



The Dalgarno Trust

# The Dalgarno Trust Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

## Introduction

The Dalgarno Trust is a local community centre, working to improve the lives of people living in North Kensington. We provide fun activities, social events and a place to learn and grow free of charge to all ages. We work with the local communities offering a wide range of activities, projects and services that promote, health, wellbeing and inclusion for all. Services may fall under one or more the following four work streams: Healthy Living, Young People, Anti-isolation, Community Development.

All programmes are fully funded (free).

Programmes include:

- Community Champions
- HealthWorks Enables
- Dalgarno Youth Programme
- Foodbank

## Definitions

### What does Safeguarding mean?

The proactive measures and policies put in place to prevent and respond to harm, abuse, or neglect, particularly for vulnerable individuals, ensuring their well-being and protection. Safeguarding also means supporting children and young people to feel happy, be healthy, have a safe place to live, be cared for by adults who they can trust, and receive the education they deserve.

### Who is a vulnerable Adult?

A person who is or may need community care services because of mental or other disabilities, age, or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

### What do we mean by 'harm'?

There are different forms of harm that children, young people and vulnerable adults can experience including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Types of abuse are expanded in this policy Appendix A.

## Designated Safeguarding Officers

### Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Esma Dukali** – The Dalgarno Trust Chief Executive

**Telephone: 020 8969 6300 / 07802 625463**

**Email: [esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk)**

In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead please liaise with the Deputy:

### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Boutayna Reguibi** - The Dalgarno Trust Youth Programme Co-ordinator

**Telephone: 0208 969 6300 / 07388 782590**

**Email: [boutayna@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:boutayna@dalgarnotrust.org.uk)**

## The Purpose of this Safeguarding Policy

- To raise awareness among staff and volunteers of the need and responsibility to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- To provide a framework for recruitment to ensure all staff, volunteers, or those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults have been checked as to their suitability.
- To detail the responsibilities of staff/volunteers, enhancing the accountability and commitment to the well-being of all involved, contributing to a secure and transparent operational framework.
- To provide staff and volunteers with clear guidance on procedures to identify and report possible cases of abuse.
- Providing a thorough outline of procedures for monitoring individuals believed to be at risk of harm.
- Ensuring that children, young individuals, and vulnerable adults are aware of designated individuals within the Trust whom they can approach regarding Safeguarding concerns.
- Fostering a culture within our community that is rooted in trust, respect, and safety, contributing to a nurturing environment for all.

This policy is written in accordance with the [Children Act 1989 and 2004](#) and the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) and with reference to [Working together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#). This policy is reviewed when necessary at least annually and revised copies are made available to all employees, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students and updated online.

## Policy Statement

We will endeavour to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults by:

- Valuing them, listening to, and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Conducting robust recruitment and selection processes including the necessary safety checks in respect of references, declarations, and DBS checks.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with stakeholders.
- Reporting to Social Services any suspicion that a child, young person, or vulnerable adult has suffered, is suffering, or is at risk of suffering abuse.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training including guidance on what to do if an individual is worried about a child or young person.
- Upholding this policy which will be reviewed when needed or at least annually.

## We Recognise That:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children, young people, and vulnerable adults regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, or lack thereof, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- All our staff and volunteers need to be carefully selected and trained and accept responsibility for safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults they come into contact, and that they know what to do when they encounter a safeguarding risk.

## **Organisation Responsibilities**

### **Scope of the Policy**

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of The Dalgarno Trust including senior managers and the board of trustees, employees (including those working on short term contracts and permanent contractors), volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, advisers and students.

The policy must be applied whenever there is a concern about a child, young person, or vulnerable adult or about the behaviour of an adult. The success of this policy depends on the active support of all employees to achieve its objectives together with the appropriate training and support. This policy is shared with employees, volunteers and other workers as part of their induction to The Dalgarno Trust.

### **Trustees**

The Charity Commission is clear that Trustees have primary responsibility for safeguarding in their charity. In fulfilling their duty of care to The Dalgarno Trust, trustees need to take steps to safeguard and take responsibility for the children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom The Dalgarno Trust works including:

- acting in their best interests
- taking all reasonable steps to prevent any harm to them
- assessing and managing risk
- putting safeguarding policies and procedures in place
- undertaking ongoing monitoring and reviewing to ensure that safeguards are being implemented and are effective
- reviewing and responding appropriately to safeguarding concerns including allegations of abuse

Within Dalgarno Trust, the Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding will chair the quarterly Safeguarding Committee where all the above will be monitored. This Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding (Christopher Herbert, email - Chris@fitforlifeyouth.co.uk) is also responsible for informing the Charity Commission of any serious incidents.

### **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive is responsible for:

- The implementation, maintenance, monitoring, and review of this Policy.
- Keeping records of concerns raised against a member of staff or volunteer on their staff file.
- Informing the Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding of any referrals to DBS.
- Leading by example in actively promoting safeguarding practices in Dalgarno Trust.

### **Designated Safeguarding Officers**

The designated safeguarding lead is responsible for:

- Responding in a timely manner to any suspected abuse allegations.
- Keeping written records of all cases including those that are not referred.
- Adhering to Data Protection Policy.
- Ensuring all records and notes are kept confidentially secure.
- Referring a case to other agencies where necessary.
- Following up on cases referred to other agencies.
- Ensuring that files are updated and necessary actions are taken.

