

Parents information on Safeguarding Children's Welfare

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This is set out in the Governments 'Every Child Matters' Agenda. There are five outcomes and these are key to children's and young peoples wellbeing and they underpin our aims and the work we do in the Children's Centre.

Stay Safe
Be Healthy
Enjoy and Achieve
Make a Positive Contribution
Achieve Economic Wellbeing

To achieve these outcomes children need to feel loved and valued and be supported by a whole network of reliable and positive relationships. If they are denied the opportunity and support they need to achieve these outcomes, children are at increased risk not only of an impoverished childhood, but also of disadvantage and social exclusion in adulthood.

Patterns of family life vary and there is no one, perfect way to bring up children. Good parenting involves caring for children's basic needs, keeping them safe, showing them warmth and love, and providing the stimulation needed for their development and to help them achieve their potential, within a stable environment where they experience consistent guidance and boundaries,

We understand parenting can be challenging. Parents themselves require and deserve support, and that is why Children's Centres are placed in local communities in order to respond to the families' need for information, advice, group support or as a fun place to meet and make friends.

Safeguarding children is a paramount concern for all organisations involved in work through children's centres, they share a commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. In order to fulfil this commitment The Children's Centre has put in place.

- Procedures for child protection that are consistent with Hertfordshire's Safeguarding Board Procedures <http://www.hertssafeguarding.org.uk>
- Recruitment procedures which comply with the above and which include arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers.

- Procedures to ensure that regular visitors to the centre hold the appropriate Criminal Records Bureau Checks,
- Arrangements are in place to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate induction and training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities, and know where to access additional support for families when necessary.
- All professionals working with families and children have a statutory duty to seek additional support or make a referral where they are concerned that a child or young person are at risk this is in accordance with Hertfordshires Safeguarding Board Procedures - please see [Recognise, Respond and Refer](#) posters on display in the children's centre.
- Any parent who is concerned or worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, young person or adult should also seek further support or guidance using the same [Recognise, Respond and Refer](#).
- Children have a right to be cared for and protected and protecting them is everyone's responsibility.