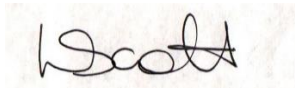




Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Person responsible for the Policy:	Lindsey Scott
Date Approved:	1st July 2019
Signed: 	Preschool Leader
Date Reviewed	
	July 2020, Dec 2021

At **Parkroyal Pre-school** the named personnel with designated responsibility for Child Protection and Safeguarding are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding Owner / Committee Chair
Lindsey Scott	Carol Barker	Lisa Hodgkinson

The named personnel with designated responsibility regarding allegations against staff/those working in the setting are:

Manager	Deputy Manager	Owner / Committee (in the event of an allegation against the Manager)
Lindsey Scott	Carol Barker	Lisa Hodgkinson

The named person with designated responsibility regarding Cared for children is:

Designated lead for cared for children	Lindsey Scott
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1. Introduction:

This policy demonstrates Parkroyal Pre-school's commitment and compliance with safeguarding legislation.

Early years and childcare providers have a duty under section 39(1)(b) of the Childcare Act 2006 to comply with the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (September 2021).

Early years and childcare providers must ensure that:

- staff complete safeguarding training that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity and in a timely and appropriate way; and
- they have a practitioner who is designated to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in every setting and who should liaise with local statutory children's services agencies and the CЕСCP as appropriate. This lead must complete child protection training. (Childminders must take the lead responsibility themselves.)

This policy demonstrates the setting's commitment and compliance with safeguarding legislation; it should be read in conjunction with:

- [Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership \(CESCP\) procedures](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021](#)
- [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021](#)
- [Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings May 2019](#)
- Setting online safety policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Staff use of mobile phones and Social Media Policy
- [Safeguarding children and protecting professionals in early years settings: online safety considerations](#)
- ["Preventing and Tackling Bullying" DfE July 2017](#)
- [Prevent Duty Guidance](#)
- [Mandatory reporting of FGM – procedural information](#)
- [Whistleblowing policy](#)

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners in this setting make sure their approach is child centred. This means that we consider, always, what is in the best interests of the child.

No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. Through our day-to-day contact with children and direct work with families, staff take notice of indicators of possible abuse or neglect and consult with Children's Services in Cheshire East (or in neighbouring authorities dependent upon the child's area of residence). We recognise that we

form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This responsibility also means that we are aware of the behaviour of staff in the setting; we maintain an attitude of **'it could happen here'** where safeguarding is concerned.

In our setting we ensure that:

- All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, are treated equally and have equal rights to protection
- All staff act on concerns or disclosures that may suggest a child is at risk of harm
- Children and staff involved in Safeguarding issues receive appropriate support
- Staff adhere to a Code of Conduct and understand what to do in the event of any allegations against any adult working in the setting
- All staff are aware of Early Help and ensure that relevant assessments and referrals take place
- All staff are aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be covered by one definition or label; they recognise that, in most cases, multiple issues will overlap with one another

Adults understand that where children display behaviour which worried adults, this might be a sign of possible abuse or trauma.

This policy is available on our setting website and printed copies of this document are available to parents upon request. We inform parents and carers about this policy when their children join our setting and through our setting newsletter.

The policy is provided to all staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) at induction, alongside our Staff Code of Conduct. All staff are trained to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures and we ensure that their knowledge on safeguarding issues are kept up to date.

In addition, whilst it is not statutory for early years settings it is considered good practice that all staff are provided with Part One of the statutory guidance *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2021) and are required to sign to indicate that they have read and understood it. The Designated Lead is able to support all staff in understanding their responsibilities and implementing it in their practice.

2.0 Aims of this document:

- To provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and in doing so ensure they meet their statutory responsibilities
- To ensure consistent good practice across the setting
- To demonstrate our commitment to protecting children
- To raise awareness of all staff of the need to safeguard all children and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse
- To emphasise the need for good communication between all members of staff in matters relating to child protection
- To promote safe practice and encourage challenge for poor and unsafe practice
- To promote effective working relationships with other agencies involved with Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, especially with Children's Social Care and the Police
- To ensure that all members of the setting community are aware of our procedures for ensuring staff suitability to work with children
- To ensure that staff understand their responsibility to support children who have suffered abuse in accordance with their agreed plan e.g., Child in Need/ Child Protection Plan

3.0 Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to all members of the setting community (including staff, children, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors, volunteers, agency staff and students, or anyone working on behalf of Parkroyal Pre-school.

