (including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need) must be followed by all staff via the DSL immediately in the event of a Safeguarding concern or allegation about a child, parent, third party, volunteer or member of staff. The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child that may occur.

There is a Designated Safeguarding Lead available (DSL) at all times while the Club is in session. The DSL coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (e.g. Social Care, SCSP and Ofsted). Though the DSL is there to support and guide staff through the Safeguarding procedures all staff need to know what to do in the event of a concern or allegation as they may be required to record and submit evidence with regard to what they have seen, heard or any safeguarding suspicions they have. Staff must also be aware what to do in the event they have any concerns about a colleague or a DSL.

[The Club's Designated Safeguarding Leads \(DSL\) are Natalie Lunn and Emma Biddles \(Play Managers\) the Deputy DSL's are the Deputy Play Managers, Denise Bluff and Jack Midwood if they are not present:](#)

[The Emergency Contact is Denise Brown the Club HR and Business Manager contactable by phone on 07780 591017](#)

[The Committee Safeguarding Lead is Bob Johnston \(Committee Lead\).](#)

In all cases you should escalate your concerns immediately through the club DSL's who will take over or support you in deciding the correct course of action, if a child is in immediate danger you must dial 999. In the unlikely event the DSL's or above emergency contact are not available, do



not delay, you must initiate general queries through [Sheffield Safeguarding Hub](#) where you will be able to speak to a trained 'screening' social worker.

Where they will:

- Take information from you
- Provide a clear and focused telephone conversation
- Analyse your information and give you clear advice in a way that is easily understood
- Make a decision on how the concern will be dealt with
- Tell you what will happen next

If the concern is progressed they will also;

- record the discussion on the child's file and progress the contact as agreed
- Update parents, carers and professionals of the outcome, in writing, within 3 days of all completed referrals where it is safe to do so.

The hub;

- Includes South Yorkshire Police Officers, Social Workers including Early Help Prevention and Intervention Social Workers, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and Health staff
- Will respond to **new** concerns about vulnerable children and young people by providing an integrated service with swift and secure information sharing between professionals
- **Will signpost to** Early Help services where children are not at risk but may need support
- **Will advise professionals to contact the allocated social worker for open cases** [Children's Social Care](#)
- **Does not** replace calling the police – for non-urgent matters for police attention ring **101**
- **If a child or young person is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999**

All information can be found on <https://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/>. The central Sheffield Safeguarding hub will direct you.

Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. It is important to be aware that Abuse can happen to anyone, but it is more likely a child will be more at risk of abuse if they have for example SEN, have Family factors



such as parental/carer substance misuse problems, parental/carer mental health problems and domestic abuse within the household. Having one or more of these characteristics doesn't automatically mean a child will experience abuse or neglect – and not having any of them isn't a guarantee that a child will never be harmed. Its important Ecclesall Kids Club staff can recognise risk and vulnerability factors so they can identify which families need extra support to help keep the children safe.

Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below.

- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

Signs of child abuse and neglect

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include:

- significant changes in a child's behaviour
- deterioration in a child's general well-being
- unexplained bruising or marks
- comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member of staff, or any other person. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.



Children may be more at risk of abuse

A) If abuse is **observed in the setting whilst it is taking place (also see the SCSP procedures (including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need)** Staff will be expected to do all they can to stop the abuse without placing the child/children or themselves at risk, the DSL or their Deputy will always be on hand to help given the size of our settings but **in an emergency staff should ring South Yorkshire Police without delay on 999. Staff will be required to liaise with the DSL (or deputy) and complete the SCSP combined Safeguarding concern/incident/injury form to record the incident immediately or as soon as possible (copies are with this policy).**

B) If abuse or harm is **suspected or you have a concern, and this does not involve a member of staff (also see SCSP procedures, including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need)**

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff about a current situation or a past event, that member of staff will:

- reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- must not say that will keep anything that is said to them a secret
- listen to the child but not question them
- give reassurance that they will take action
- involve the DSL at the earliest opportunity and seek advice whether it is appropriate to speak too or share this information with a parent.
- record the incident as soon as possible (see below).