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for the above responsibilities in the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**Esma Dukali** – The Dalgarno Trust Chief Executive

**Telephone: 020 8969 6300**

**Email: [esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk)**

### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**Boutayna Reguibi** - The Dalgarno Trust Youth Programme Co-ordinator

**Telephone: 0208 969 6300 / 07388 782590**

**Email: [boutayna@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:boutayna@dalgarnotrust.org.uk)**

## **Managers**

Managers are accountable for the safeguarding standards within their area of control. Specifically, they are responsible for:

- Ensuring the Safeguarding policy is communicated and implemented within their area of control. Ensuring that all employees in their team are up to date with necessary Safeguarding Training.
- Making a referral to DBS
- Making sure they and their staff understand the safeguarding arrangements within Dalgarno Trust
- Informing, instructing, training and supervising employees.
- Ensuring all incidents relating to safeguarding are reported to a Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Reporting safeguarding issues which they cannot resolve to the Chief Executive

## **All Employees**

All employees are responsible for:

- Attending relevant Safeguarding training. This training should be refreshed every 3 years.
- Reading and adhering to the Dalgarno Trust Safeguarding Policy making sure they understand the part they play regarding safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- Co-operating with managers in following the safeguarding arrangements set out in this policy.
- Reporting any suspicions of abuse or neglect to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Reporting any concerns about the behavior of any members of staff, volunteers or contractors towards children, young people, or vulnerable adults.

## **Implementing the Safeguarding Policy**

### **Safer Recruitment**

Safeguarding the children, young people, and vulnerable adults who Dalgarno Trust have contact with are considered at the recruitment stage. All staff, volunteers and trustees are required to attend interviews and provide references, as detailed in Dalgarno Trust's recruitment, selection, and induction procedures.

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check will also be obtained for staff, volunteers and trustees recruited to certain positions. A repeat DBS enhanced check will be obtained every three years for all eligible employees, volunteers and trustees. During the interview all candidates are questioned regarding their understanding of safeguarding and how that might be a consideration in the role they are applying for. References are always taken, where possible from a current and previous employer.

### **Training**

All Dalgarno Trust staff, volunteers and trustees will be given safeguarding training. Staff are required to attend the internally run training course within the first three months of their employment. Volunteers will

be given safeguarding training relevant to the position in which they are volunteering, this could be their manager talking through the Dalgarno Trust Safeguarding Policy with them or they may need to attend Dalgarno Trust's Safeguarding training. This will be organised locally through their program manager. Trustees will be invited to attend the Safeguarding Training course or will be required to complete online Safeguarding Training. Details of Safeguarding Training is entered into the Salesforce database which alerts management to deadlines for ongoing training and renewals.

## **Different Types of Abuse & Corresponding Indicators**

### **Definitions of Abuse**

"Child abuse and neglect" is a generic term encompassing all ill-treatment of children including serious physical and sexual assaults as well as cases where the standard of care does not support the child's health or development. Children may be abused or neglected through the infliction of harm, or through the failure to act to prevent harm. Abuse can occur in a family or an institutional or community setting. The perpetrator may or may not be known to the child.

Working Together to Safeguard Children sets out definitions and examples of the main categories of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Exploitation

These categories can overlap, and an abused child does frequently suffer more than one type of abuse. Recognising abuse is a complex and complicated procedure and it is not the responsibility of Dalgarno Trust employees to decide whether a child or young person has been abused or is at risk. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns and report them to a Designated Safeguarding Lead. It is important to read about the different types of abuse and indicators in Appendix A and Appendix B – Safer Working - Good Practice Guidelines.

## **Responding to Safeguarding Concerns - dealing with disclosures and concerns**

Staff and volunteers may become concerned about a person in a number of ways:

- A child, young person or vulnerable adult may tell (disclose) that s/he or someone else has been or is being abused.
- There may be concerns due to the individual's behavior and/or presentation (see Appendix A).
- Concerns may be raised about the behavior of an adult, who may be a member of staff, volunteer, another professional or a member of the public.
- A parent, carer, relative or member of the public might share their concerns about a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.

### **In all cases, the following procedures must be followed:**

When a child, young person or vulnerable adult wants to confide in you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Show them that you take what they are saying seriously.
- Encourage the child, young person, or vulnerable adult to talk, but do not interrupt whilst they are recalling events. Take notes.
- Ask questions only to clarify your understanding of what you are being told. Do not investigate. Do not ask leading questions. Do not ask them to repeat his/her account.

- Do not promise to keep the information secret. Explain that you must pass the information on to those who can help. Tell the child, young person, or vulnerable adult what you are going to do next.
- Do not confront any alleged abuser.
- Locate the Dalgarno Trust Safeguarding Reporting Form. (LINK), As soon as you can, use your notes and write down what the young person has said, using the child's own words. If you can not edit the form on a computer you can print and hand write, or send the information in an email to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Report to your Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy immediately at the latest before the end of the shift/day (see page 1-2 for contact details of Safeguarding Lead/Deputy).

Reporting a young person's disclosure of abuse is not a betrayal of the young person's confidence. It is your duty and is also necessary to allow protective action to be taken in relation to the young person and any other children.

If you feel a young person may be going to tell you about abuse, but then stops or tells you something else, let them know that you are always ready to listen to them and/or remind them of the Childline number 0800 1111.

If the child, young person, or vulnerable adult has communication difficulties or English is not their first language, pass this information on so that an appropriate interpreter can be identified.

If you become concerned about a child, young person, or vulnerable adult (due to the young person's behavior, presentation, or other reason):

- Do not trivialise or dismiss your concerns.
- If the behavior may be sexually harmful to other young people do not explain it away as 'normal'.
- Report your concerns to your Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as you can, and before the end of the shift/day (see page 1-2 for relevant designated safeguarding officers).

Information that may seem trivial can frequently form the missing piece of the puzzle and lead to protective action being taken.

