**[CHILD PROTECTION POLICY](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/familyandcommunity/childprotection/schools/examplepolicy) (November 2015)**

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY FOR SEGHILL FIRST SCHOOL**

### Introduction

Seghill First School fully recognises its responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

**Rationale**

Our school believes that pupils have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and that they cannot learn unless they feel secure. We also believe that all staff working in school have a right to personal support and guidance concerning the protection of pupils.

**There are four main elements to our policy:**

**PREVENTION** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to pupils and a whole school protective ethos.

**PROCEDURES** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse (as defined in Appendix I).

**UPPORT TO CHILDREN** who may have been abused.

#### SAFER RECRUITMENT AND MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF

Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the school including community education staff and governors. Teaching assistants, mid-day supervisors, secretaries as well as teachers can be the first point of disclosure for a child.

1. **PREVENTION** 
   1. We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps prevention. We will therefore raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills to keep them safe.
   2. The school will therefore:
      1. establish and maintain an environment and positive ethos where children feel secure, supported and are encouraged to talk, are listened to, can learn, develop and feel valued;
      2. ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
      3. include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSHE which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from
      4. abuse and the risk of radicalisation and to know to whom to turn for help;
      5. include, in the curriculum, material which will help children develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to child care and parenting skills
      6. access up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues such as preventing and tackling bullying; radicalisation; female genital mutilation (FGM);forced marriage; child sexual exploitation; domestic violence; tackling the challenge of identity based bullying; transphobic bullying by accessing current information on the Equalities and Schools pages of the NCC website

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=9323>

Further information in relation to the Prevent agenda, including contact details is accessed on the prevent pages

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=10822>

1. **PROCEDURES** 
   1. We will follow the procedures set out in Interagency Procedures produced by the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board, and in Working Together 2015
   2. The school will (in accordance with the Education Act 2002 and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015
      1. ensure it has a designated senior member of staff for child protection who has undertaken appropriate training. The training should be updated every two years. A second person is also trained to this level and is available as a ‘deputy’ should the designated person be unavailable.
      2. recognise the importance of the role of the designated safeguarding lead for child protection and arrange support and training.
      3. ensure every member of staff (including temporary and supply staff and volunteers, and on-site contracted services) and every governor knows:

* the name of the designated safeguarding lead and her/his role
* that they have an individual responsibility for referring child protection concerns using the proper channels and within the timescales set out in the NSCB procedures
* where the school’s Child Protection Procedures and the NSCB procedures are located
* ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school brochure

and

* has read and fully understood the content of KCSIE part A

2.2.4 provide regular training for all staff from the point of their induction, and updated every three years at a minimum, so that they know

* their personal responsibility,
* the NSCB procedures,
* the staff code of conduct
* the need to be vigilant in identifying signs of abuse
* how to support and to respond to a child who tells of abuse
* that their safeguarding duty includes the need to be vigilant to the risks of radicalisation.

2.2.5. undertake appropriate discussion with parents prior to involvement of another agency unless the circumstances preclude this.

2.2.6. notify the local children’s social care team if:

* it should have to exclude a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan (whether fixed term or permanently)
* if there is an unexplained absence of a pupil who is subject to a Child Protection Plan of more than two days duration from school (or one day following a weekend or as agreed as part any child protection or core group plan)

2.2.7 work to develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance and written reports at initial child protection conferences, core groups and child protection review conferences;

2.2.8. keep clear detailed written records of concerns about children (noting the date, event and action taken), even where there is no need to refer the matter to the locality team immediately;

2.2.9. ensure all records are kept secure and in locked locations;

2.2.10. ensure that all staff and volunteers recognise their duty and feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and that such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle blowing policies