If a member of staff suspects abuse or it is disclosed to them, they will record the matter straightaway using the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form and immediately refer the matter to the DSL who will act in accordance with the SCSP procedures (including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need) at the rear of this policy. **If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Sheffield Safeguarding hub, available 24 hours on (0114) 2734855 or via email at sheffieldsafeguardinghub@sheffield.gov.uk**

If a concern is raised with us, we will explain that the Club is obliged to respond to this and the incident will be logged accordingly on the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form and referred immediately to the DSL who may refer on to Children's Social Care following



advice from SCSP (Sheffield Children safeguarding partnership). We will obtain consent to a referral to children's social care from the parent or carer where possible but not if this poses a risk to the child by doing so. The Safeguarding hub can advise on this when the case is initially raised with them, please also refer the club Data Protection Policy for information on consent and use of personal data.

C) If you receive an [allegation or disclosure](#) of possible Significant Harm to a Child (see also the SCSP procedures (including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need))

Significant harm is actual or likely harm caused by sexual, physical, emotional or neglect, **or** that involves witnessing harm to others e.g. domestic abuse **AND** that is sufficient to affect the child or young persons, normal physical, sexual, emotional, educational or social development.

- Consider whether immediate action is needed to secure the protection of a child or young person at risk to ensure their safety, inform the DSL or their Deputy immediately, if for any reason they are not available use the emergency contacts at the beginning of this policy.
- Record what you have seen or heard using the [combined Safeguarding concern/incident/injury form](#) Involve the DSL immediately.

Child-on-Child abuse

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Child-on-Child abuse is taken seriously by staff and will be subject to the same child protection procedures as other forms of abuse. Staff are aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.

Staff will not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people. The presence of one or more of the following in relationships between children should always trigger concern about the possibility of peer-on-peer abuse:

- Sexual activity (in primary school-aged children) of any kind, including sexting
- One of the children is significantly more dominant than the other (e.g. much older)
- One of the children is significantly more vulnerable than the other (e.g. in terms of disability, confidence, physical strength)
- There has been some use of threats, bribes or coercion to ensure compliance or secrecy.

Abuse linked to Faith/belief



Abuse linked to faith or belief is where concerns for a child's welfare have been identified, and could be caused by, a belief in witchcraft, spirit or demonic possession, ritual or satanic abuse features; can lead to children being blamed for bad luck, and subsequently abused. Fear of the supernatural is also known to be used to make children comply with being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation. or when practices linked to faith or belief are harmful to a child such as forced marriage, faith based violence, breast-ironing, county lines and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM),

What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

FGM is sometimes referred to as female circumcision or cutting, FGM refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is also known by other terms such as Sunna, gudniin, halalays, tehur, megrez and khitan among others.

The practice is illegal within the UK and to perform FGM on any UK resident outside of the UK is also illegal. FGM is extremely harmful practice and a form of child abuse and violence against women and Girls. All women and girls have the right to say NO to FGM and control what happens to their bodies. it often happens against a girls will without her consent and girls may have to be forcefully restrained. FGM is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15, most commonly before puberty starts often by traditional circumcisers or cutters who do not have any medical training however in some countries it may be done by a medical professional. Anaesthetics and antiseptics are not generally used, and FGM is often carried out using knives, scissors, scalpels, pieces of glass or razor blades. FGM can cause long term problems with sex, childbirth and mental health. All our staff receive training in how to recognise when girls are at risk of FGM or may have been subjected to it. If FGM is suspected or disclosed we will make a report to children's social care directly. If someone is in immediate danger of FGM we will dial 999 to contact the police.

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

CSE is a form of sexual abuse in which a child or young person is forced or manipulated into sexual activities, often in exchange for alcohol, drugs, attention of or gifts. Please refer to the CSE fact sheet

If peer-on-peer abuse, CSE or FGM is suspected or disclosed

We will follow the same procedures as set out above for responding to child abuse.

What is County Lines?

