

Policy- Safeguarding

My main responsibility is to protect the children I care for and to be aware of anything that could affect the child's welfare. They are my first priority and I will do everything I can to protect them. Through my training it has taught me about signs and symptoms of possible abuse that may be going on. I am aware that there are 4 types of abuse, these are physical, sexual, emotional and neglect.

Within my setting, (with the consent of the parent,) I will be using my mobile phone to take photos. I will use these for their learning journals, or to upload to their online software system. Again with the consent of parents for anything more that's required, like Facebook, social networking sites, email use, and to download the photos onto my computer. To do this professionally, I am registered with the ICO. (Information Commissioners Office.) This includes myself and other members of staff to take photos. After photos have been used then they are deleted from my laptop. We do use pictures on our Facebook page and website, however parent's permission is got first. Assistant are also aware of this. We are also open and ready to talk and have the knowledge to talk to parents about it if they are worried about anything at home and technology and making things safe for them. We do not have any direct access for any of the kids to use online facilities. However if ever the time came then the right filters and precautions would take place.

If I have any concerns about anything to do with a child then I will record these. If a child comes in with any unexplained bruises or marks on them, then I will record these in a confidential book, with their name time and date, and then any relevant comments. Any accidents or injuries that I have been made aware of, then these will also be recorded, dated with a signature from the parent. Confidentiality is essential, and any of these documents will be kept locked away so only I and you can see them. This is why it is very important that if your child is coming into my setting with any current injuries then you must make me aware of these. If my concerns are not massive, and I feel that they could be resolved, without the child being at any risk, then I will speak to the parent first. However if I feel that speaking to the parent could affect the child's welfare or health at all, then I will follow the local safeguarding children's board procedure. I cannot stress enough how important the child's welfare and safety is to me. If I have any suspicion of any kind of abuse I will take it further. Any records of anything that had been made, then these will also be passed onto school or other nurseries with their transition. Records will also be made regarding any other agencies that have been involved.

It is also my responsibility to make sure all staff have undertaken the right training needed for safeguarding. And they are updated.

In line with keeping children safe in Education (2016,) there is lots of help available in all areas to parents and carers that might need additional support. I am aware of the families first plus team and can direct families there for help, and their Early Help co-ordinator. This can include a wide range of things, from language development, to

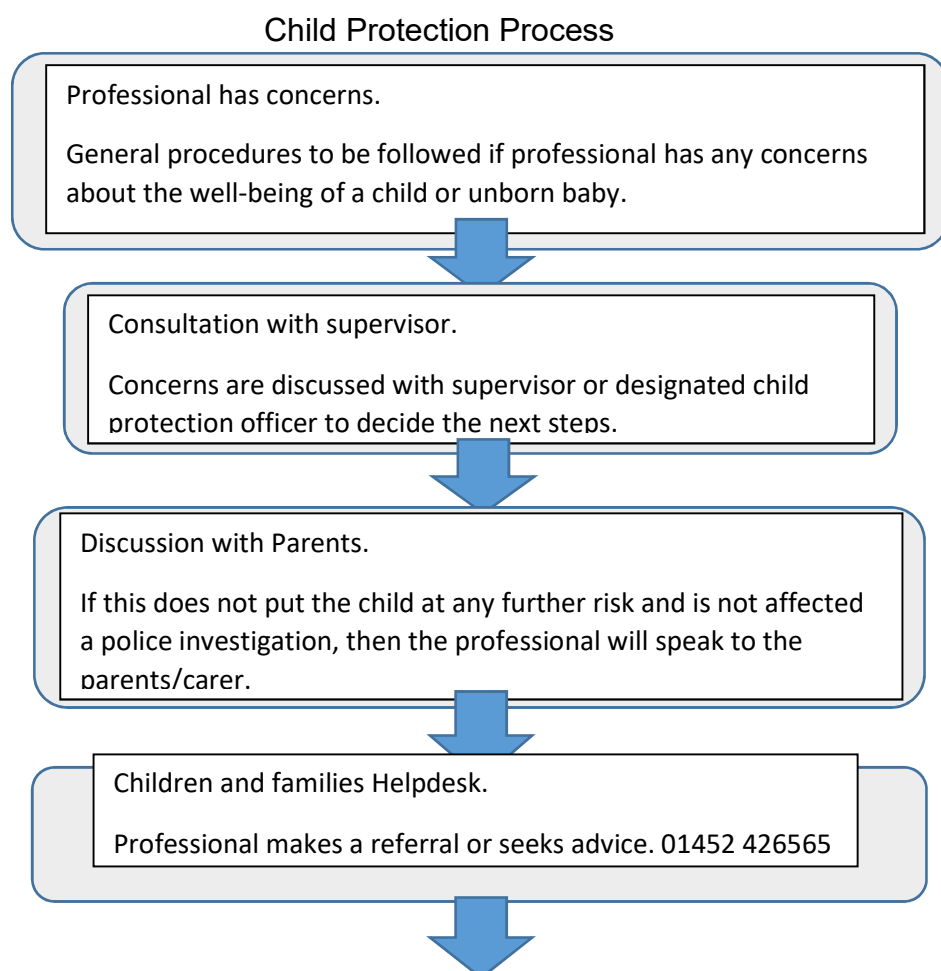
guidance on parenting, dietary and money advice, toileting, values. Parents can speak to us about anything and we can help direct them to the right area for advice or further guidance.

