



Supporting Neonatal Users & Graduates (SNUG) **SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Registered charity no: 1171443

Registered company no: 08752179

POLICY STATEMENT

SNUG acknowledges it has a responsibility for the safety of children. It also recognises that good safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures are of benefit to everyone involved in SNUG's work, as they can help protect them from erroneous or malicious allegations.

SNUG is committed to practices which protect children from harm. The people covered by this policy include not only any employee but also those contracted to do work for the charity and those standing in a volunteer capacity. All those who have unsupervised access to or contact with children (both in person or through electronic media) are required to;

- Recognise and accept their responsibilities.
- Develop awareness of the issues which can cause children harm.
- Report concerns following the procedures within this policy.

SNUG will endeavour to safeguard children by;

- adopting safeguarding and child protection procedures and a code of practice for all those who work for and on behalf of the organisation.
- report concerns to the relevant authorities.
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SNUG acknowledges the help it has received from the several other charities who, through their website, have provided us with education and materials to use in our policy.

It is SNUGs policy that;

- 1.All those working on behalf of SNUG accept responsibility for the welfare of children who they come into contact with and that they will report any concerns about a child or someones behaviour, using the procedures laid down.
- 2.The is a designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) within SNUG who will take action following any expression of concern. They maybe contacted via the SNUG website or by telephone.
- 3.The DSP knows how to make appropriate referrals to statutory child protection agencies.
- 4.All those involved with children on behalf of SNUG should adhere to the Code of Practice in relation to children.

5. Information relating to any allegation or disclosure will be clearly recorded as soon as possible, and there is a procedure setting out who should record information and timescales for passing it on.
6. The Children Act 1989 states that the “welfare of the child is paramount”. This means that considerations of confidentiality which might apply to other situations should not allow to override the right of children to be protected from harm. However, every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned when an allegation has been made and is being investigated.
7. SNUG’s policy on duty of care towards children will be referred to or included in recruitment, training, moderation and policy materials where appropriate and the policies are openly and widely available for everyone and actively promoted within the organisation.
8. A culture of mutual respect between children and those who represent SNUG in all its activities will be encouraged, with adults modelling good practice in this context.
9. All Volunteers and anyone in paid or unpaid work on behalf of SNUG with unsupervised access to children will be suitably vetted, going through checks carried out by the Disclosure and Barring service. This is known as a DBS check.
10. It is part of SNUG’s acceptance of responsibility of duty of care towards children that anybody who encounters child protection concerns in the context of their work on behalf of SNUG will be supported when they report their concerns in good faith.

CODE OF PRACTICE

SNUG expects that all those in paid or unpaid work on its behalf will be aware of this code and adhere to its principles in their approach to all children.

1. It is important not to have physical contact with children and this should be avoided.
2. It is not good practice to take children alone in a car on journeys, however short.
3. Do not make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about the child, even in fun as this could be misinterpreted.
4. It is important not to deter the child from making a disclosure of abuse through fear of not being believed. Listen to what they have to say, never promise to keep secrets or say you will keep the disclosure to yourself.
5. Remember that those who abuse children can be of any age (even other children), gender, ethnic background etc. It is important not to allow personal preconceptions about people prevent appropriate action taking place.
6. Good practice includes valuing and respecting children as individuals and the adult modelling of appropriate conduct will always exclude bullying, shouting, racism, sectarianism or sexism.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSON

SNUG has appointed a Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) who is responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. This appointed person is Mrs Leanna Wakely who can be contacted through the SNUG website www.sungonline.org.uk

The role of the DSP is to

- Know which outside child protection agency to contact in the event of a disclosure or protection incident arising.
- Provide information and advice on child protection within SNUG.
- Ensure that appropriate information is available at the time of referral and that the referral is confirmed in writing.
- Liaise with local children's social care services and agencies as appropriate.
- Keep relevant people within SNUG informed about any reports made or actions taken. - Ensure a proper record is kept of any referral and action taken and that this is kept securely and in confidence.
- Advise the board of SNUG or any training needs or regulation changes.