Children, young people, or vulnerable adults who display sexually harmful behavior need to have an assessment of their needs, including needs for protection.

If you become concerned about the behavior of an adult:

- Do not dismiss your concerns.
- Do not confront the person about whom you have concerns.
- Report your concerns to your Designated Safeguarding Officer as soon as you can, and before the end of the shift/day (see page 4 for relevant designated safeguarding officers).

It is VERY IMPORTANT you do not ignore or dismiss suspicions about another professional or colleague, however well or little you know them, or whatever position they may occupy in their organization. Your concerns will be taken in confidence and even if they are subsequently seen to be mistaken, you will not suffer any adverse consequences for raising the concern. The only exception to this would be where it could be conclusively shown that the concerns were raised maliciously.

## Process for Handling Safeguarding Concerns/Incidents

**STEP 1 – A** A child, young person or vulnerable adult makes a disclosure about abuse to you:

- Engage in a private conversation with them (offer the option of another person present)
- Do not conduct a full investigation or ask leading questions.
- Inform them of the limits of confidentiality and the obligation to report.
- Inform them about your next intended actions.
- Make a written record of the conversation, detailing what was disclosed, and note any signs of physical abuse.

**STEP 1 – B** There is no disclosure about abuse but you have concerns:

- Keep a record of concerns including changes in behaviour & signs of abuse

### STEP 2

- Immediately record details in the person's own words in the Safeguarding Reporting Form (Link to form move form to unrestricted place)
- SAVE AS form (eg 15.8.23\_Safeguarding Concern Form do not use persons name)
- Email form to Designated safeguarding lead (DSL) [esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk).
- Send immediately or by the end of the day/end of shift at the latest.
- Give the physical form and your notes to Esma or Boutayna in her absence.

### STEP 3

- Designated safeguarding Lead (DSL) will assess if this is a matter should be referred to Social Services. Is the child/young person/vulnerable adult in danger? Is the parent / carer the likely abuser? NB it is not the responsibility of DSL to investigate.

### STEP 4 – NO REFERRAL

Designated safeguarding Lead:

- decides whether to share concern with parent or carer
- records information on case in Safeguarding Log and updates those involved of decisions.

### STEP 4 YES REFERRAL DSL refers case to the authorities:

**Children and Young People Safeguarding** RBKC 0207 361 3013 / 0207 373 2227 (out of hours) [socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk)

**LADO - Reporting issues with those working with children/young adults/vulnerable** 0207 361 2120 (Duty Child Protection Adviser)  
[KCLADO.enquiries@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:KCLADO.enquiries@rbkc.gov.uk)  
 Complete [LADO referral form](#). (How to fill out the form [here](#)).  
 Further info: [Local Safeguarding Children Partnership LADO page](#).

**Adult Safeguarding:** 020 7361 3013 / 020 7361 3013 (out-of-hours) [socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk)

**Police: 999**

### STEP 5 – NOT REFERRED

- DSL ensures all actions recorded and paperwork up to date
- Inform the Trustee Safeguarding Lead – Christopher Herbert

### STEP 5 – FOR REFERRALS

- DSL ensures all actions recorded and paperwork up to date
- Inform Trustee Safeguarding Lead Christopher Herbert
- follow up with the body it was reported to.
- Safeguarding Log is updated with all actions recorded.
- Trustees are informed

## **Concerns About a Member of Staff or a Volunteer**

These procedures should be used in respect of all cases where it is alleged that a person who works with children, young people or vulnerable adults in connection with the person's employment or voluntary activity has:

- behaved in a way that has or may have harmed a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- behaved towards a child, young person or vulnerable adult in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm.

If the concern is not connected to the person's employment or work activity, these procedures may also apply. It is in everyone's interest to resolve cases as quickly as possible, consistent with a fair and thorough investigation. All allegations must be reported as a priority to avoid any delay and not relayed to the member of staff/volunteer in question. The time taken to investigate and resolve individual cases depends on a variety of factors including the nature, seriousness, and complexity of the allegation.

There may be up to three strands in the consideration of an allegation:

- a police investigation of a possible criminal offence.
- enquiries and assessment by social services about whether a child, young person, or vulnerable adult needs protection or in need of services.
- consideration by an employer or regulatory body of action in respect of the individual.

If there is an immediate risk, appropriate actions may need to be taken by the member of staff e.g., urgent involvement of police; suspension of a member of staff and removal from the Dalgarno Trust premises; securing evidence; urgent medical attention.

Any allegation or concern which arises should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Esma Dukali using the contact details found on page 4 of this policy.

Where staff receive an allegation against someone from another organisation, this should be reported to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If your concerns are about a Designated Safeguarding Deputy speak to the Chief Executive. If your concerns are about the Chief Executive, you should speak to the Trustees.

If a parent, carer, or another member of the public tells you of their concerns about a young person or the behavior of an adult:

- Do not leave it to them to make their own referral to social care services. You should make your own report.
- Take adequate details about their concern and the identity of the young person.
- Report your concerns to your Designated Safeguarding Officer as soon as you can, and before the end of the shift/day (see next section for relevant designated safeguarding officers).

Concerns raised by members of the public should always be taken seriously and where necessary Dalgarno Trust should take responsibility to make the referral to social care services.

If you are dissatisfied with the response to any of your concerns above, raise these again with your Designated Safeguarding Officer. If you are unable or unwilling to do this, you can approach another Designated Safeguarding Officer, the Chief Executive or The Trustees.



## Working with Partner Agencies

Working with partner agencies is a key part of our work. It is important in these circumstances that there is clarity of responsibility for different aspects of safeguarding between the two parties.