This policy is consistent with Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP) child protection procedures.

4.0 Definitions of terms used in this document:

Child Protection: refers to the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children: refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Early Help: means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years.

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. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or by another child or children.

Staff: refers to all those working for or on behalf of the setting in either a paid or voluntary capacity, full time or part time. This includes parents, Owners, Committee members and Trustees. It also includes child-minding assistants or co-childminders working together in a child-minding setting.

Child: refers to all children who have not yet reached the age of 18. On the whole, this will apply to children from our own setting; however the policy will extend to visiting children from other establishments, teenage parents, students and children on work experience placements.

Parent: refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role e.g., carers, step-parents, foster parents, grandparents and adoptive parents.

5.0 Prevention:

Children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe is promoted. Staff support children in an age-appropriate way to recognise and manage risks in different situations, including when using the internet and social media, being able to judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable, recognising when pressure from others, including people they know, threatens their personal safety and well-being and supporting them in developing effective ways of resisting pressure.

The setting has established an ethos where:

- Children feel secure in a safe environment in which they can learn and develop.
- Children are encouraged to talk and are actively listened to. Staff consult, listen and respond appropriately to all children as per our receiving disclosures protocol.

- Clear risk assessments are in place and staff respond consistently to protect young children whilst enabling them to take age-appropriate and reasonable risks as part of their growth and development.
- Children know that there are adults in the setting whom they can approach if worried or in difficulty.
- Consistent approaches are in place to promote positive behaviour that is appropriate for individual children's stages of development.
- All adults recognise that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and are aware of the signs that children may be at risk of harm either within the setting or in the family or wider community outside the setting.
- Parents are partners in the setting and are encouraged to have an understanding of their obligations regarding Child Protection by intervention as and when appropriate
- Adequate signposting to external sources of support and advice is in place for staff, parents and children via our website and notice board.
- There is always a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL in the setting who has the seniority and skills, undertakes appropriate Safeguarding training, and is given the time to carry out this important role.
- All adults feel comfortable and supported to draw safeguarding issues to the attention of the manager and/or the Designated Safeguarding Lead and are able to pose safeguarding questions with "respectful uncertainty" as part of their shared responsibility to safeguard children.
- Staff are aware of the DfE guidance contained in '[What to do if you are worried a child is being abused](#)' – guidance for practitioners March 2015.
- We comply with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2018 and support the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP) Timely Support for Children and Families in Cheshire East. This document supports professionals to access the right help and support for children and their families at the right time.
- We systematically monitor children's welfare, keeping accurate records, speaking to parents and notifying appropriate agencies when necessary
- There is a commitment to the continuous development of staff with regard to safeguarding training.
- The setting has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against any member of staff or adult on site, including an allegation of abuse against the DSL/Manager
- The setting carries out an annual review of the Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- All staff are aware of setting guidance for their use of mobile technology and have discussed safeguarding issues around the use of mobile technologies and their associated risks.
- We ensure that appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place for devices with internet access.

6.0 Early Help:

All staff understand the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP) '[Continuum of Need](#)' and Child Protection procedures; to ensure that the needs of our children are effectively assessed; decisions are based on a child's development needs, parenting capacity and family & environmental factors. We ensure that the most appropriate referrals are made. We actively support multi agency planning for these children and, in doing so, provide information from the child's point of view; bringing their lived experience to life as evidenced by observations or information provided. Staff know how to pass on any concerns no matter how trivial they seem.

Staff members always act in the interests of the child and are aware of their responsibility to take action as outlined in this policy. In our setting staff are aware that they must be prepared to identify those children who may benefit from early help. The staff are alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Has a disability and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- has returned home to their family from care
- is a 'privately fostered child'
- is a refugee
- are unaccompanied asylum seeking children

If there are concerns about a child's welfare that do not meet the thresholds of child abuse the setting will consider whether the Early Help approach should be considered. Staff are aware that early identification of concerns and the use of Early Help to develop a multi-agency plan for the child can reduce the risk of subsequent abuse.