What to do if you are concerned

If a child makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, it is important that you:

Stay calm and listen carefully.

Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling you.

Do not investigate or ask leading questions.

Let them know that you will need to tell someone else.

Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret.

Inform the DSP as soon as possible.

Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position using the setting safeguarding record log forms.

Legislation relating to this policy:

Children Act 1989, 2014

Family and Children Act 2014

Education Act 1996, 2002 (Section 175)

School Standards and Framework act 1998

Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education Guidance DfES 2007 Every Child Matters 2003

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2008

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Manuals kept in setting:

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2006

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010

For further information regarding any child protection procedure, please consult www.swcpp.org.uk

Useful Contacts:

Devon Safeguarding Children Board

South West Child Protection Procedures

Devon Early Years and Childcare Service

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency NSPCC Safe (Safe Activities for Everyone) Network

www.dscb.info/ www.swcpp.org.uk www.devon.gov.uk/eycs www.ceop.org.uk
www.safenetwork.org.uk

CYPS area contact numbers:

(9am - 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am – 4pm Friday) Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Email: mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk

Single point of access regarding social care:

0345 155 1071

03300 245321

Out of hours for CYPS (Social Care):

5pm -9am and at weekends and public holidays, please contact:

Emergency Duty Service 0345 6000 388 Police Central Referral Unit: 0845 605 1166

If you have concerns about a child but are unsure whether to make a Social Care referral you can call the MASH number above:

Child Protection Chairs and Local Authority Designated Officers for managing allegations against staff:

Allegations against staff: 01392 384964

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – MASH

This is a new initiative which has been developed by Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) and partner agencies, supported by the Devon Safeguarding Children Board. Devon's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will provide information sharing across all partners involved in safeguarding – including statutory, non- statutory and third sector sources. All partners work together to provide the highest level of knowledge and analysis to make sure that all safeguarding activity and intervention is timely, proportionate and necessary.

How will it work

All information within the MASH is collected and decision-making will take place in a timely manner within agreed timescales depending on the priority criteria when the concern is referred to a Hub.

HIGH RISK - RED

MASH INFORMATION PACKAGE TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 4 HRS AND Police & CYPS assessment team receive immediate notification with research to follow

Immediate and serious safeguarding concern requiring action to ensure the safety of the child and possible necessity to secure and preserve physical evidence that might otherwise be lost.

MEDIUM RISK - AMBER

MASH product within one working day

There are significant concerns but immediate urgent action is not required to safeguard the child although an investigation under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 is likely.

LOW RISK - GREEN

MASH information package to be completed within three working days or

Immediate referral to Early Response Service (Practice Manager, CYPS, decision)

The referrer clearly has concerns about a child's wellbeing. The child may be a child in need as defined by section 17 of The Children's Act 1989 however there is no information at this stage to suggest an investigation under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 would be required.

•The MASH:

- Manages contacts and referrals received from any source (usually CYPS and Police 121A reports)

- Develops a document recording the concern information and all other available information in the Hubs within agreed timescales and an Early Years and Families manager makes an informed decision using all of the available information.

- Develops concern information into an Early Years and Families referral if services are required under section 17 or section 47 of The Children Act 1989

- Liaises with the Early Response Service for children and young people who need services but do not meet The Children and Family Act 2014 threshold

- Provides consultation to agency referrers about thresholds, appropriate action to be undertaken and services. The Hub contributes to improved outcomes for safeguarding children because it has the ability to swiftly collate and share information held by the various agencies and to provide a multi-agency risk assessment of each case for 'actual or likely harm'.

The above list is not exhaustive and as new policy guidance and legislation develops within the remit of Safeguarding we will review and update our policies and procedures as appropriate and in line with the Devon Safeguarding Children Board and Local Authority.