## Confidential Information and Retaining Records

All children, young people and vulnerable adults, and their families, are entitled to their privacy. However, where there are concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, those concerns and the necessary personal information will need to be shared with those who can make decisions about action to safeguard the child, young person, or vulnerable adult on a need to know basis.

There is nothing in any legislation that prohibits the sharing of confidential and personal information where there are concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, young person, or vulnerable adult, or where a criminal act may be, or may have been committed.

Employees should make written notes at the earliest opportunity, and these should be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Officers keep all written documents relating to a safeguarding issue in a secure place.

These detailed records should be kept until Dalgarno Trust is confident that the information is held accurately with the agency responsible for taking further action to safeguard the child, young person, or vulnerable adult i.e. partner agencies, social services or the police. A chronology of decisions made and actions taken can then be kept on file once the detailed records are deleted or destroyed. This record should be held for 50 years.

More information can be found in the government document [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#).

Where concerns have been raised about a member of staff or a volunteer and these relate to behavior that has harmed, or may have harmed a child, young person or vulnerable adult; possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child, young person or vulnerable adult; or behaved in a way that indicates they are unsuitable to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults, then: The Chief Executive must be informed.

A clear and comprehensive summary of any allegations made, details of how the allegations were followed up and resolved, and of any action taken and decisions reached, will be recorded.

This record will be kept in the person's confidential personnel file and a copy should be given to the individual.

Such information will be retained on file, including for people who leave the organization, at least until the person reaches normal retirement age, or for ten years if that is longer.

The purpose of the record is to enable accurate information to be given in response to any future request for a reference. It will provide clarification in cases where a future DBS disclosure reveals information from the police that an allegation was made but did not result in a prosecution or a conviction. It will also prevent unnecessary re-investigation if, as sometimes happens, allegations resurface after a period.

Dalgarno Trust has a Duty to Refer to DBS any employees or volunteers who have been dismissed, redeployed, retired/redundant or resigned where Dalgarno Trust believe that this person has either:

- Engaged in relevant conduct.
- Satisfied the harm test.
- Received a caution for, or been convicted of, a relevant offence.

(As defined in the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)).

The Chief Executive is responsible for making this referral to DBS and for informing the Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding.

The Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding is responsible for notifying the Charity Commission of any serious incidents relating to safeguarding in line with the Charity [Commission's Reporting Serious Incidents Policy](#).

## **Appendix A Specific Forms of Abuse**

### **Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse may involve poking, pushing, hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, or suffocating a child. It may also be caused when a parent or caregiver feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child. It can also include “fabricated” or “induced” illness where a parent or caregiver simulates the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health in a child.

Most children collect accidental injuries and bruises from time to time, and bruises caused in this way are likely to be on the external bony parts of the body such as the knees, shins, elbows, and forehead. Most children who have developed language skills will be able to describe how an injury was caused. Any injury should be considered in the context of the child’s history and developmental stage, and any explanation given.

The following circumstances are indicators of physical abuse and should trigger concerns:

- Delay in the presentation of the injury.
- An injury which is not consistent with the explanation given.
- Changing or differing accounts of how the injury occurred.
- An unexplained injury.

Types of bruising which may indicate physical abuse include:

- Bruising in babies and young children who are not independently mobile.
- Bruising to the soft tissue area where there is no bony prominence, e.g., face, back, arms, buttocks, genitalia, ears, and hands.
- Multiple bruises in clusters, or of uniform shape.
- Bruises that carry an imprint, for example of an implement, a hand, or a cord.
- Grip marks; in a young baby this could indicate that the child has been shaken, risking injury to the brain.
- Frequent bruising for which the child is unwilling to offer an explanation.
- Regular “accidental” bruising or injury with or without a history of how the injury occurred.

Types of injury which may indicate child abuse include:

- Multiple burns and burns on unusual areas of the body such as back, shoulders or buttocks.
- Scalds where the child appears to have been “dipped” in too hot water.
- Cigarette burns.
- Bite marks.
- Damage to mouths.

### **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child’s emotional development. This form of abuse often accompanies other forms of abuse. It includes persistent criticism, denigration, rejection, and scapegoating. It has an important impact on a child’s mental health, behavior and self-esteem.

This may involve:

- Conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only as far as they meet the needs of another person.
- Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child’s developmental capacity, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

- Serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger - e.g., witnessing domestic violence.
- Exploitation or corruption of children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in most types of ill-treatment of children, though emotional abuse may occur alone.

The following are indicators of emotional abuse:

- Abnormal attachment between a child and parent/career, e.g. anxious, indiscriminate or no attachment.
- Career shows a persistently negative attitude towards the child.
- The child consistently experiences low warmth and high criticism from its parent/career(s)
- A fixed stare.
- Older children may show evidence of mental health issues such as depression, self-harm or eating disorders, or may have behavioral or educational difficulties.
- Acting out aggressive behavior.
- A child who is consistently reluctant to go home after school or nursery.
- A child who struggles to engage in normal social activity and conversation with peers or adults.
- A child who runs away from home.
- A child with very low self-esteem and or who will consistently describe themselves in very negative ways such as "I am stupid, naughty, hopeless, ugly".
- A child living in an environment of domestic abuse, alcohol or substance misuse.

## **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware of what is happening and includes penetrative and non-penetrative acts. It may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic materials, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Sexual abuse includes abuse of children through sexual exploitation.

Although there are some indicators relating to sexual abuse, in many cases this form of abuse is well hidden, with the only overt signs being a child's behavior in general or towards an individual, and this may be attributable to many things unrelated to sexual abuse. This makes sexual abuse very difficult to identify.