If a member of staff has concerns about a child they will need to decide what action to take. Where possible, there should be a conversation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to agree a course of action, although any staff member can make a referral to children's social care/consult with ChECS/contact the police. Other options could include referral to specialist services or early help services and should be made in accordance with the referral threshold set by the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP). In the first instance staff should discuss 'Early Help' requirements with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If early help is appropriate the Designated Safeguarding Lead will support the staff member in liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate.

As staff may be required to support other agencies and practitioners and parents/carers and children in an early help assessment; all staff are aware of the relevant assessments and appropriate support is given to them when they undertake an early help assessment.

Where early help and or other support is appropriate we ensure that the case is kept under constant review. If the child's situation doesn't appear to be improving we take appropriate action.

The children in our setting know that there are adults whom they can approach if worried or in difficulty.

There is adequate signposting to external sources of support and advice for staff, parents and children (notice board and website)

7.0 Early Help, Child in Need and Child Protection

In our setting we ensure that we follow Cheshire East's Multi-agency Practice Standards ([CE multi-agency practice standards 2016](#)) to ensure that our work, on behalf of our children, is of a consistently good standard. We use these standards to challenge other workers on behalf of children where the standards are not being met.

8.0 Concerns about a child- recording and reporting:

Our recording procedures are in line with those outlined in Cheshire East's "[Recording and Reporting Guidance](#)." 2020; the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Deputy Lead are aware of this document.

Where a member of staff is concerned that a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, they should report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or their Deputy, without delay. A written record should be made of these concerns as soon as possible following the disclosure/concern being raised; this must be on the same working day.

Where staff have conversations with a child who discloses abuse, they follow the basic principles:

- listen rather than directly question, remain calm
- never stop a child who is recalling significant events
- never ask a child if they are being abused
- make a record of discussion to include time, place, persons present and what was said (child language – do not substitute words)
- advise you will have to pass the information on
- avoid coaching/prompting
- never take photographs of any injury
- never undress a child to physically examine them
- allow time and provide a safe haven / quiet area for future support meetings
- At no time promise confidentiality to a child or adult

Staff are aware that they should not question the child; other than to respond with TED – ([Tell me what you mean by that](#), [Explain what you mean by that](#), [Describe that.](#)) Staff will observe and listen, but do not probe/ask any leading questions.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will obtain key information and agree relevant actions after making a timely assessment of the information.

We recognise that parents may hold key information about incidents/allegations therefore, **in the majority of situations; the Designated Safeguarding Lead will speak to the parents and gain their consent** to discussing the situation with others. Staff are aware that there will be very few instances where, to speak to the parents, could further endanger the child. In those situations they would still consult/refer, but would have clearly recorded reasons as to why they had not gained parental consent.

The following situations are the instances in which parental consent would not be gained prior to a referral:

- Discussion would impede a police investigation or social work enquiry
- Sexual abuse is suspected
- Organised or multiple abuse is suspected

- Fabrication of an illness is suspected
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is suspected
- Forced marriage is suspected
- Honour Based Abuse
- Extremism or radicalisation is suspected
- County Lines activities are suspected

Staff are also aware that, even in situations where the parent does not give consent, the best interests of the child are paramount and therefore, they would share their concerns. In addition, the referral will not be delayed if it has not been possible to contact the parents/carers.

A consultation will take place with Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) and/or the police immediately. Where a child lives in a different authority the Designated Safeguarding Lead follows the procedures for that authority.

Where possible we ensure that contacts with outside agencies are through the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their Deputy; however staff are aware that anyone can make this contact. Where a member of staff makes contact they ensure that they make the Designated Safeguarding Lead aware as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Records are held in the child's file. or reports relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection concerns are kept in a separate, confidential file, securely stored away from the child's main file. Authorisation to access these records is controlled by the Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

All records provide a factual, accurate, evidence-based account. Records are signed, dated and where appropriate, witnessed.

