

Pre-school Learning Alliance

Children's Centre

Policies

CC6 Standard Safeguarding Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults

Aim

The Pre-school Learning Alliance is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults by putting young people and vulnerable adult's right to be '*strong resilient and listened to*' at the heart of all it's activities.

The 'three key commitments' are broad statements against which all policies and procedures across the organisation will be drawn to provide a consistent and coherent strategy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in all services provided by or affiliated to the Pre-school Learning alliance. the three key commitments are:

1. The Alliance is committed to building a *culture of safety* in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.
2. The Alliance is committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set down in *What to do if you are worried a child is being abused ((HMG 2006)*
3. The Alliance is committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout its training and learning programmes for adults. It is also committed to empowering young children, young people and vulnerable adults through its early childhood curriculum, promoting their right to be *strong, resilient and listened to*.

NB A 'young person' is defined as 16-19 year old. In an early years setting, they may be a student, worker or parent.

A 'vulnerable adult' is defined in 'No Secrets' (the Government's Guidance on Adult Abuse as; '*a person aged 18 years or over, who is receipt of or may be in need of community care services by reason of 'mental or other disability, 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*'. In a children's centre this may be a service user or volunteer.

Links to Every Child Matters

- Being healthy
- Achieving economic well-being
- Enjoying and achieving
- Staying safe
- Making a positive contribution

Objectives

Key Commitment 1: The Alliance is committed to building a *culture of safety* in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.

- Each centre has a 'designated person' responsible for carrying out child, young person or vulnerable adult protection procedures. It is recommended that this person is the centre manager/coordinator.
- Each centre reports to a 'designated officer' responsible for overseeing child protection matters. It is recommended that this is the person who line manages the centre.
- The 'designated officer' has line management accountability links with the 'designated contact' at the Pre-school Learning Alliance Divisional Centre. This person is the Divisional Director who reports to the Chief Executive.
- The 'designated person' and the 'designated officer' ensure they have links with statutory and voluntary organisations with regard to safeguarding children and take account of Local Safeguarding Board (LSCB) procedures .
- The 'designated person' and the 'designated officers' ensure they have received appropriate training on child protection matters and that all staff are adequately informed and/or trained to recognise possible child abuse in the categories of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect..
- The 'designated person' and the 'designated officers' ensure all staff are aware of the additional vulnerabilities that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation or culture and that these receive full consideration in child, young person or adult protection related matters.
- The 'designated person' and the 'designated officer' ensure that staff are aware and receive training in social factors affecting children's vulnerability including
 - Social exclusion
 - Domestic violence
 - Mental Illness
 - Drug and alcohol abuse (substance misuse)
 - Parental learning disability
- The 'designated person' and the 'designated officer' ensure that staff are aware and receive training in other ways that children may suffer significant harm:
 - Abuse of disabled children
 - Fabricated or induced illness
 - Child abuse linked to spirit possession
 - Sexually exploited children
 - Female genital mutilation
- The 'designated person' and the 'designated officers' ensure they are adequately informed in young person and adult protection matters according to Alliance procedures..

Key Commitment 2: The Alliance is committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set down in *What to do if you are worried a child is being abused* (HMG 2006)

- There are procedures in place to prevent known abusers from coming into the organisation as employees or volunteers at any level.
- There are procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against a member of staff.
- There are procedures in place for reporting possible abuse of children, young person or vulnerable adult in the centre.
- There are procedures in place for working in partnership with agencies involving a child, or young person, for whom there is a child protection plan in place.
- These procedures take account of working with families with a 'child in need' or who are affected by issues of vulnerability such as social exclusion, domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and parental learning disability.
- These procedures take account of diversity and inclusion issues to promote equal treatment of children and their families and that take account of factors that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation or culture.
- There are procedures in place for record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing

Key Commitment 3: The Alliance is committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout its training and learning programmes for adults. It is also committed to empowering young children, through its early childhood curriculum, promoting their right to be *strong, resilient* and *listened to*.

- All staff receive appropriate training in child protection matters and have access to the centre's policy and procedure for reporting concerns of possible abuse.
- All staff in the setting have adequate information on issues affecting vulnerability in families such as social exclusion, domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and parental learning disability together with training that takes account of factors that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation or culture.

In addition:

The Pre-school Learning Alliance promotes the wider aspects of safeguarding children through adherence to the following procedures:

- Non-collection of children
- Whistle blowing
- Missing child

- Critical incident procedure
- Death of a child within the setting
- Intruder Procedure
- Looked after children procedure
- Managing Allegations against a member of staff procedure
- Incapacitated parent
- E.Safety

Legal references

Primary legislation

The Children Act 1989 – s 47

The Protection of Children Act 1999

The Children Act (Every Child Matters) (2004)

Guidance

Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG 2010)

What to Do if You are Worried a child is Being Abused (HMG 2006)

The framework for the assessment of children in need and their families (DoH 2000)

The Common Assessment Framework (2006)

Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HM Gov 2008)

Secondary Legislation

Sexual Offences Act (2003)

Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000)

Human Rights Act (1999)

Equality Act (2010)

Data Protection Act (1998)

Additional Guidance

The Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers (DCFS 2008)

Alliance publication

Safeguarding Children: Guidance for the protection of children in early years settings.