The following may be indicators of sexual abuse:

- Bruising or bites to breasts, buttocks and around the genital area could be signs of sexual abuse as well as physical abuse.
- Sexually abusive behavior.
- Sexually explicit play, continual open masturbation, or aggressive sex play with peers (as distinct from normal sexual curiosity).
- Extreme use of sexually explicit language and/or detailed descriptions or drawings of sexual activity.
- Self-harm.
- Running away or regular absences from home or school (particularly in the case of organized abuse).
- Pregnancy.
- A sexually transmitted infection.

Sexual exploitation can be very difficult to identify. Warning signs can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behavior.

Young people who are being sexually exploited may:

- be involved in abusive relationships, intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations.
- hang out with groups of older people, or antisocial groups, or with other vulnerable peers.
- associate with other young people involved in sexual exploitation.
- get involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership.
- have older boyfriends or girlfriends.
- spend time at places of concern, such as hotels or known brothels.
- not know where they are, because they have been moved around the country.
- go missing from home, care, or education.

## **Neglect**

Neglect involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and / or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. This may involve failure to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing, failure to protect from physical harm or danger or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of a child's basic emotional needs.

There are no specific features which indicate neglect, other than that the child's basic needs are not met. Neglect is a pattern, not an event so it is important to consider the standard of care the child received over time; a pattern of neglect may be missed if each individual event is considered in isolation.

The following may be indicators of neglect:

- Exposure to danger, for example, cold (inappropriate clothing for the weather) or starvation.
- Repeated failure to attend to the physical and developmental needs of the child, to provide warmth, appropriate clothing, food, and consistent care.
- Faltering growth (failure to thrive) in babies or toddlers.
- The child has responsibility for activity that is not age-appropriate such as cooking, ironing, caring for siblings.
- Poor supervision of young children resulting in frequent accidental bruising or injury.
- The child is always dirty and/or hungry.
- The child is left at home alone or with inappropriate caregivers.
- The child is regularly not collected from care settings.
- Eating disorders, including stealing and/or hoarding food.
- Failure to attend routine medical appointments.
- Failure to attend to the child's medical needs and refusal of appropriate treatment.

## **Recognizing Potential Risk to an Unborn Child**

In some circumstances, agencies or individuals can anticipate the likelihood of significant harm about an expected baby.

Indicators may include:

- Domestic abuse within the household.
- Alcohol and substance misuse by mother, leading to harm to the unborn child, or by others with risk to the newborn.
- Secret or hidden pregnancy or the mother's mental health problems.

These concerns should be addressed as early as possible to provide sufficient time for full assessment and support to enable the parents (wherever possible) to provide safe care.

## **People with Disabilities**

Dalgarno Trust is committed to upholding the rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults with disabilities who use our services and particularly their right to be free from violence, abuse or neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them. Research suggests that children and young people with disabilities are more vulnerable to physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect than a non-disabled child.

The level of risk may be raised by:

- A need for practical assistance in daily living, including intimate care from what may be a number of carers.
- Carers and staff lacking the ability to communicate with the child.
- A lack of continuity in care leading to an increased risk that behavioral changes may go unnoticed.
- Physical dependency with the consequent reduction in the ability to be able to resist abuse.
- An increased likelihood that the child is socially isolated.
- Lack of access to “keep safe” strategies available to others.
- Communication or learning difficulties preventing disclosure.
- Parents’ or carers’ own needs and ways of coping conflicting with the needs of the child.

In addition to the indicators of abuse and neglect listed above, the following indicators must also be considered in relation to disabled children:

- Force-feeding, or impatience in feeding leading to underfeeding/undernourishment.
- Unjustified or excessive physical restraint.
- Rough handling.
- Extreme behavior modification, including the deprivation of liquid, medication, food or clothing or social contact.
- Misuse of medication, sedation, heavy tranquilizers.
- Invasive procedures against a child’s will.
- Deliberate failure to follow medically recommended regimes.
- Misapplication of care programs or regimes.
- Ill-fitting equipment (e.g., calipers, sleep board causing injury or pain, inappropriate splinting).
- Undignified or culturally inappropriate intimate care practices.

Some sex offenders may target children and young people with disabilities in the belief they are less likely to be detected.

## **Institutional Abuse**

Children and young people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to this kind of abuse where practices and behaviors by staff in organisations have become institutionalized or commonly accepted practice. However, those behaviours may cause significant harm (as above) and/or may be an abuse of the child’s rights.

Examples of the latter could be:

- Where a child’s communication board does not accompany the child everywhere.
- Staff who assume a child’s wishes or communication and speak for them.
- Staff who do not facilitate a child’s own communication because of the difficulty or time it takes.
- Attributing difficult or challenging behavior to the child’s condition rather than identifying it as communication.

All staff and volunteers within Dalgarno Trust must be alert to signs of institutional abuse or unprofessional practices or behavior and raise their concerns as per the procedures outlined above.

## **Sexually Harmful Behavior**

A significant proportion of sexual abuse is carried out by children and young people on their peers. Such abuse should always be taken as seriously as that perpetrated by an adult. The behavior should not be dismissed as “normal.” A referral to social services should always be made.

## **Abuse of Trust**

All members of staff and volunteers with Dalgarno Trust have a relationship of trust with the children and young people who use our services. It is an abuse of that trust and could be a criminal offence to engage

in any sexual activity with a young person aged under eighteen, or a vulnerable young person under the age of twenty-five, irrespective of the age of consent and even if the relationship is consensual.

## **Organized Abuse**

This is sexual abuse where there is more than a single abuser and the adults concerned appear to act in agreement to abuse children and/or where an adult uses an institutional framework or position of authority to recruit children for sexual abuse.

## **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money, or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online.