The setting ensures that safeguarding information, including Child Protection information, is stored and handled in line with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ensuring that information is:

- used fairly and lawfully
- for limited, specifically stated purposes
- used in a way that is adequate, relevant and not excessive
- accurate
- kept for no longer than necessary
- handled according to people's data protection rights
- kept safe and secure.

We ensure that information is transferred safely and securely when a child with a Safeguarding Record transfers to another setting. We also ensure that Key workers or social workers are notified where a child leaves the setting (as appropriate).

9.0 Safe Working Practices

Use of mobile phones, cameras and internet:

The setting and staff take safeguarding seriously and understand this policy is over- arching. We refer staff to the '*Staff use of mobile phones and Social Media Policy*', '*Code of conduct*' and '*[Guidance for Safer Working Practice for those working with children and young people in Education Settings May 2019](#)*'.

Personal mobiles and electronic devices:

Personal mobile phones and recording devices (tablets, cameras, laptops etc) are never used by staff at the setting.

If staff have personal phones or devices these are stored securely in the office and will be switched off or on silent whilst children are on the premises.

Electronic devices should be password protected so that content cannot be accessed by unauthorised users.

It is the responsibility of the staff member to ensure that there is no illegal or inappropriate content stored or used on their device when brought on to setting premises.

Mobiles belonging to visitors:

We request that mobiles belonging to visitors are either switched off and/or stored securely in the office on entering the setting.

See our separate policy on Mobile phones.

Dedicated setting devices:

To protect children we will ensure that the dedicated setting mobile phone: 07449311925 and Ipad:

- remains the property of Parkroyal Pre-school and in using them staff will follow the 'pre-school policy on safe usage.
- are stored securely when not in use.
- are protected with a password, is clearly labelled and its use is open to scrutiny. All staff are vigilant and alert to any potential misuse.
- are only used by allocated people who have a clear understanding of what constitutes misuse and know how to minimise the risk. These staff are responsible for their own behaviour regarding the use of the phone and avoid putting themselves into compromising situations which could be misinterpreted and lead to potential allegations.
- are not used in areas such as toilets, changing rooms, nappy changing areas and sleep areas.
- Do not detract from the quality of supervision and care of children.

Cameras photography and images:

Parkroyal Pre-school will obtain parents' and carers' consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in newspapers or publications).

Staff will ensure the setting's designated camera is only used in the setting and any images taken will not be emailed as it may not be secure. (In some instances, it may be required to seek parental permission to email images, but the potential risks must be made clear to parents).

Staff will ensure that children are appropriately dressed, and that they do not use the child's name with an image on a photograph.

Staff will ensure that parents personal cameras are not used to take photographs, video or audio recordings in our setting without prior explicit written consent from the setting, for example, for a special event, such as Christmas plays.

Staff will ensure that all images are stored securely and password protected. Where images are stored the setting will register with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), in accordance with data protection laws.

Where professional photographers are used DBS, references and parental consent will be obtained prior to photographs being taken.

Ensure 'acceptable use' rules regarding the use of cameras by children are embedded in practice.

Staff will ensure that the use of cameras, webcams and CCTV is closely monitored and open to scrutiny. (Information on the use of CCTV can be found on the ICO website)

Internet safety:

On setting equipment we ensure that appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place.

Working off setting premises:

Where staff take setting computer/digital equipment / or records in paper form, off setting site, they do so with the view that they abide by the staff data protection policy.

Staff are reminded that information, both in paper or electric form, is sensitive and protected under data protection and GDPR and should be safe and securely stored off the premises and during transport.

10.0 Allegations against staff

"Registered providers must inform Ofsted or their childminder agency of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working, or looking after children at the premises (whether the allegations relate to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere). Registered providers must also notify Ofsted or their childminder agency of the action taken in respect of the allegations. These notifications must be made as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the latest within 14 days of the allegations being made. A registered provider who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with this requirement, commits an offence".

Para.3.8. Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021

Support and advice is sought from Children's Services or the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO), and our Personnel/Human Resources advisor whenever necessary.

At Parkroyal Pre-school we recognise the possibility that adults working in the setting including; directly employed staff, volunteers and supply staff may harm children; that they may have:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that they are unsuitable to work with children
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

These can include incidents outside of the setting which do not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children

Any concerns of this nature, about the conduct of other adults, should be taken to the Manager without delay or, where that is a concern about the Manager, to the Chair of Committee/Owner and the LADO.