1. **SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT RISK** 
   1. We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence or abuse may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and may not see the world as a safe place or see adults as safe people they can trust. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of self-blame.
   2. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. Nevertheless, when at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn.
   3. We recognise that some children actually adopt abusive behaviours and that these children must be referred on for appropriate support and intervention and will need to support them in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.
   4. The school will endeavour to support the child through:
      1. the content of the curriculum to encourage self esteem and self motivation
      2. the school ethos which (i) promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment (ii) gives pupils a sense of being valued
      3. the school's behaviour recognises the need to support vulnerable pupils in the school. All staff will agree on a consistent approach, which focuses on the behaviour of the child but does not damage the pupil's sense of self worth. The school will endeavour to ensure that the pupil knows that some behaviour is unacceptable but s/he is valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred;
      4. liaison with other services which support the pupil such as targeted support services, CYPS, local Children’s Social Care teams, Local Inclusion Support Teams (LISTs), school health etc;
      5. a commitment to develop effective and supportive relationships;
      6. recognition that children living in a home environment where there is domestic violence, drug or alcohol abuse are vulnerable and in need of support and protection;
      7. vigilantly monitoring children’s welfare, keeping records and notifying the local Children’s Services social care team **as soon as there is a concern;**
      8. transferring information of a pupil subject to a Child Protection Plan to a new school immediately should that child leave the school.
2. **ENSURING SUITABILITY OF ADULTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN**
   1. **The school governing body has a responsibility to ensure there is compliance with the** [Disclosure and Barring Service 2012](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about) **(previously Vetting and Barring Scheme 2009) and that all recruitment practices are in line with KCSiE (July 2015)**
   2. **The school will maintain a Single Central Register of all Safer Recruitment checks as outlined in “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, DfE July 2015**
   3. **The school will ensure ensure that the Headteacher and at least one member of the Governing body have completed appropriate Safer Recruitment training and that there is always an appropriately trained person on every interview panel**

* 1. The school will ensure that any disciplinary proceedings against staff relating to child protection matters are concluded in full even when the member of staff is no longer employed at the school and that notification of any concerns is made to the relevant authorities and professional bodies and included in references where applicable.
  2. The school will ensure that all staff and volunteers are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships with pupils and parents.
  3. The school will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that sexual relationships with pupils aged under18 are unlawful and will be referred to the Police and LADO for investigation (Sexual Offences Act 2003).
  4. The school will promote an e-safety policy and when appropriate seek guidance and support from the Local Authority e-safety officer (John Devlin).
  5. The school will promote responsible use of social networking sites by education staff. Please refer to [Circular letter (G10-11) 9th January 2011](http://ngfl.northumberland.gov.uk/esafe/documents/9-01-11%20Safer%20working%20practices%20for%20adults.doc)  
     (Safer Working Practices for Adults)
  6. For advice on dealing with indecent or potentially illegal images of children  
     please see Appendix E.

### OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

* 1. **Physical Intervention**
     1. Our policy on physical intervention by staff is set out in a separate document, is reviewed annually by the governing body, and is influenced by the DfE publication [‘Use of reasonable force 2013’](http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/u/use%20of%20reasonable%20force%20-%20advice%20for%20headteachers%20staff%20and%20governing%20bodies%20%20-%20final%20july%202013_001.pdf). We acknowledge that staff must only ever use physical intervention as a last resort, and that at all times it must be the minimal force necessary to prevent injury to another person.
     2. We understand that physical intervention of a nature which causes injury or distress to a child may be considered under child protection or disciplinary procedures.
  2. **Anti-Bullying**

Our policy on anti-bullying is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually by the governing body. We acknowledge that to allow or condone bullying may lead to consideration under child protection. Allegations of bullying are recorded separately from other disciplinary matters so we can clearly track their frequency and ensure they are properly investigated.

* 1. **Racist Incidents**

Racist incidents are recorded separately from other disciplinary matters so we can clearly track their frequency and ensure they are properly investigated. Incidents are reported annually to the governing body. Our policy on race equality is set out in a separate document and is reviewed annually by the governing body. We acknowledge that repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under child protection procedures.

* 1. **Health & Safety**

Our Health & Safety policy, set out in a separate document, is reviewed annually by the governing body. It reflects the consideration we give to the protection of our children both within the school environment and when away from the school when undertaking school trips and visits.

* 1. **Children with additional needs**

We recognise that statistically children with behavioural difficulties and disabilities are vulnerable to abuse. School staff who deal with children with profound and multiple disabilities, cerebral palsy, sensory impairment and or emotional and behaviour difficulties are particularly sensitive to signs of abuse.

# Confidentiality and Information Sharing

* + 1. Staff will ensure confidentiality protocols are adhered to and information is shared appropriately. If in any doubts about confidentiality, staff will seek advice from a senior manager or outside agency as required.
    2. The Head Teacher or designated person will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
    3. **All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.**
    4. All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child or an adult to keep secrets/confidences/disclosures.

### GOVERNING BODY CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

* 1. The governing body fully recognises its responsibilities with regard to child protection and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
  2. It will:
     1. designate a governor for child protection who will oversee the schools child protection policy and practice and champion child protection issues
     2. ensure an annual report is made to the governing body on child protection matters to include changes affecting CP policy and procedures, child protection training received, the number of incidents/cases (no names) and child protection in the curriculum
     3. ensure that this policy is annually updated and reviewed
  3. If the governing body provides extended school facilities or before or after school activities directly under the supervision or management of school staff, the school’s arrangements for child protection as written in this policy shall apply.
  4. Where services or activities are provided separately by another body the governing body will seek assurance that the body concerned has appropriate policies and procedures in place for safeguarding children and child protection and there are arrangements to liaise with the school on these matters where appropriate.
  5. If another organisation uses the school premises as part of a letting arrangement then the school will require copies of that organisation’s child protection procedures before the letting commences.

**Missing from Education**

To view Northumberland County Council’s policy on reducing the risk of children going missing from education please see Appendix D.

**Promoting E-safety in Northumberland Schools.**

A comprehensive booklet about e-safety and children is available to download on the [Safeguarding](http://northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=10604) area of the Northumberland County Council website and Northumberland’s [grid for learning](http://www.northumberlandvtle.net).

**Our designated member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues is:**

**Tracey Chappell - Head Teacher**

**Last trained – 05 May 2015**

**Deputising arrangements if absent or unavailable**

**Pamela Knowles – Deputy Head Teacher**

**Last trained – 03 July 2015**

**Governor responsible for Safeguarding**

**Kerry Hall**

**E-Safety**

Our E-Safety Co-ordinator is**:**

**Tracey Chappell – Head Teacher**

**Last trained – February 2014**

**Deputising arrangements if absent or unavailable**

**Sarah Kembrey- ICT lead**

**Last trained – February 2014**

**Safer Recruitment and Selection on-line training**

One member of the selection panel for staff appointments must have completed either the on-line or face-to-face safer recruitment training

**Tracey Chappell – Head Teacher completed 2008.**

**Safer Recruitment face to face training through accredited Safer Recruitment Consortium trainer**

**Tracey Chappell- headteacher Modules 1 and 2 of Safer Recruitment training completed 04 January 2016.**

**Modules 3 and 4 to be completed on Wednesday 20 January 2016.**

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A Contacts**

**Appendix B Standards for effective child protection practice in schools**

**Appendix C Frequently asked questions**

**Appendix D Children who go missing from education**

**Appendix E Dealing with indecent or potentially illegal images of children**

**Appendix F Dealing with allegations against people who work with children**

**Appendix G School Child Protection Files – a guide to good practice**

**Appendix H Further references**

**Appendix I Types of abuse**

**Appendix A**

Contacts

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advice Area** | **School Contact(s)** |
| Discussion about a CP or child welfare referral | Through school to children’s social care teams: |
| Advice on the operation of CP/Safeguarding Procedures , how to refer and where | Children’s Social Care Teams  Independent Reviewing Officers  01670 623965 |
| Lead roles in relation to responding to allegations against staff (including those not employed by school) | **Chris O’Reilly –** [**Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=a82d5aa7-5c95-4966-be72-425786916f6a&version=1) to deal with allegations against people who work with children (click on link to open info sheet and flow chart) – 01670 623979  Angie Dyer (01670 623118)  or Ian Harbottle (01670 623605) re school staff  Hugh Cadwallader (01670 623126) for centrally employed education staff |
| CP Allegations relating to school transport | Chris O’Reilly LADO (01670 623979) |
| Policy on use of restraint in schools | Jane Walker (01670 622734) |
| Recruitment and Selection/Vetting and Barring | Angie Dyer /Ian Harbottle/Hugh Cadwallader |
| Co-ordination of Training Requirements for Designated staff (CP) | Anne Lambert (01670 623159) |
| MAPPA – Risk Management re individuals who may pose a risk to children | Patrick Boyle/MAPPA (01670 624035) |
| Monitoring/Quality Assurance re operation of schools safeguarding arrangements | Jane Walker (01670 622734) |
| Children Missing from Education | Jill Varney (01670 624184) |

**Appendix B**

Standards for Effective Child Protection Practice in Schools

A school should measure its standards with regard to safeguarding against the expectations of the Ofsted framework for the inspection of schools (section 5) and the arrangements of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB).