Child sexual exploitation can occur using technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion, and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterized in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

## **Grooming**

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, radicalisation or to perform criminal acts.

Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female and they could be any age.

Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse. Groomers will hide their true intentions and may spend a long time gaining a child's trust. Groomers may try to gain the trust of a whole family to allow them to be left alone with a child and if they work with children, they may use similar tactics with their colleagues.

## **Bullying and Cyberbullying**

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else – such as name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening, or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere, at school, at a youth club, at home, in the workplace or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.

Bullying that happens online, using social networks, games, and mobile phones, is often called cyberbullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night.

## **Sexting**

Sexting means sending or posting sexually suggestive images, including nude or semi-nude photographs, via mobiles or over the Internet.

If a young person tells you they have received a Sext never view, download, or print the image – you can ask them to describe the content.

CEOP, Childline and Internet Watch Foundation are available to give advice and support to young people affected by Sexting.

Creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of under-18s is illegal and therefore causes the greatest complexity for youth organisations when responding. It also presents a range of risks which need careful management. On this basis, the phrase ‘youth-produced sexual imagery’ has been introduced to ensure clarity.

‘Youth produced sexual imagery’ best describes the practice because:

- ‘Youth produced’ includes young people sharing images that they, or another young person, have created of themselves.
- ‘Sexual’ is clearer than ‘indecent.’ A judgement of whether something is ‘decent’ is both a value judgement and dependent on context.
- ‘Imagery’ covers both still photos and moving.

The types of incidents which may be encountered are:

- A person under the age of 18 creates and shares sexual imagery of themselves with a peer under the age of 18.
- A person under the age of 18 shares sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18 with a peer under the age of 18 or an adult.
- A person under the age of 18 is in possession of sexual imagery created by another person under the age of 18.

The sharing of sexual images of people under 18 by adults constitutes child sexual abuse and the police should always be informed.

A referral should always be made if:

- An adult is involved.
- The child is under 13.
- It involves unusual sexual acts.
- The young person is being coerced, blackmailed, or groomed.
- The young person has special needs.
- There is immediate risk of harm, e.g. suicide.

Police now have discretion (Outcome 21) whether to prosecute as they do not want to criminalise young people unnecessarily.

## **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female genital mutilation (**FGM**) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Also referred to as ‘cutting’ or ‘female circumcision’.

It is illegal to perform FGM or allow it to happen.

It can be carried out when a girl is newborn, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy. It is common for it to be done to girls around the time of puberty.

## **Breast Ironing**



In the procedure, hot objects, including stones and hammers, are used to pound and beat girls' breasts to stop them growing, in the belief it makes them less desirable to men and discourages premarital pregnancy and rape. Performed on girls as young as 8 until the end of puberty.

Breast ironing is both physically and psychologically damaging. It can cause infections and abscesses and has been linked to breast cancer, problems with breastfeeding, and severe depression.

## **Forced Marriage**

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both of the parties is married without his or her consent or against his or her will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties' consent to the assistance of their parents or a third party (such as a matchmaker) in identifying a spouse.

## **Peer on Peer Abuse**

There is no clear boundary between incidents that should be regarded as abusive and incidents that are more properly dealt with as bullying, sexual experimentation etc. This is a matter of professional judgement.

If one child or young person causes harm to another, this should not necessarily be dealt with as abuse: bullying, fighting and harassment between children are not generally seen as child protection issues.

However, it may be appropriate to regard a young person's behaviour as abusive if:

- There is a large difference in power (for example age, size, ability, development) between the young people concerned; or
- The perpetrator has repeatedly tried to harm one or more other children; or
- There are concerns about the intention of the alleged perpetrator.
- If the evidence suggests that there was an intention to cause severe harm to the victim, this should be regarded as abusive whether severe harm was caused.

## **Organised Abuse**

Organised or multiple abuse involves one or more abusers and several children. Organised and multiple abuse occur as part of a network of abuse across a family or community and within institutions such as residential homes, schools, sports clubs, and voluntary groups.

## **Radicalisation**

Radicalisation is when someone starts to believe or support extreme views. They could be pressured to do things by someone else. Or they might change their behaviour and beliefs.

This could happen if they feel:

- isolated and lonely or wanting to belong.
- unhappy about themselves and what others might think of them.
- embarrassed or judged about their culture, gender, religion, or race.
- stressed or depressed.
- fed up with being bullied or treated badly.
- angry at other people or the government.
- confused about what they are doing.

Someone who has been radicalised might believe that sexual, religious or racial violence is OK. They might have links to extremist groups that preach hate like Nazi groups or Islamic extremists like Daesh, also known as ISIS or IS.

Having extreme views can be dangerous and can often lead to harmful and illegal activities involving violence, attacks, discrimination or hate.

## **Honour Based Violence**

Honour based violence is the term used to describe murders in the name of so-called honour, sometimes called 'honour killings'. These are murders in which predominantly women are killed for perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community, causing shame.

A child who is at risk of honour-based violence is at significant risk of physical harm (including being murdered) and/or neglect.

The perceived immoral behaviour which could precipitate a murder include:

- Inappropriate make-up or dress.
- The existence of a boyfriend.
- Kissing or intimacy in a public place.
- Rejecting a forced marriage.
- Pregnancy outside of marriage.
- Being a victim of rape.
- Inter-faith relationships.
- Leaving a spouse or seeking a divorce.

Murders in the name of 'so-called honour' are often the culmination of a series of events over a period and are planned. There tends to be a degree of premeditation, family conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserved to die.

Victims are sometimes persuaded to return to their country of origin under false pretences, when in fact the intention could be to kill them.

