**Make It Happen Club - Recognising and reporting abuse, responding to reports, and handling disclosures**

**The different forms of abuse**

Child abuse is the term used when an adult harms a child or a young person under the age of 18. Child abuse can take four forms, all of which can cause long-term harm to the affected child:

* Physical abuse
* Emotional abuse
* Neglect
* Sexual abuse

Most types of child abuse fit into several of these categories; for example, bullying and domestic violence often comprise both physical and emotional abuse.

**How to recognise signs of abuse**

The signs of child abuse are not always obvious, and a child might not tell anyone what is happening to them.

A child may be experiencing abuse if, for example, they are:

* Frequently dirty, hungry, or inadequately dressed
* Apparently afraid of parents or carers
* Severely bruised or injured
* Displaying sexual behaviour that doesn't seem appropriate for their age
* Left in unsafe situations or without medical attention
* Constantly being put down, insulted, sworn at, or humiliated
* Growing up in a home where there is domestic violence
* Living with parents or carers involved in serious drug or alcohol abuse

This list does not cover every possible type of child abuse; you may have noticed other aspects of a child's behaviour or circumstances that worry you.

**How to respond to signs or suspicions of abuse**

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child or children taking part in any Make It Happen Club activity, you should raise the matter immediately with a member of staff at the venue, who will guide you on appropriate next steps in line with the venue’s safeguarding policy.

In addition, please email info@makeithappen.club ; then a member of our team will contact you with advice.

**How to respond to allegations of abuse**

In the event that you have, or are notified of, a safeguarding concern about an adult connected to Make It Happen Club activities, you must report this via email to [info@makeithappen.club](mailto:info@makeithappen.club) as soon as possible; you must also take all reasonable measures to ensure that the adult involved withdraws from the activity at which the complaint is made. If you have an urgent safeguarding concern, please escalate to our safeguarding lead Laura Torrance on +44 (0) 7831 919528 or Alan Torrance on +44 (0) 7957 786074.

If a concern is raised about you, you must inform Make It Happen Club immediately via our email [info@makeithappen.club](mailto:info@makeithappen.club) and cease to participate in the club/event/activity.