In best practice, schools:

1. operate safe recruitment practices including ensuring appropriate DBS and reference checks are undertaken according to DfE guidance on safer recruitment, including the maintenance of a single central register of all staff (including volunteers) with DBS numbers and training record;
2. have an ethos in which children feel secure, their viewpoints are valued, and they are encouraged to talk and are listened to;
3. provide suitable support and guidance so that pupils have a range of appropriate adults to whom they can turn if they are worried or in difficulties;
4. work with parents to build an understanding of the school’s responsibility to ensure the welfare of all children and a recognition that this may occasionally require children to be referred to investigative agencies as a constructive and helpful measure;
5. are vigilant in cases of suspected child abuse, recognising the signs and indicators, have clear procedures whereby teachers report such cases to senior staff and are aware of local procedures so that information is effectively passed on to the relevant professionals;
6. monitor children who have been identified as at risk, keeping*, in a secure place*, clear records of pupils’ progress, maintaining sound policies on confidentiality, providing information to other professionals, submitting reports to case conferences and attending case conferences;
7. provide and support child protection training regularly to school staff every three years and in particular to designated teachers every two years to ensure their skills and expertise are up to date;
8. contribute to an inter-agency approach to child protection by developing effective and supportive liaison with other agencies;
9. use the curriculum to raise pupils’ awareness and build confidence so that pupils have a range of contacts and strategies to ensure their own protection and understand the importance of protecting others, taking into account sex and relationships guidance.

1. provide clear policy statements for parents, staff and children and young people on this and on both positive behaviour policies and the schools approach to bullying;
2. have a clear understanding of the various types of bullying - physical, verbal and indirect, and act promptly and firmly to combat it, making sure that pupils are aware of the schools position on this issue and who they can contact for support;
3. take particular care that pupils with additional needs in mainstream and special schools, who may be especially vulnerable to abuse, are supported effectively with particular attention paid to ensuring that those with communication difficulties are supported to express themselves to a member of staff with appropriate communicative skills;
4. have a clear policy about the handling of allegations of abuse by members of staff, ensuring that all staff are fully aware of the procedures and that they are followed correctly at all times, using the guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ 2015
5. have a written whole school policy, produced, owned and regularly reviewed by schools staff and which clearly outlines the school’s position and positive action in respect of the aforementioned standards.

**Appendix C**

Frequently Asked Questions

**What do I do if I hear or see something that worries me?**

*Tell the designated member of staff or head teacher.*

*If that is not possible, telephone Children’s Services (Children’s Social Care Locality Team) as quickly as possible. (In an emergency call 999 for the police)*

**What are my responsibilities for child protection?**

***To know the name of your designated member of staff for Child Protection*** *and who to contact if they are not available*

***To respond*** *appropriately to a child*

***To report*** *to the Designated Person*

***To record*** *your concerns - ‘Don’t do nothing’*

**Can I go to find someone else to listen?**

*No. You should never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.*

**Can I promise to keep a secret?**

*No! The information becomes your responsibility to share in order to protect. As an adult, you have a duty of care towards a child or young person*

**Can I ask the child questions?**

*No! Nor can you make judgements or say anything about the alleged abuser; it may be construed as contriving responses.*

*You* ***can*** *ask a child to repeat a statement.*

**Do I need to write down what was said?**

*Yes, as soon as possible, exactly what was said. (Date and signature)*

**Appendix D**

**Children who go missing from education**

[](http://www.haresideprimary.co.uk/docs/Child_protection_and_esafety/Appendix_D.pdf)

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/Safeguarding-children-information-for-parents-and.aspx#childsexualexploitation>

**Further information on a Child Missing from Education**

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area.

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School and college staff should follow the school’s or college’s procedures for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future. Schools should put in place appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. It is essential that all staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, FGM and forced marriage.

The law requires all schools to have an admission register and, with the exception of schools where all pupils are boarders, an attendance register. All pupils must be placed on both registers.

All schools must inform their local authority of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register where they:

• have been taken out of school by their parents and are being educated outside the school system e.g. home education;

• have ceased to attend school and no longer live within reasonable distance of the school at which they are registered;

• have been certified by the school medical officer as unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither he/she nor his/her parent has indicated the intention to continue to attend the school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;

• are in custody for a period of more than four months due to a final court order and the proprietor does not reasonably believe they will be returning to the school at the end of that period; or,

• have been permanently excluded.