Children sometimes truant from school to obtain relief from being policed at home by relatives. They can feel isolated from their family and social networks and become depressed, which can on some occasions lead to self-harm or suicide.

Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about dishonour occurred, and therefore the risk of harm to a child can persist. This means that the young person's new boy/girlfriend, baby (if pregnancy caused the family to feel 'shame'), associates or siblings may be at risk of harm.

## Appendix B

### Safer Working - Good Practice Guidelines

All staff and volunteers working for Dalgarno Trust have a responsibility to safeguard the welfare of the children, young people, and vulnerable adults that they are working with to ensure their physical, sexual, and emotional safety. All staff and volunteers are expected to treat everyone with respect and ensure that their behavior is always appropriate. Refer to the Dalgarno Trust Behavioral Code and Code of Conduct.

Staff and volunteers should follow the guidelines set out below.

All staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults should ensure that they:

- Plan activities so that they involve more than one member of staff, volunteer, or other relevant accompanying (e.g., youth leader) adult being present, or are at least in sight or hearing of others.
- When meeting with a child, young person, or vulnerable adult this should take place as publicly as possible. If privacy is needed other staff and volunteers should be informed of the meeting.
- Do not exaggerate or trivialize safeguarding issues.
- Do not let allegations made by a child, young person or vulnerable adult go without being addressed and recorded.
- Do not deter anyone from making allegations through fear of not being believed.
- Do not engage in or permit abusive behavior between young people e.g. ridiculing, bullying.
- Do not engage in sexually provocative or rough physical games with a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- Do not make suggestive remarks or gestures or tell jokes of a sexually inappropriate or discriminatory nature.
- Do not show favoritism to any individual.
- Do not allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behavior, such as tantrums or crushes. Deal with such behavior firmly and fairly.
- Do not give a child, young person or vulnerable adult your personal contact details and do not communicate with them outside of the work you are doing with them.
- Respect a person's right to privacy.

### Physical Contact

Staff and volunteers should not have unnecessary physical contact with a child, young person, or vulnerable adult. There may, however, be occasions when physical contact is unavoidable or positively desirable or necessary for safety reasons, for example:

- Providing reassurance to a distressed individual
- When teaching sports
- When working with a person with a disability who requests such assistance
- Giving direct assistance when fitting outdoor activity equipment, e.g. a harness
- Administering first aid

Wherever possible there should be an attempt to ask the person to agree to such contact. Where appropriate, staff should explain their actions. This should be conducted openly and ideally with another member of staff or volunteer present. Staff should be aware of their positioning so that, where possible, others can see the assistance being given.

Staff and volunteers should avoid doing things of a personal nature that the person can do themselves. However, when working with people with disabilities, personal care and help is sometimes required.

In exceedingly rare circumstances there may be a need to physically restrain a young person for their own or other's safety. See Appendix C for further guidance about restraint.

## **Social Media**

As technology develops, the internet and its range of services can be accessed through various devices including mobile phones, computers, and game consoles. Although the internet has many positive uses, it provides the key method for the distribution of indecent images of children.

Furthermore, social networking sites, chat rooms and instant messaging systems are increasingly being used by online predators to "groom" a child, young person, or vulnerable adult. In addition, electronic communication is being used increasingly by young people as a means of bullying their peers and distributing inappropriate images.

To safeguard Dalgarno Trust employees and the people we work with the good practice outlined in the Dalgarno Trust Social Media Policy must be followed.

## **Photography**

Photos of young people taking part in Dalgarno Trust programs and activities are an excellent way of communicating and promoting Dalgarno Trust but when personal information is added to photographs, these images can be used to identify children, and put their safety and privacy at risk. Photographs can also be adapted for inappropriate use. To manage the risks associated with photographing children and young people all employees must comply with the Dalgarno Trust Photography Policy.

## **Residential Trips Away**

By following basic safeguarding best practices, we can protect children, young people and vulnerable adults participating in our programs.

- Adults should not share a bedroom with a child or young person. This may be necessary where the adult is the child or young person's carer.
- Bedrooms of only two young people should be avoided if possible.
- Bedrooms should not be mixed male and female. The exception to this may be where there are transgender young people.
- Adults and young people must use private shower facilities.

# **Appendix C - Restraint**

## **Definition of Restraint**

Restraint is an intervention that prevents a person from behaving in a way that threatens to cause harm to themselves, to others, or to property, by reducing the ability of a person to move their arms, legs, body, or head freely.

It is the policy of Dalgarno Trust that staff should never restrain a young person participating in one of our programs.

Dalgarno Trust staff who are involved in direct delivery (e.g., Instructors, sports delivery officers) are required to attend de-escalation training. The techniques learned in this training will be used to de-escalate a situation, thus negating the need for restraint.

In circumstances where there is a firmly held belief that young person is at risk of physically harming themselves or others and other forms of de-escalation have failed, the accompanying youth leader or teacher will be responsible for restraining the individual. If this occurs within a program where there are no youth workers or school staff accompanying the young people, or they are not available, then the Dalgarno Trust staff member may physically intervene to prevent injury to another person. The Dalgarno Trust member of staff must be able to justify their actions in these circumstances and will be supported by Dalgarno Trust.

## **After an Incident**

If a child, young person, or vulnerable adult has been restrained it is important that their parent, guardian, or career is contacted at the earliest opportunity and given details of the circumstances leading to restraint and the physical acts involved.

It is distressing to be involved in restraint, whether as the person being restrained, the person doing the restraining, or someone observing or hearing about what has happened. All those involved in an incident should receive support, which can be accessed through their line manager, to help them talk about what has happened and, where necessary, record their views.