Being a home-based child-minder means that I am very open to allegations being made against me. Therefore there are procedures that take place for this too. If I have had an allegation made against me or my partner, then I will ring each of the parents and inform you of what is going on.

In some circumstances I may pass information on that you have not agreed to. This would be in extreme circumstances, for example if I have a serious concern about what the child may be going home to and any dangers that child may be in. The information will be passed onto the relevant authorities.

Below are the procedures that I would take if I had any suspicions of abuse going on, and also the procedure if anyone makes an allegation against me or my partner.

There is out of hours safeguarding number which is 01452 614194, and a safeguarding for daytime which is 01452 426565. Once the concerns have been reported, then there is a team called MASH that will be working with the concern. Gloucestershire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a team working to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in the county which will increase coordination and improve information sharing across partners with a safeguarding responsibility. It will help partners take early action to support people at risk from harm and coordinate investigations across different organisations working to keep people safe.



Seeking advice from children's social care.

Corners are discussed with a social worker to receive advice about making a referral, and if there are any other alternative ways.

Seeking advice from children's social care.

Professional can contact their local R&A Team to discuss concerns in principle with a social worker or social work manager and receive advice about whether a referral is appropriate or whether there are alternative ways of addressing their concerns.

Making a Request for Service to Children's Social Care.

Unless there are urgent concerns, professional completes a Multi Agency Service Request Form. This is passed on to a social work team and the caller will be contacted by a social worker within 24 hours (unless there are immediate risks in which case the professional will put through to a social work team straight away). The social work team will discuss whether the referral is appropriate and what action can/will be taken.

Stages of Referrals - Tewkesbury Number- 01452 328207

Consult with supervisor/manager.

Discuss concerns together.



Contact social workers for advice in those cases where you have a concern but are unsure about how to proceed contact the Children's Help Desk Tel: 01452 426 565 and ask to speak to a social work practitioner.

Complete a written record of the nature and circumstances surrounding the concern including any previous concerns held. Completion of written record. Resolving professional Differences (escalation policy) Remember to use the 'resolution of professional difficulties (escalation) procedures if you are left feeling that the response from social care has not addressed your concerns for the child. Advice about procedural issues including using the resolving professional differences procedures can be obtained through the Safeguarding Children Service on 01452 58 3629

Contact the children's helpdesk In those cases where you are clear a social work assessment is required make a referral to the: Children's Help Desk Tel: 01452 426 565

within 24 hours (immediately if the concerns are about physical injury or sexual abuse). The CYPD social care section will then take responsibility for managing any subsequent enquiries. The referrer should confirm the details of the concern to CYPD, in writing, within 48 hours

Procedure I would take if allegation was made against me or my partner.

Contact **LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)** immediately on 01452 426994, and then **Ofsted** on 0300 1231231. This is an Early Years Foundation Stage Requirement.



The **LADO** will then offer you advice and any immediate actions that required. (If the allegation meets certain criteria, then a mutli-agency meeting will be held. If it doesn't, the **LADO** will record the discussion and will send it to me for mv record.)



I need to be prepared. If the allegation is of a serious nature then it could result in a criminal investigation. In this case, the **LADO** or **Ofsted** may request that I stop child-minding until the investigation has been carried out. This is just normal practice.



