

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures

Child Protection

The purpose of this policy is to provide protection for all children in my care — this is my first responsibility and they are my priority. Outlined is the procedure I will adopt if I have any cause for concern, including how – if necessary – I will make a referral to the children’s safeguarding team (The Bridge Partnership, who may transfer me to Duty & Assessment Team or DAT).

I understand that child abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, neglectful or a mixture of these. I must notify Bridge/DAT and I am required to record my concerns. I hold a copy of the relevant local procedures and they are available on request.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which will be recorded.

If I notice:

- Significant changes in the child’s behaviour;
- Unexpected bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse;
- Comments that give me cause for concern;
- Deterioration in general wellbeing that cause concern; or
- Signs of neglect.

I will implement the procedure detailed below without delay to minimise any risk to the child.

The following procedure will be undertaken in the event that I suspect a child is at risk of harm:

- Concerns will be discussed with parents, if appropriate.
- Advice will be sought from The Bridge/DAT (0161 603 4500 – or 0161 794 8888 out of hours)
- The “Referral to Children’s Services” form will be completed (<http://www.salford.gov.uk/secureupload.htm>)
- Once this referral is received, DAT will take responsibility and decide the necessary steps to ensure the safety of the child.
- In the event of an emergency, I will contact the police.

All information about the child is kept confidential, however in certain situations, this information may be shared with The Bridge, DAT or the police.

I complete annual safeguarding updates, in the past 12 months I have completed the online Safeguarding Children Refresher run by Virtual College and I have a copy of the ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ document available which is a government file for all agencies. I also have a copy of “What to do if you are worried a child is being abused” and I am part of an online group that shares safeguarding updates and articles of interest. I am required to complete external safeguarding training every two years and will book these through my local authority.

Allegations of Abuse

In the event of an allegation being made against the childminder – or any other adult living in the childminder's home – The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be informed immediately. All allegations will be investigated independently by the LADO and will also be reported to Ofsted.

In all instances, I will record:

- The child's full name and address;
- The date and time the record is being made;
- Factual details of the concern, for example: bruising, what the child said and who was present;
- Details of any previous concerns;
- Details of any explanations from the parents; and
- Any action taken, such as speaking to parents.

It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.

Mobile Phones and Social Networking

It is in the safety of the children in the childminder's care that the childminder is in possession of a mobile phone at all times. This is to be used to contact parents in the event of an emergency. The mobile phone will only be used to take photos with the consent of parents and with the intention of sending these photos to the child's parents electronically or for photographic evidence of development. These will be printed and stored in a child's Learning Journey as soon as possible, deleting the digital photo off of the mobile phone afterwards. For the safety of other children in my care, I request that parents do not use their mobile phones within the setting.

I will not post any details of any children in my care on any social network. I will discuss with parents individually if they wish for their child's image to be shared on my Facebook business page, Karlie's Childminding Services. With their consent I will post photos of their children doing activities, but will not post photos of their faces.

Prevent Duty & British Values

I comply with the requirements of the Prevent Duty Guidance and its aim to protect children from radicalisation, extremism and being drawn into terrorism. I have shared information about the Prevent Strategy and my commitment to promote British Values with parents via the business' Facebook page and in person. If parents have any questions, please ask me.

Peer on Peer Abuse

I recognise that children and young people are capable of abusing their peers. Peer on peer abuse relates to situations such as sexual exploitation, gang violence, financial abuse, coercive control and exploitative relationships. I want all children to feel safe here and, as part of our commitment to keep them safe, I regularly observe children's interactions and aim to be approachable so they will speak to me if they are concerned about any aspects of their relationships with others. Parents know they can contact me at any mutually convenient time to discuss concerns children might raise at home.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

I have completed training in relation to FGM. I have been trained to look out for any signs that it might take place and how to report those to the relevant people, and that if I ever found out FGM had taken place in relation to any child under 18, I would have to report this directly to the police.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Ofsted 0300 123 1231
LADO 0161 603 4350
The Bridge/DAT 0161 603 4500 (Out of hours 0161 794 8888)
Starting Life Well 0161 778 0384

Childminder's name	
Childminder's signature	
Date	

Child's Name	Parent's Name	Signature	Date

Review Date: 31/08/2017