## **Appendix D – Contacts**

# **Designated Safeguarding Officer, Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Other External Agencies**

### **Dalgarno Trust Designated Safeguarding Officers**

Designated Safeguarding Lead:  
Esma Dukali  
0208 969 6300  
[esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:esma@dalgarnotrust.org.uk)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:  
Boutayna Reguibi  
0208 969 6300 / 07388 782590  
[boutayna@dalgarnotrust.org.uk](mailto:boutayna@dalgarnotrust.org.uk)

### **Dalgarno Trust comes within the remit of three Local Safeguarding Children Boards.**

The London Safeguarding Children Board has published child protection procedures for the City of London and the 32 London Boroughs. Procedures can be found on their [website](#).

### **External Agencies**

LADO consultations and referrals please contact the duty Child Protection Adviser on 020 7361 3013  
[KCLADO.Enquiries@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:KCLADO.Enquiries@rbkc.gov.uk)

Bi borough PREVENT  
Contact the local team on: Telephone: 020 8753 5727  
Email: [prevent@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@lbhf.gov.uk)

#### [The Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#)

[NSPCC](#) Tel: 0844 892 1026  
NSPCC Child Protection Helpline (24 hours): To report or discuss concerns about a child's welfare. Tel: 0808 800 5000 or textphone: 0800 056 0566 or email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

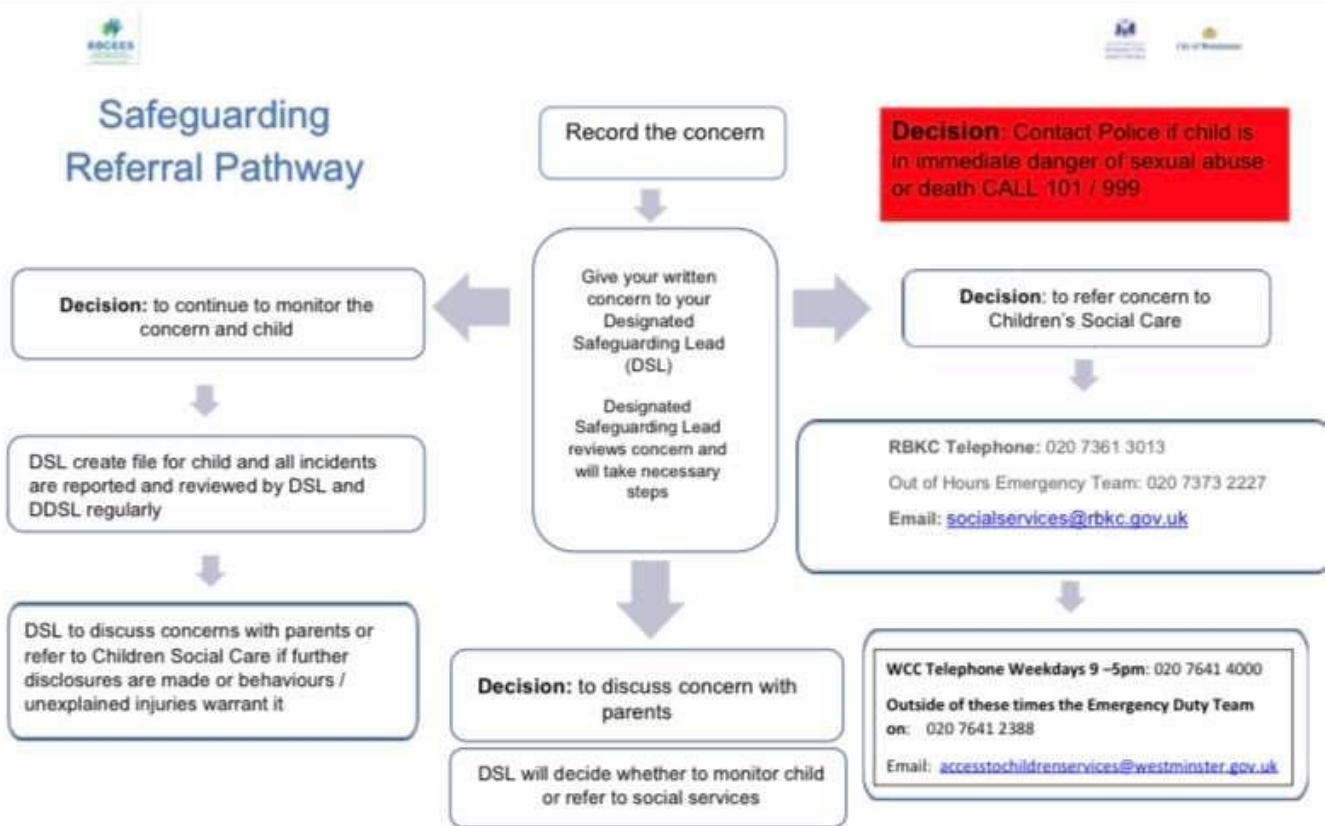
Childline Tel: 0800 1111

[Save The Children](#). Tel: 020 7012 6400 Freephone: 0800 814 8148

#### [Child Exploitation Online & Protection Centre \(CEOP\)](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) Tel: 0344 381 4772

# APPENDIX E – RBKC SAFEGUARDING REFERRAL PATHWAY



## Appendix F

### Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person.
- managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- recording concerns and information sharing
- child protection records retention and storage
- behavioural code and code of conduct
- photography and sharing images guidance (we dont have this currently maybe we should or just include here?)
- parental and carer consent
- safer recruitment
- online safety
- anti-bullying
- managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- health and safety
- induction, training, supervision and support
- adult to child supervision ratios



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Signed: Esma Dukali

Chief Executive

Date: May 2024

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Review Date: May 2025