If the allegation is of a serious nature, then all parents will receive a letter from Ofsted explaining that they are investigating me. This is normal practice, at which point I would have probably already spoken with the parents and they are expecting the letter and not a shock.



If I am a PACEY member then I can receive telephone support on 01253 777468.

All Gloucestershire Child-minders can receive support from their area Early Years Consultant.

If anyone makes a serious allegation against a member of staff, then this will be dealt with immediately. I will temporarily suspend the other member of staff if there is any chance that there is any truth behind it. They will be suspended until the issue has been fully resolved.

Within each setting there has to be a DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead.) In my setting that is me Vanessa Lyes. 1 of my assistants has done the full day of inter-agency safeguarding training as well, and the other 2 the introduction 3 Hour course. My other

assistant and I are aware that children with a child protection plan (CPP,) are more at risk of being abused. Therefore we are very aware of signs and symptoms that we may possibly see or notice in behaviour etc. However if children come to our setting with a CPP, then we will massively support them and help them to raise awareness of issues and equip the children with skills that are needed to keep safe.

After an amendment by the adoption and children act 2002, it includes any impairments suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. Domestic abuse falls into this category. Even though the child may not be physically harmed, the child can still be suffering from neglect or emotional, abuse. If i suspect that this is happening then I will use the domestic abuse referral process.

As I am aware that either one of us living in our household or even my assistant can have an allegation made against them, we have all been DBS checked to a very high level and all have certificates to prove this.

In my setting currently I don't have any older children that would concern me about E-safety. In case you are not aware this is child abuse that can actually happen through the internet without parents even knowing. E-safety has become a massive issue, and a lot of young teenagers are able to send indecent pictures and videos to people who they think are their 'friends' or 'girlfriends.' When in actual fact you don't know who it is on the other end of that computer. If I ever had older children that came to my setting, and asked to use my laptop, ipad or to bring their own then there would be certain safety measures I would take. I am aware of the SWGFL website (South West Grid For Learning.) This is a great website and has lots of E-safety resources available for me. It also has online safety FAQ's which I can read through to help me. On there is also E-safety movies. These can not only just be used for my benefit, but also for the young teenagers too. This way they can watch them and also make them aware of what can actually go on. I think making them aware of these issues instead of hiding them makes them more responsible and more trust can be had between myself and them. If ever we use tablets etc then it will be risk assessed, and there will be no unsupervised areas where they use it. It will also have the relevant blocks and parental controls on.

At no point is bullying accepted either. If we suspect bullying is happening then this will be dealt with very seriously and promptly. We will involve the parents and the children and come up with discipline that is necessary. To minimize the chances of bullying we do talk about differences between us all and there is not one type of child. If needed we will work with police and other agencies if we feel it will be beneficial, and all staff will be made aware of procedures to take. There could be certain people which may be more open to bullying, for example gay, racism, gender, traveller children etc. These are embedded into everyday practices to make children from a young age realise the differences In everyone. There will be no peer on peer abuse accepted at all.

Regarding staff, then it is my responsibility to make sure the correct checks are carried out. Within my setting, I have to make sure they have a clear enhanced DBS check, identity check, and a check for any required qualifications.

Prevent Duty

After looking at the statutory government guidance 'Revised prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, I am now have more awareness of prevent Duty. I have also completed the prevent awareness *Channel General Awareness module*, which I have gained a certificate from. This enables me to support with identifying children at risk of maybe being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Also makes us aware of things to look out for, and different procedures in place if we ever needed it. There is more guidance available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Regarding us early years practitioners, I feel there is lots of important information within the statutory guidance above. I have picked out one part I feel is important, number 61.:

