



Eden Gate Newport

- Improving communities by tackling homelessness and substance dependence

Child Protection Policy

April 2016

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Section 1: The Policy

Policy Statement

EDEN GATE is committed to protecting children from harm. This policy aims to appropriately advise those who work within this organisation on how to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of all children that come into contact with this organisation. The policy also aims to safeguard individual EDEN GATE staff/volunteers.

This policy is in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008. It aims to provide clear guidelines for all workers/volunteers who have close contact with children and young people. It will advise what action should appropriately be taken to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Principles

The main principles of this policy are:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children without exception have the right to protection from abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All individuals who have contact with children and young people should be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect and **MUST** act upon concerns about a child's welfare.
- All workers are aware of how to keep themselves safe.

Definitions

Child:

The Children Act, 2004, defines children as aged 0-18 years of age.

Abuse:

Children and young people can suffer from harm in a number of ways:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Domestic abuse

The Legal Framework

The Children Act 1989 and 2004, states that it shall be the duty of every Local Authority to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need.

- A child shall be taken to be in need if:

He/she is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision to him of services by a local authority;

- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without the provision of services; or
- He/she is disabled.

(Section 17, The Children Act 1989, 2004).

The Children Act 1989, 2004, introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. The local authority has a duty to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made where it has reasonable cause to suspect that:

- a child is suffering, or;
- likely to suffer significant harm.

(Section 47, The Children Act 1989, 2004).

All individuals working with children, young people and families should familiarise themselves with the above legislation. Some of the key documents are:

- The Children Act, 1989/2004
- The Data Protection Act, 1998
- UNCRC, 1989

Guidance

Guidance can be found at: <http://www.sewsc.org.uk/>

Recruitment/training

- Staff and volunteers will only be recruited according to EDEN GATE'S Recruitment Policy and Procedures
- Once recruited, staff and volunteers will receive the mandatory training. The scope of the training will depend on the job description on the advice of the EDEN GATE Designated Officer for Child Protection

Section 2: Designated Officer Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

EDEN GATE'S **Operations Manager** is the **Designated Safeguarding lead** for all matters regarding Child Protection and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) within EDEN GATE.

Responsibilities

The **Designated Officer** will be responsible for:

- **Resources** - ensuring that the organisation has up to date relevant Safeguarding documents for reference and local contact numbers
- **Monitoring** - the correct implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and ensuring that the Policy is reviewed annually
- **Advising** - be able to advise Staff appropriately on the policy and procedures, referrals and any other queries
- **Maintaining** - an up to date list of relevant contact numbers
- **Attending** - Continual Professional Development (CPD) training and keeping up-to-date with legislation, policy and best practice

Section 3: Procedures

What you should do if you suspect a child is in need, suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

If you are concerned that a child is suffering abuse, ill treatment or neglect you must adhere to the following:

1. Report your concerns to your line manager/designated lead who will appropriately advise you of what action is to be taken.
2. Record what is said on the appropriate form.
3. If your line manager/designated lead is unavailable, report your concerns directly to your local Children's Services duty team (see list appropriate contact numbers in office).
4. Follow actions on the Child Protection policy flow charts.

How to respond to a child telling you about abuse

The following are suggestions of how to handle the situation, if a child approaches you and wishes to disclose an incident or incidents of abuse. EDEN GATE Staff and Volunteers have a duty to respond and report.

