



Eden Gate Newport

- Improving communities by tackling homelessness and substance dependence

Safeguarding Children

April 2016, rev November 2016

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

1. INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of EDEN GATE to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm and neglect.

A child or young person up to the age of 18 years may suffer abuse or neglect. This can occur in a number of different ways from a parent, carer, family member, another child or other adults. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or more rarely by a stranger.

EDEN GATE will carry out the appropriate level of DBS checks on staff, volunteers and trustees depending on their access to children and young people.

2. DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of illness as in Munchausen's syndrome by proxy.

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrative and non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, watching or encouraging children to take part in sexual activities or to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is 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 or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of child. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or not valued. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child.

3. MANAGING INFORMATION

- a) All staff/volunteers have a responsibility to protect children/young people from all forms of abuse. EDEN GATE adopts a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse.
- b) Any concerns or suspicions about the care or neglect of a child/young person must be reported at once to the Safeguarding Officer. Concerns may include inappropriate relationships or suspicions about harm or inappropriate behaviour toward children/young people
- c) The Safeguarding Officer will decide whether to refer to Social Services and/or the Police and seek advice, as appropriate.
- d) A written record must be kept.

4. HANDLING DISCLOSURES

- a) You should always be alert to signs and signals that a child may be abused, e.g. changes of mood and behaviour, unexplained bruises and marks. Many incidents only come to light because of disclosures that children themselves make. If a disclosure is made to you, you should:
 - Respond sensitively.
 - Pass on the information straightaway to the Safeguarding Officer.
- b) You should:
 - Listen carefully, gently and patiently rather than asking questions.
 - Let the person recall events and describe what has happened in their own time.
 - Be sympathetic, e.g. say you're sorry this has happened, it wasn't their fault.
 - Tell the person they were right to tell you and you treat this seriously.
 - Say you will tell the appropriate person and that EDEN GATE will take steps to support them.
 - Inform the Safeguarding Officer.
 - Remember
 - Don't' show shock or disbelief.
 - Don't judge, e.g. why didn't you stop them?
 - Don't ask leading questions – allow the child to tell, explain or describe
 - Don't press them for more details. This will be done later.
 - Don't' promise who will and will not be told, don't promise to keep it secret or promise it will not happen again.
 - Don't contaminate or remove any evidence.
 - Don't confront or contact the alleged abuser.
 - Don't' give information about the disclosure to anyone except the Safeguarding Officer

c) Records must:

- Be written in a clear, straightforward, plain and comprehensive way.
- Be written promptly and be kept up-to-date.
- Be accurate and concise
- Distinguish clearly between fact, opinion and hypothesis.
- Say what was done, when, by whom and include the outcome
- Be signed

and include

- Everything the child said, using their words.
- The facts as told to you, separated from your own opinion.
- The context and circumstances of the disclosure e.g. where it took place, who was there etc
- The date, time, setting and people present when the disclosure was made. Be aware that your written notes may be used later in any criminal or disciplinary proceedings taken.

d) Allegations against an EDEN GATE worker or volunteer

- Disclosures must be treated with the utmost seriousness and urgency
- Any concern about the behaviour of an EDEN GATE worker towards a child should be treated with the same level of urgency
- The person concerned may be suspended depending on the nature of the disclosure, without prejudice, pending an investigation.

5. KEY PERSONNEL AND CONTACTS

Safeguarding Officer
Marc Hepton

Tel: 01633 243235
Mob: 07738 314640

Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Tel:
Mob

Trustee with responsibility for safeguarding

Tel:
Mob:

Social Services

Tel: 01633 656656/0800 3284432

Police

Tel 01633 838111