Staff are aware that this must be done on the same working day.

The setting will not internally investigate until instructed by the LADO.

We make all staff aware of their duty to raise concerns. Where a staff member feels unable to raise an issue or feels that their genuine concerns are not being addressed, other whistleblowing channels may be open to them. They have been made aware of those other channels of support see chain of support on the safeguarding notice board.

11.0 Safer Recruitment

The setting pays full regard to DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2021 and with reference to the 'Position of Trust' offence (Sexual Offences Act 2003). We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the setting who is likely to be perceived by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult. We do this by:

- Operating safe recruitment practices; including highlighting the importance we place on safeguarding children in our recruitment adverts and interview questions, appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and reference checks, verifying identity, academic and vocational qualifications, obtaining practitioner references, checking previous employment history and ensuring that a candidate has the health and physical capacity for the job. It also includes undertaking interviews and checking the Children's List and right to work in England checks in accordance with DBS and Department for Education procedures
- Ensuring that staff and volunteers adhere to a published code of conduct and other professional standards at all times, including after setting activities. Staff are aware of social media/ on-line conduct
- Ensuring that all staff and other adults on site are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationship with children and parents, following the Code of Conduct
- Requiring all staff to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings that may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at the setting). [Disqualification under the Child Care Act 2006 \(amended following the 2018 Regulations\)](#)
- Maintaining an accurate, complete, up to date Single Central Record

12.0 Staff training and updates:

In our setting there is a commitment to the continuous development of all staff, regardless of role with regard to safeguarding training:

All staff undertake Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership (CESCP) 'endorsed' Basic Awareness in Safeguarding and Child Protection training within the first term of their employment/placement. This training is refreshed every 3 years; to enable them to understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.

All staff receive safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

The Designated Lead and any Deputy attend Designated Safeguarding Lead Training to carry out the duties of the role and attend (CESCP) multi agency Safeguarding and Child Protection training.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead, and/or Deputy attend the Designated Safeguarding Leads Meetings held each term coordinated by the Early Start Team, therefore enabling them to remain up to date with Safeguarding practices and be aware of any emerging concerns/themes within Cheshire East. Due to current COVID-19 Pandemic, the Early Start and SCIES Team are reviewing

ways in which their training can be delivered in a different way and arrangements will be shared in due course.

The setting acknowledges serious case review findings and shares lessons learned with all staff to ensure no child falls through the gaps.

13.0 Cared for children (Looked after children)

In Parkroyal Pre-school we ensure that staff have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep Cared for Children safe as we are aware that children often become cared for as a result of abuse and/or neglect. We have identified a designated lead for our Cared for Children; this person works closely with the Virtual school.

14.0 Children with special needs and disabilities

We ensure that staff have knowledge and understanding of the additional barriers which can exist when recognising abuse and neglect in children with special needs/disabilities.

These barriers can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration
- children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by things like bullying – without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers

We aim to build the necessary skills in staff so that they can safeguard and respond to the specific needs of this group of children.

15.0 The use of 'reasonable force'

There are circumstances when it is appropriate for staff in settings to use reasonable force to safeguard children. The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions used by staff that involve a degree of physical contact to control or restrain children. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm, to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a child needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury. 'Reasonable' in these circumstances means 'using no more force than is needed'. Settings will need to ensure staff are appropriately trained, that all incidents must be reported and fully recorded in a different way to the way in which safeguarding incidents are reported and recorded. This should be detailed in the settings Behaviour policy.

16.0 Private Fostering

We recognise that our setting has a mandatory duty to report to the local authority when we become aware of, or suspect that, a child is subject to a private fostering arrangement. To aid our awareness we ensure that we establish parental responsibility for each and every child; we take steps to verify the relationship of the adults to the child when we register them.

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately (without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 years (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, in their own home, with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more.

A close family relative is defined as a 'grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt' and includes half-siblings and step-parents; it does not include great-aunts or uncles, great grandparents or cousins.