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns (Home Office, 2018). It can happen in any part of the UK and is



against the law and a form of child abuse. County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police. Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs (National Crime agency, 2019). Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk. Dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines” are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable and old fashioned, because they are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police. Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a local dealer or drug user, or a dealer or drug user in another county. Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

- ‘running a line’,
- ‘going OT/out there’
- ‘going country’
- ‘going cunch’.

These all refer to going out of town to deliver drugs and/or money. If we suspect a child is involved in County lines, a referral to the Sheffield hub will be immediately made.

Extremism and radicalisation (Prevent Strategy)

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism. There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, e.g.:

- feeling alienated or alone
- seeking a sense of identity or individuality
- suffering from mental health issues such as depression
- desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause
- associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of radicalisation

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

- changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified



- viewing violent extremist material online
- possessing or sharing violent extremist material

If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on **the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form** and refer the matter to the DSL who will contact the SCSP Prevent Lead or if appropriate the Police Prevent Team. Further details about the Prevent Duty and contacts are contained at the rear of this policy and in the **Prevent Policy Addendum and the Prevent Duty Risk Assessment**.

D) Allegations against colleagues, a person or carer who works with children (also see SCSP procedures

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

- **The DSL on duty must record this on the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form at the point the allegation happens or the incident occurs, they must also ensure relevant paperwork is completed (e.g. witnesses are identified, statements completed, copies of injury notes and other relevant paperwork is completed) failure to do so may render them liable to disciplinary proceedings for failing to follow the club policy.** The Club Business or Play Manager must be notified immediately to enable them to speak to the parent/carer, school, SCSP or police if appropriate. The Committee Safeguarding Lead must also be notified.
- The allegation should be discussed with the Designated Officer in the Local Authority (LADO Services) and to OFSTED, the LADO services may ask to see documentation or reports and will explain how these can be sent securely. The LADO services will advise if other agencies (e.g. police) should be informed and the club will act upon their advice.
- No members of staff should ever be unsupervised with children so minor allegations may be investigated whilst the member of staff is still employed and should be dealt with under our conduct and behaviour policies. The DSLs and Deputy DSLs (and in their absence the Business Manager) are responsible for ensuring that both the member of staff and child are safe and monitored whilst investigations take place and witness statements are obtained or an investigation is concluded.
- If may be necessary to ask the member of staff not to attend work, deploy them elsewhere or suspend with pay pending investigation of the allegation, if the allegation is serious, witnesses were present (either child, staff or another 3rd party e.g. school) or if a parent raises a serious



allegation themselves. Although the welfare of the child is paramount the member of staff should be supported through the investigation as this may be a distressing time for them.

If appropriate the Club will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service

Also see **Whistleblowing Procedure**

How to complete the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form and next steps for the DSL

All information about observed abuse, the suspected abuse or disclosure, or concern about radicalisation, must be recorded on **the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form** as soon as possible, either during or if not possible after the event. The appropriate section of the more detailed procedures and training issued by the SCSP must also be followed as for the categories A to D above. All activity must be stopped, the DSL informed as soon as possible, and the member of staff must be allowed to focus on what they have seen or are being told. The record should include:

- date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern
- date and time at which the record was made
- name and date of birth of the child involved
- a factual report of what happened including witnesses if appropriate. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words
- name, signature and job title of the person making the record.
- The Club Business Manager, Play Managers and the Safeguarding Committee Lead must be notified of any need to complete a safeguarding concern/incident/injury form. Though confidentiality must be respected and any sharing of information must be confined to those who need to have it, it is important that the club Business Manager and Committee Safeguarding lead are aware of any cases to support the DSL and to ensure the correct procedures are being followed.
- The DSL completes the final section in line with the SCSP Safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate the body maps in the rear of **the combined Safeguarding concern/ incident/injury form** should be completed.

The DSL who will also follow the SCSP procedures (including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need) at the rear of this policy, contact the appropriate services.



For concerns about child abuse, the DSL will contact The Sheffield Safeguarding Hub on 0114 273 4855 (24 hours) or email sheffieldsafeguardinghub@sheffield.gov.uk. The DSL will follow any advice given by the Sheffield safeguarding hub.