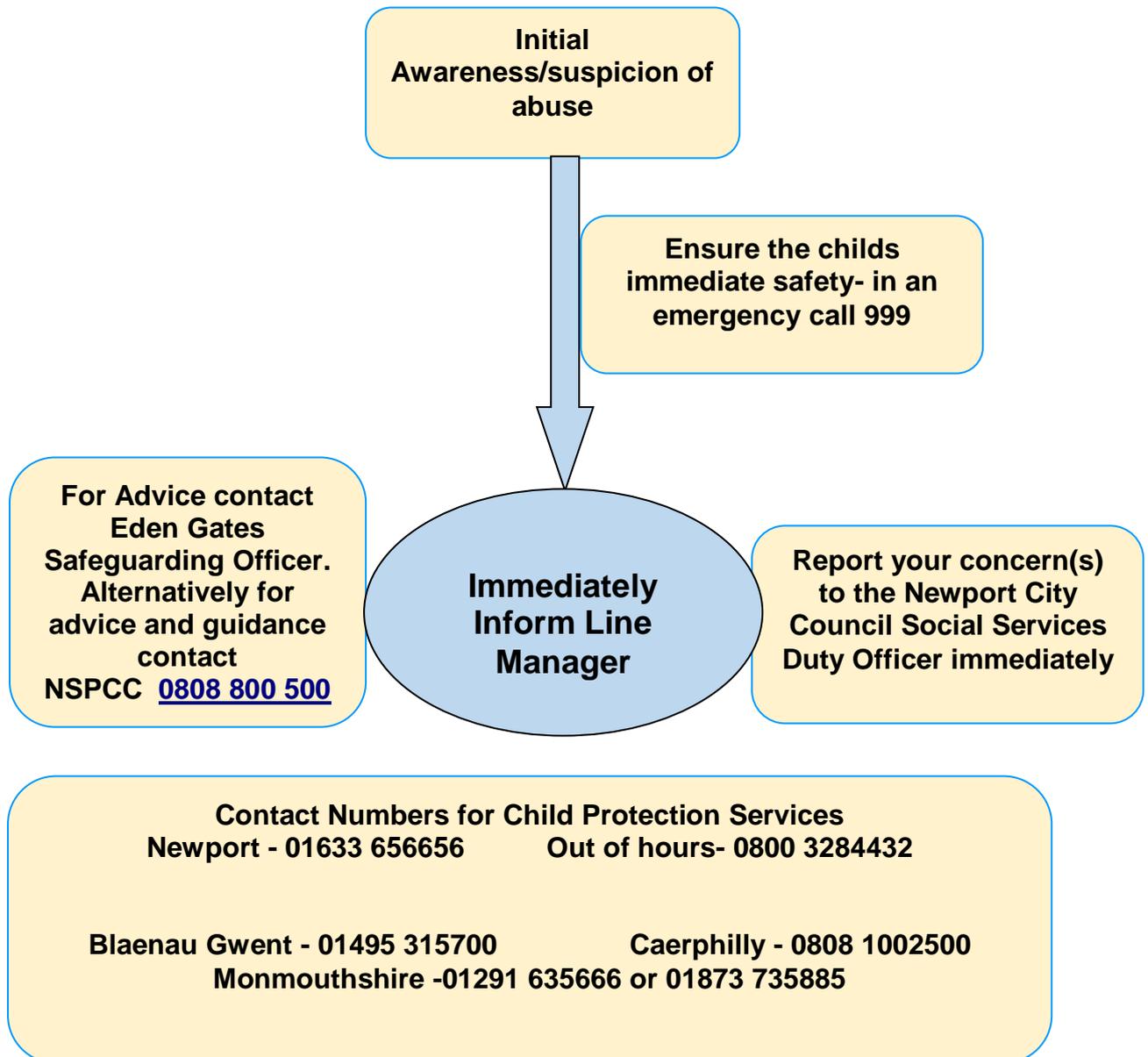
Do	Do not
Stay calm and do not let your emotions concerning the information show to the child	Stop a child who is freely recalling significant events
Without interrupting, listen to the child, rather than directly questioning them	Show shock, upset or over react
Encourage the child to allow another worker to be present	Guarantee confidentiality or promise to keep a secret
Reassure them that they are right to tell you the information and that they are in no way to blame for what has happened	Put words in the child's mouth
Inform the child that you will have to pass the information on to others who will be able to help	Interrupt them talking/recalling/confiding
Provide an example of conduct that you wish others to follow	Expose the child to a mass examination by staff to verify injuries
Be clear about your position. You work for an organisation that has a responsibility to protect vulnerable adults and children	Question the child other than to clarify details- this must be done by professionals, trained in such areas

Do	Do Not
Treat all children with respect	Question the alleged abuser, this must be done by trained professionals
Make a written record and keep any drawings and anything written by the child that is relevant to what has happened to them e.g. witnesses, time, date, place and alleged perpetrators name	Make assumptions or judge
Provide a copy of the written report to your line manager/designated lead. In the absence of either of these officers if you are concerned that the child is at risk contact Social Services or the Police directly	Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children and young people

	Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour/make suggestive remarks or gestures in front of children or young people
	Jump to conclusions about others without checking the facts
	Either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
	Take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests another more prudent approach

Procedural Flow Chart

Child Protection Referrals



Further actions following a child protection referral

- Maintain safety of the child
- Do not take statements or discuss with any other person other than your line manager or Social Services
- Preserve physical evidence
- Complete any internal reporting forms

Addendum to EDEN GATE Safeguarding Policy

Section 4.

Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation

Many young people² are reluctant to engage with statutory agencies because of their often chaotic circumstances and past family experiences. Voluntary agencies are often viewed by these young people as more approachable sources of help. EDEN GATE staff/volunteers, working with young people, will be trained to identify Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) risk factors and the subsequent actions required.

Voluntary and community sector agencies like EDEN GATE often have a close relationship with their local communities and can develop trusting relationships and maintain a link to the child or young person if they become 'lost' to the statutory services.

Outreach agencies are often the first point of contact for children in risk situations and specialist voluntary agencies often have the opportunity to provide vital risk reduction support.

- Staff should be alert and competent to identify and act upon concerns that a child is vulnerable to, at risk of, or experiencing abuse through sexual exploitation
- EDEN GATE'S Designated CSE lead is the Designated Safeguarding Officer (Director)
- This lead individual will have, or develop, a level of expertise in relation to CSE. They will be able to advise EDEN GATE staff in any area or team on identifying and referring a young person at risk and how EDEN GATE can contribute to risk reduction work and a safeguarding plan. They will represent EDEN GATE and support staff
- Staff concerned that a young person is at risk of CSE should make a referral to Social Services in line with EDEN GATE'S Safeguarding procedures, informing their line manager, and copying in both their line manager and the Designated CSE lead
- The Designated CSE Lead will be available to attend any multi agency strategy meeting in relation to individual children or young people.

(sexual exploitation risk framework)

- For further information see <http://www.sewsc.org.uk/>

2 The term 'Young People' refers to Children and Young People as defined on pg.3

Policy last updated: April 2016

Signed: _____