The local authority must be notified when a school is to delete a pupil from its register under the above circumstances. This should be done as soon as the grounds for deletion are met, but no later than deleting the pupil’s name from the register. It is essential that schools comply with this duty, so that local Authorities can, as part of their duty to identify children of compulsory school age who are missing education, follow up with any child who might be in danger of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of abuse or neglect.

All schools must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school’s permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority (or in default of such agreement, at intervals determined by the Secretary of State)

**Appendix E**

**Dealing with indecent or potentially illegal images of children**

[](http://www.haresideprimary.co.uk/docs/Child_protection_and_esafety/Appendix_F.pdf)

**Appendix F**

**Dealing with allegations against people who work with children**

**What is a Local Authority Designated Officer or LADO?**

The role of the LADO was initially set out in the HM Government guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 and continues in Working Together 2015.

Appendix 5 outlines the procedures for managing allegationsagainst people who work with children, for example, those in a position of trust.

The LADO works within Children’s Services and should be alerted to all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

* behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child
* possibly committed a criminal offence against children, or related to a child
* behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

This role applies to paid, unpaid, volunteer, casual, agency and self‐employed workers and all adults outside the school workforce. They capture concerns, allegations or offences; this can include concerns about their own personal life, e.g incidents of domestic violence or child protection concerns relating to their own family.

If there is an allegation against the Headteacher then concerns should be reported directly to the Chair of Governors and LADO.

The LADO is involved from the initial phase of the allegation through to the conclusion of the case. They will provide advice, guidance and help to determine whether the allegation sits within the scope of the procedures.

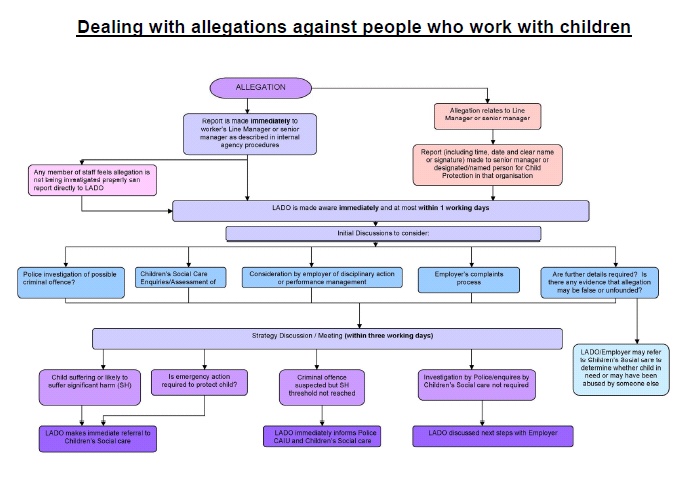
The LADO co‐ordinates information‐sharing with the right people and will also monitor and track any investigation, with the aim to resolve it as quickly as possible – see flow chart below.

The LADO for Northumberland is **Chris O’Reilly.**

Chris can be contacted by email or telephone:

**Chris.O’Reilly@northumberland.gcsx.gov.uk**

**01670 623979**

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**Appendix G**

**School Child Protection Files – a guide to good practice**

Child protection file should include:

* Copy of referral form
* Minutes of strategy meetings
* Any written submission to a child protection conference / child protection plan review
* Minutes of child protection conference / child protection plan reviews
* Log of phone calls / contact with parent/carer and professionals

All safeguarding concerns raised with the DP (whether or not they require referral to Children’s Social Care) should be recorded. This should include any action taken by the member of staff raising the concern and also any action taken by the designated person (eg talking to child individually, contacting parents, taking advice from other professionals etc). These records should be kept, as with a child protection file, securely, separate to the child’s main school file.

At the point of transfer to another school, child protection records should be transferred directly from DP to DP, separate to the child’s main school file.

The main school file should have a ‘flag’ which shows that additional information is held by the DP.

**Appendix H**

**Further references**

For further information, advice and guidance please visit the [Safeguarding](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3808) web area of the Northumberland County Council website.

This includes links to information relating to NCC guidance in relation to early help assessments, multi-agency threshold document, child sexual exploitation, social media guidance, private fostering

**Appendix I**

**Types of abuse and neglect**

**Abuse**: a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

**Physical abuse**: a form of abuse which 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 fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Emotional abuse**: the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child’s developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

**Sexual abuse**: involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect**: 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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.