If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they can also contact the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub.

For concerns regarding **radicalisation**, the DSL will contact the LADO services. For more serious concerns the DSL will contact the Police Prevent Team: 0114 2523217 (8am – 4pm) out of hours dial 101. Email Prevent@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

For urgent concerns, the DSL will contact the Police using 999.

The Club Play Manager (or on site Deputy/most senior person in charge of the setting) will notify Ofsted and the local child protection agency of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, any child while in their care, and of the action taken. Notification will be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any event within 14 days of the incident occurring.

Ensuring Safeguarding awareness among staff

The Club promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training. The Club ensures that:

- The DSLs have relevant experience and receives appropriate training in Safeguarding and the Prevent Duty and is aware of the Channel Programme and how to access it. DSL training is refreshed every two years. Failure of any member of staff to complete Safeguarding or Prevent training as required will be dealt with in line with the **Staff Disciplinary Policy**.
- The Club Business Manager and Committee Safeguarding Lead have up to date and relevant basic training as a minimum.
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff in line with SCSP Safer Recruitment Training and practice in line with the **Club Safer Recruitment Policy**.
- All new recruits including supply staff will be expected to undertake mandatory basic safeguarding training via SCSP (core neglect and abuse) ideally before starting with us and this will be consolidated as part of their induction and whilst they are in post. They will



be paid for their time to complete this training so it can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

- All staff have signed to confirm they have read a copy of this **Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy**, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse, neglect or radicalisation. Paid time is given to read this policy and procedures individually and at meetings to refresh knowledge.
- All staff are aware of their **Statutory Duties** with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse, and concerns about radicalisation
- All staff (including supply staff) receive (as a minimum) basic safeguarding training (currently signs of neglect and abuse) via SCSP
- Safeguarding and the Prevent Duty are regularly on the agenda at all staff meetings
- All staff (including supply) staff receive basic training in the Prevent Duty.
- Staff are familiar with the Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding File training, SCSP procedures (including Signs of Safety and Thresholds of Need) and reference materials which are kept in the lockable filing cabinet in club.
- The Club's procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)' and staff are familiar with the guidance in 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015) (issued with this policy and others as part of the Induction Pack).

Use of mobile phones, smart watches, laptops and cameras

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents' permission. Only the club camera will be used to take photographs of children at the Club and these will be use inside the club for internal display or to record play or craft activities.

Neither staff, volunteers, children, or visitors (including parents or carers) may use mobile phones/ smart watches in the Club or within the boundaries of the Club, this includes the use of mobile phones/ smart watches to take photographs. If staff observe anyone using mobile phones either in the club or in its boundaries this must be challenged in accord with the technology prohibited signs, even if the person appears to be making calls or texting this is still not acceptable. By the boundaries of the Club, we mean inside our buildings, outside in our play areas, extending right up to the external boundaries that are under our control during operating hours. Any staff using personal mobile phones, smart watches, personal laptops or personal



cameras within the club boundaries will be subject to the **Disciplinary Policy**. This does not include the club camera, club mobiles (which do not have cameras or internet access) or the club laptop and Ipads which are needed for the sole purpose of operating the club. .

Staff, parents/carers and other children are prohibited from posting photographs of children taken whilst at the club or in its boundaries on Social Media.

For more details see the **Mobile Phone and Wearable Technology Policy and Social Media Policy**.

Contact numbers

Sheffield Safeguarding Hub LADO Services

Phone: 0114 273 4855 available 24 hours
Email: sheffieldsafeguardinghub@sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield Children's Social Care (West)

Phone: 0114 273 4491

South Yorkshire Police

Phone: 0114 220 2020

Police Prevent Team

Phone: 0114 252 3217 (8am-4pm) or 101
Out of hours phone: 101 or in an emergency 999
Email: Prevent@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Anti-terrorist hotline

Phone: 0800 789 321

NSPCC whistle blowing

Phone: 0800 028 0285

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

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