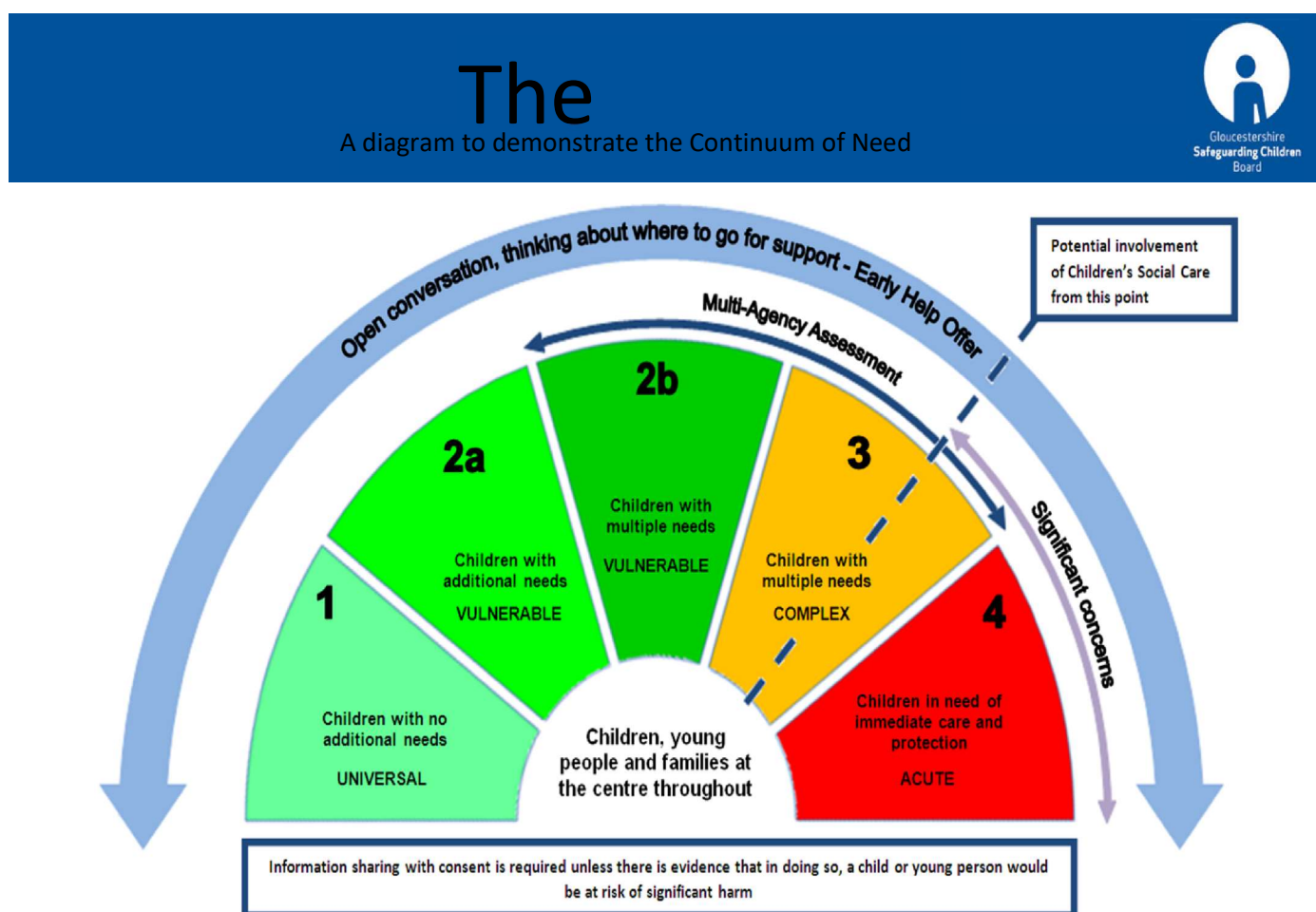
“Early years providers already focus on children’s personal, social and emotional development. The early years foundation stage framework supports early years providers to do this in an age appropriate way, through ensuring children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others views, know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes.”

Fundamental British Values

The fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs are embedded in my childminder practice and setting. We practice an inclusive setting and making the children aware of different ethnic origins is important. This will always be displayed within the setting, either through books, posters, different coloured dolls etc, and discussions and awareness.

There is also early help available from myself and the other members of staff. This can include help with eating, behaviour, speaking, or any other issues with their child/children where they feel that they need some additional support.

Below is an image of the levels of needs of a child. This enables us as staff to assess where we think the child is and can help make a referral quicker and easier. The document ‘Gloucestershire’s Levels of Intervention Guidance – Working Together to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children’ enables us to read in detail where we can put the child and which area they need to be in. And then the further next steps will go of the assessments we have made. I am also aware of the new revised document ‘what to do if you are worried a child is being abused.’



FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is also happening a lot more around us now and is something we are aware of and enable to do something about. It is an illegal, extremely harmful practice and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls, and we have an in depth document through the government which is in detail.