Parents and private foster carers both have a legal duty to inform the relevant local authority at least six weeks before the arrangement is due to start; not to do so is a criminal offence.

Whilst most privately fostered children are appropriately supported and looked after, we recognise that they are a potentially vulnerable group who should be monitored by the local authority,

particularly when the child has come from another country. In some cases privately fostered children are affected by abuse and neglect, or are involved in trafficking, child sexual exploitation or modern-day slavery.

Where a member of staff becomes aware of private fostering arrangements they are aware that they need to notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then speak to the family of the child involved to check that they are aware of their duty to inform Cheshire East. The setting would also inform Checs of the private fostering arrangements.

18.0 Children who need a social worker (Child in Need and Child Protection Plans)

Children may need a social worker due to safeguarding or welfare needs. Children may need this help due to abuse, neglect and complex family circumstances. A child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads will be aware of the fact a child has a social worker and will use this information so that decisions can be made in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and educational outcomes.

Where children need a social worker, this will inform decisions about safeguarding (for example, responding to absence or missing education where there are known safeguarding risks) and about promoting welfare.

19.0 Children requiring mental health support

We recognise that settings have an important role to play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils.

We acknowledge that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

We ensure we have specific training and clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems, including routes to escalate and clear referral and accountability systems, as outlined in our Mental Health and Well-being Policy. There is also a member of staff trained in Mental First Aid.

20.0 Educational Outcomes

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead ensures that staff know the children who have experienced or are experiencing welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues so that, as relevant, we know who these children are and understand their developmental progress; this means that we are able to make necessary adjustments to help these children to achieve. In this way we maintain a culture of high aspirations for this cohort. This includes children with a social worker.

21.0 Specific safeguarding issues

All staff have an awareness of safeguarding issues. They are aware that these safeguarding issues may not directly involve the child in our setting but could be happening to their siblings or parents. They are also aware that some issues could be happening in the lives of staff members.

Staff are supported in accessing and completing the relevant screening tools.

As a listening setting staff would pick up on these issues and would know how to identify and respond to:

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

- Neglect
- Drug/substance/alcohol misuse
- Child sexual exploitation / trafficked children
- Criminal Exploitation
- Extremism and Radicalisation
- Children missing from education
- Domestic abuse
- Peer relationship abuse/Teenage Relationship Abuse
- Risky behaviours
- Problematic and Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Sexual health needs
- Obesity/malnutrition
- Online grooming
- Inappropriate behaviour of staff towards children
- Bullying, including homophobic, racist, gender and disability. Breaches of the Equality Act 2010
- Self Harm
- Honour based abuse including - Female Genital Mutilation, Breast Ironing, Forced Marriage
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- Mental Health
- Modern Day Slavery
- Upskirting
- Children with family members in prison
- Homelessness

Staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug taking, alcohol abuse, domestic abuse, deliberately missing education and sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery) put children in danger.

An overview of specific safeguarding issues and our response are provided within appendix 6.

22.0 Committee Responsibilities

The Committee fully recognises its responsibilities with regard to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in accordance with Government guidance.

The Committee have agreed processes which allow them to monitor and ensure that the setting:

- has robust Safeguarding procedures in place
- operates safe recruitment procedures and appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and adults working on the setting site
- has procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against any member of staff or adult on site
- has a member of the Leadership Team who is designated to take lead responsibility for dealing with Safeguarding and Child Protection issues
- takes steps to remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses with regard to Safeguarding arrangements
- is supported by the Committee nominating a member responsible for liaising with the LA and/or partner agencies in the event of allegations of abuse against the Manager; this is the Chair.
- carries out an annual review of the Safeguarding policy and procedures
- carries out an annual Safeguarding Audit in consultation with the manager.

Finally:

Staff at Parkroyal Pre-school take the safeguarding of each and every child very seriously. This means that, should they have any concerns of a safeguarding nature, they are expected to report, record and take the necessary steps to ensure that the child is safe and protected. This is never an easy action, nor one taken lightly. They are aware that it can lead to challenge from parents/carers, but at all times staff have the child at the heart of all their decisions and act in their best interests.

Further information on our safeguarding and related policy documents and procedures is available on request from the Manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead.