

Safeguarding Procedure

Designated Safeguarding Officers is Niki Burns and the Management Team in their absence

At Spring Enterprises NW Ltd, we work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. We are fully committed to the promotion of each individual child's well-being and to be protected from significant harm. Staff working in the nursery have a duty of care towards the children attending and this duty brings with it the responsibility to ensure that all efforts are made to safeguard children from suspected and actual harm. Children attending the nursery have a right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive and to be safe and protected from harm. We have strong guidelines put into place which demonstrates clearly what steps are imperative to be taken when protecting children from harm.

The Legal framework for this policy

- **Children Act 1989 and 2004**
- **Childcare Act 2006 (amended 2018)**
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**
- **Data Protection Act 2018**
- **What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015**
- **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**
- **Prevent Duty 2015**
- **Equality Act 2012**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, in relation to this policy is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing the impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have best outcomes.

(Definition taken from the HM Government document 'Working together to safeguard children 2018).

Policy intention:

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Only recruit staff following the safer recruitment processes (**see appendix A**)
- Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image.
- Provide positive role models and develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct.
- Support staff to notice the softer signs of abuse and know what action to take.
- Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development.
- **Provide a safe and secure environment for all children.**
- Promote tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures, and communities.
- Help children to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making and how to promote British values through play, discussion, and role modelling.

- **Always listen to children.**
- Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need.
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate.

All staff members working at Spring Enterprises NW Ltd have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. All staff **MUST** complete online safeguarding training as part of their probationary period. All staff **MUST** attend face to face safeguard training every 12 months, this will be in the September beginning of the school term.

As a nursery, we ensure that all staff have a duty to be aware that abuse does occur in our society. This statement lays out the procedures that will be followed if we have any reason to believe that a child in our care is subject to welfare issues including physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect. Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well being of children in our care. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents/carers and staff to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention. All staff will work as part of a multi-agency team where needed in the best interest of the child.

All staff will be familiar with their own responsibilities to act immediately and appropriately upon any suspicions or concerns they may have about any child or member of staff at the nursery. The nursery will follow the procedures set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework and know the support is there from Liverpool Safeguarding Children's Board Guidance and as such will seek advice on all steps taken subsequently. The nursery has a duty to report any suspicions around abuse, under the children Act 1989 has an obligation to investigate such matters.

All staff/volunteers that are employed at Spring Enterprises NW Ltd will go through a thorough safer recruitment process and cannot start working at the nursery until there is a valid DBS check completed. All staff will annually sign declaration forms if they have anything to declare and will also be made to sign up to the update service to regularly update their information.

Staff must raise any concerns initially with the 'Designated senior member of staff for Safeguarding', who will discuss these concerns with the manager/registered person on a need-to-know basis and appropriate action will be considered. Staff responsibilities do not include investigating the suspected abuse and all related information must be kept in a locked filing cabinet. Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non-judgemental manner whilst investigations by the appropriate authorities are being carried out in the best interests of the child. It is the policy of the nursery to provide a secure and safe environment for all children from abuse. The nursery will therefore not allow an adult to be left alone who has not received their enhanced DBS check clearance and all our staff will receive safeguarding training. We know how important staff ratios are and ensure that we follow the legal requirements for the minimum numbers of staff present with the children at any time as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Officers;

- To update and review all policies regularly and to inform staff/parents of any changes
- To ensure all staff member receive safeguarding training and follow out such procedures if needs be, so they are able to recognise and know how to act upon the indicators that a child's welfare and safety may be at risk
- To ensure all staff members have access to and understand the Safeguarding Policy
- To keep clear and accurate records of documentation of events
- To ensure all parents/carers are informed of the Safeguarding Policy
- To keep up to date with any new legislations
- To make referrals and maintain good record keeping
- To liaise with outside agencies for additional support

Roles and Responsibilities of Staff Members;

- To have a clear understanding of safeguarding and the procedures that support this, also to be able to recognise signs of abuse/neglect and to know how to act upon these signs
- To continually develop their own knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding Procedures
- To always adhere always to confidentiality policy
- To report any concerns immediately to the designated safeguarding officer
- To support children in their care and to maintain the statutory ratios at all times
- Management team to carry out supervision, every 6 months this gives the staff member a chance to express their feelings any concerns about their key children/children in room are to be discussed. Management will raise any concerns about the member of staff performance and set actions to be met. Performance management is an ongoing process and staff performance is always monitored.

The nursery aims to:

- **Keep the child at the centre of all we do, providing sensitive interactions that develops children's well-being, confidence, and resilience. We will support children to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe, healthy and have positive relationships.**
- Ensure staff are trained right from induction to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, are alert to identify possible signs of abuse (including the signs known as softer signs of abuse), understand what is meant by safeguarding and are aware of different ways in which children can be harmed, including by other children through bullying or discriminatory behaviour.
- Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), isolated families and vulnerabilities in families, including the impact of the toxic trio on children and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's).
- Ensure that all staff feel confident and supported to act in the best interest of the child; maintaining professional curiosity around welfare of children and share information and seek the help that the child may need at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensure that all staff are familiar and updated regularly with safeguarding training and procedures and kept informed of changes to local/national procedures, including regular 7-minute safeguarding briefings.

- Make any safeguard referrals in a timely way, sharing relevant information as necessary in line with procedure.
- Ensure that children are never placed at risk while at the nursery.
- Identify changes in staff behaviour and act on this as per Staff Behaviour Policy
- Take appropriate action relating to allegation of serious harm or abuse against any person working in the nursery including reporting such allegations to Ofsted and other relevant authorities including the local authority and the **LADO**
07716702034/07841727309
- Ensure parents are fully aware of safeguarding policies and procedures when they register with the nursery and kept informed of all updates when they occur.
- Regularly review and update this policy with staff and parents where appropriate and make sure it complies with any legal requirements and any guidance or procedures by the Local Authority.

What is child abuse? Recognising concerns, signs and indicators of abuse

It is vital that all staff members have a sound understanding of spotting any indicators of abuse and that they are alert and assertive to the signs and symptoms of abuse. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Staff in the nursery recognise that child abuse can and does happen in all types of families. The different social and cultural backgrounds of the children do not constitute barriers to child abuse and in most cases children are abused by individuals known to them, rather than strangers. Child abuse can take many formats, but all instances can be broadly categorised under one of four headings; neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. The following identifies some possible manifestations of child abuse; however these lists are not exhaustive.

Physical Abuse

Physical signs may involve unexplained bruising in unlikely areas, facial bruising, hand/finger marks, bite marks, burns, lacerations or abrasions. Staff may notice certain behavioural signs that also indicate physical abuse such as a child that shy's away from physical contact, is withdrawn or aggressive towards others or their behaviour changes suddenly. It can also result when a parent deliberately causes the ill health of a child in order to seek attention through fabricated or induced illness.

Emotional Abuse

Physical signs of emotional abuse may include a general failure to thrive, not meeting expected developmental milestones and behaviourally a child may be attention seeking tells lies, have an inability to have fun, low self esteem, speech disorders, and be inappropriately affectionate towards others. It also may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of someone else such as Domestic Violence or Domestic Abuse. A parent/carer or authority figure is considered emotionally abusive when they are consistently hostile, rejecting threatening or undermining towards a child or other family members.

Neglect

Is the persistent failure to meet basic physical and psychological needs, which may result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. For example;

- Poor hygiene
- Untreated medical problems
- Emaciation or under nourishment
- Clingy and Emotional
- Lack of Stimulation, Social Contact or Education

Staff may notice behavioural signs such as a child who always seems to be hungry, is constantly tired or talks of being left alone.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Working together to Safeguard Children defines CES as " a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in an exchange for something the victim wants or needs, and/or for financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. CSE does not always involve physical contact; it can occur using technology.

We will always be aware of the possibility of CSE and the signs and symptoms this may manifest as. If we have concerns, we will follow the same procedures as for other concerns and we will record and refer as appropriate.

Sexual Abuse

Physical signs may include bruising consistent with being held firmly, discomfort in walking/sitting, pain or itching in the genital area, discharge, or blood on under clothes, or loss of appetite. Behavioural signs may include drawings or play showing indicators of sexual activity, sexually explicit language and knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, seductive behaviour towards others, poor self esteem and a child who is withdrawn.

However, when identifying any potential instances of abuse, staff must at all times be aware that children may demonstrate individual or combinations of the indicators detailed but may not be the subject of abuse. Individual or isolated incidents do not necessarily indicate abuse. However, staff should always remain vigilant and must not ignore warnings signs and must share any concerns they have with the designated safeguarding officers.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Criminal Exploitation can be described as when an individual, or group, takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur with using technology.

County Line

Reviewed June 2025

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs from big cities into smaller towns, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of 'deal line'. Customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect money. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation violence (including sexual) and weapons. Signs that a child may be involved in county lines could be a change in behaviour, suddenly having more money or possessions; change in friendship group, withdrawing from family life, sudden change in appearance; unexplained physical injuries, staying out late or a lack of interest in school and previous activities.

Contextual Safeguarding

As young people grow and develop, they may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their family. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. As part of our safeguarding procedures, we will work in partnership with parent/carers and other agencies to work together to safeguard children and provide the support around contextual safeguarding concerns.

Monitoring children's attendance

As part of our requirements under the statutory framework and guidance documents we are required to monitor children's attendance patterns to ensure they are consistent and no cause for concern.

Parents should please inform the nursery prior to their children taking holidays or days off, and all incidents of sickness absence should be reported to the nursery the same day, so the nursery management are able to account for a child's absence. This should not stop parents taking precious time with their children, by keeping us informed parents can help us to meet our statutory requirements and let us know that children are safe.

If a child is absent from nursery and we have not been informed, the nursery will give the parent/carer a courtesy call to ensure the child is safe and healthy. If parents are not contactable then the emergency contacts numbers listed will be used to ensure that all parties are safe and well. It is a parent's responsibility to keep emergency contact details updated and correct.

Where a child is part of child protection plan, or during a referral process, any absences will immediately be reported to the local authority children's social care team to ensure that the child remains safe and well.

Looked after children.

As part of our safeguarding practise, we will ensure our staff are aware of how to keep looked after children safe. To do this, we ask that we are informed of:

- The legal status of the child
- Contact arrangements for the biological parents
- The child's care arrangements and the levels of authority delegated to the carer by the local authority
- The details of the child's social worker and any other agencies involved
- Any child protection/care plans in place for the child

Reporting Procedures

All staff have a responsibility to report safeguarding concerns and suspicions of abuse. These concerns will be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) as soon as possible.

- Staff will report their concerns to the DSL **Niki Burns** (the deputy manager in her absence).
- Any signs of marks/injuries to a child or information a child have given will be recorded and stored securely.
- For children arriving at the nursery with an existing injury, a form will be completed on arrival with the parent/carer's explanation as to how the injury happened. Staff will have professional curiosity around any explanations given, any concerns around injuries will be reported.
- If appropriate, any concerns/or incidents will be discussed with the parent/carer and discussions will be recorded. Parents will have access to these records inline with GDPR and data protection guidelines.
- If there are queries/concerns regarding the injury/information given, then the following procedures will take place:

The DSL will:

- Contact Local Authority **0151 459 2606 CASS LIVERPOOL'S CHILDREN'S ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE** children's social care team to report concerns and seek advice immediately, or as soon as possible to do so. If it is believed, a child is in immediate danger we will contact the police **999**. If the safeguarding concern relates to an allegation against an adult working or volunteering with children, then the DSL will follow the reporting allegation procedure contacting the **LADO -Catherine Ballans 07716702034 and Pauline Trubshaw 07841727309**

Keeping children safe is our highest priority and if, for whatever reason, staff do not feel able to report concerns to the DSL or deputy they should call the Local Authority **0151 459 2606** Police **999/101** or NSPCC **0800 800 5000** and report their concerns anonymously.

Dealing with Disclosures & Recording Concerns

All staff will make an objective record of any observation or disclosure and include;

- Child's name
- Child's address
- Child's age and date of birth
- Date and time of the observation or the disclosure
- EXACT words spoken by the child/injuries or marks seen
- Name of person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time and the names of any other person present at the time

- Any discussion held with the parent/carer

These records are signed and dated and kept in a separate confidential file. All members of staff must know the procedures for recording information. It may be thought necessary that through discussion with all concerned the matter needs to be raised with OFSTED. Staff involved may be asked to supply details of any information they have of concerns about a child. The nursery expects all members of staff to co-operate with the Children's Services LADO and OFSTED in any way necessary to ensure the safety of the children. All staff will attend Safeguarding Training and will be asked to read the safeguarding policy and to sign and date to give management the understanding that they have read and understood the policy and that they are in an agreement to follow out procedures appropriately and professionally.

If a child discloses any information that may relate to abuse, staff must follow the appropriate steps to support the child disclosing the information;

- Allow the child to speak without interruption, accepting what is being said, remain calm at all times and thoroughly listen to the child
- Reassure and support the child
- React appropriately, supportive and caring. Do not promise confidentiality and do not ask any leading questions
- Staff are not to investigate any matters themselves as it may jeopardise any further professional investigation and potentially contaminate evidence
- Inform the designated safeguarding officers,
- There will always be always one designated officer on site. Appropriate measures will be put into place to support such allegations.

Informing Parents

Parents are normally the first point of contact. If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents will be informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of LSCB does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the parent or family member is the likely abuser, or where a child may be endangered by this disclosure. In these cases, the investigating officers will inform the parents.

Support to Families

Spring Enterprises NW Ltd takes every step possible to build up trusting and supportive relations among families, staff and volunteers within the nursery. The nursery will continue to welcome the child and family whilst enquiries are being made in relation to abuse in the home situation. Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non-judgemental manner whilst any external investigations are being carried out in the best interest of the child.

Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child, only if appropriate under the guidance of the LSBC with

the provision that the care and safety of the child is paramount. We will do all in our power to support and work with the child's family.

Managing Allegations or Concerns about Staff

We are aware of the possibility of allegations being made against members of staff or volunteers that are working or may come into contact with children whilst in our setting. Allegations will usually be that some kind of abuse has taken place.

If an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust whether they be members of staff or volunteers, this should be immediately brought to the attention of **Niki Burns**. In the case of an allegation being made against the designated safeguarding officer this should be brought to the immediate attention of the nursery proprietor **Phil Colligan**.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), OFSTED and the LSCB will then be informed immediately for this to be investigated by the appropriate bodies promptly.

These procedures will be followed;

Refer to the **LADO** immediately for advice and guidance and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Consider safeguarding arrangements of the child to ensure they are away from the alleged abuser.

Follow the advice from the LADO.

Consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation.

Inform OFSTED of allegation. **0300 123 1231**

Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty was organised by The Department of Education to ensure all childcare settings have an understanding and awareness to fulfil the prevent duty and it is essential that all staff can identify any children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. All children at Spring Enterprises NW Ltd will and always are protected from the risk of radicalisation, which has broadened our safeguarding duties. To safeguard all our children further, staff are expected to assess the risk of children potentially being drawn into terrorism which includes support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. To support this, all staff will be able to demonstrate a general understanding to the risks affecting young children in the setting. All staff who work at Spring Enterprises NW Ltd receives online training. All risks differ and affect children differently, varying from area to area and their age. Here at Spring Enterprises NW Ltd, staff are also aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as ISIL seek to radicalise children using social media and the internet. The channel programme is there to make a referral if a staff member was to identify a child at risk of radicalisation and being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for the nursery to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Female Genital Mutilation

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FGM, sometimes referred to as female circumcision, is when a girl's genitals (private parts) are altered or removed. It can cause long-lasting damage as well as ongoing emotional distress. Staff are made aware of potential signs of FGM Taking place such as "A child is going away for a special occasion". The operation is usually done by someone who does not have any medical training. Girls are given no anaesthetic, no antiseptic treatment and are often forced to keep still. The cutting is made using tools such as a knife, pair of scissors, scalpel, glass or razor blade. FGM can be extremely painful and dangerous. It can cause:

- Really bad pain
- Shock
- Bleeding
- Infections such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C
- Organ damage.

FGM Myths

Young people may be told that:

- FGM will increase your fertility
- it's just 'what's done'
- it's something your parents have had, so you should too
- FGM is the only way to get a husband
- Not having it would bring shame to the family.

But there is no religious or medical reason for FGM. Cultural reasons are sometimes given but FGM is abuse and a criminal offence. Children are not always told that it is a criminal offence, but they have the right to be safe and get help.

Radicalisation

- Radicalisation is the process of causing someone to become a supporter of terrorism or forms of extremism that lead to terrorism. The concept of radicalisation is typically closely associated with ISIS (also known as IS or ISIL) but it does have much older origins.
- Most vulnerable are:
 - Younger people from age 13 upwards
 - Those experiencing and identity or personal crisis
 - Individuals with feelings unmet aspirations or a sense of injustice
 - People with a need for adventure or excitement
 - Pre existing conviction that their religion or culture is under threat
 - Individuals who feel socially isolated and possibly suffering from depression
 - Those who have crime history of criminal behaviour.

How to spot Radicalisation

1. Being over secretive about their online viewing -this being one of the core ways in which ISIS is known to communicate.

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2. Displaying feelings of isolation or expressions of an 'us and them' mentality as sign of the sense of social isolation.
3. Becoming more argumentative or domineering in their viewpoints, being quick to condemn those who disagree and ignoring views that contradict their own.
4. Questioning their faith or identity
5. Downloading or promotion extremist content
6. Altered appearance change in style of dress/personal appearance
7. Abnormal routines, travel patterns or aspirations.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy

Legislation

The Modern Slavery Act received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. The act consolidates slavery and trafficking offenses and introduces tougher penalties and sentencing rules.

Background

Child trafficking and modern slavery is becoming a more frequent form of child abuse. Children are recruited, moved, transported, and then exploited, forced to work or are sold on.

Modern slavery is a term that covers:

- Slavery
- Servitude and forced or compulsory labour
- Human trafficking.

Victims of modern slavery are also likely to be subjected to other types of abuse such as physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. This policy should be used alongside the following policies to ensure all children, staff, parents, and visitors are fully safeguarded:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Whistleblowing
- Equality and inclusion

For an adult or child to have been a victim of human trafficking there must have been:

- *Action* (e.g. recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation)
- *Means* (threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, abuse of power or vulnerability) There does not need to be "means" for children as they are not able to give informed consent
- *Purpose* (e.g. sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, financial exploitation, illegal adoption, removal of organs).

Procedure:

When a concern is raised about slavery or trafficking then we will follow our safeguarding procedure. If the child (or adult) is at risk of immediate harm then the police will be called,

otherwise the local authority will be contacted, and the referral process will be followed as per the safeguarding procedure.

Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage policy

The UK's cross-government definition of domestic abuse is:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This abuse can encompass but is not limited to

- ✓ *psychological*
- ✓ *physical*
- ✓ *sexual*
- ✓ *financial*
- ✓ *emotional.*

The Serious Crime Act 2015 section 76 created a new offence of "controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship".

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 extended provisions to help stop domestic abuse and created the new offence of "causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult". This Act was amended in 2012 by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012 to include 'causing or allowing serious physical harm (equivalent to grievous bodily harm) to a child or vulnerable adult'.

Where domestic abuse is taking place in a child's home the child is at risk of harm, whether they witness the violence or not. This may take the form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. At **Spring Enterprises NW Ltd**, we ensure that if there are any signs or symptoms that domestic abuse may be occurring we act without haste and follow our main safeguarding / child protection policy

Signs may include:

- Visible signs of injury on the adult being abused
- Changes in behaviour of the adult(s) and child - e.g. the abused adult may become withdrawn, show low levels of self-esteem
- One adult being visibly worried about what their partner may say in a certain situation (e.g. if the child has become dirty or injured at nursery)
- One adult becoming scared of their partner
- Adults becoming isolated from their friends or family
- Signs of abuse in the child (as per the main safeguarding policy).

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As part of our duty to keep children safe we provide the following:
Support leaflets and numbers for females and males who may be experiencing domestic abuse

Honour Based Violence

'Honour' based violence (HBV) is a type of domestic abuse which occurs in the name of so called 'honour'. Some families believe that certain actions bring shame on the family and may react with punishment. This may be rejecting a forced marriage, having a relationship not approved by the family, wearing the wrong clothing, or wearing makeup. This can happen in families from a variety of cultures and countries and happens within the UK.

Signs of HBV may include changes in behaviour of the person undergoing the violence, changes in how they dress or act and in comments they make.

If signs of HBV are present in a parent or staff member within the nursery then we will act and follow our safeguarding policy to keep children safe in the environment as well as seeking support for the adult involved.

Forced Marriage

We are aware arranged marriages are part of some cultural practices. We also recognise there is a clear distinction between a marriage in which both parties are willing and able to give an informed consent to, and a marriage which is forced. Forced marriage is a criminal offence.

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not and/or cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved. If we become aware of a forced marriage occurring, then we will report it to the appropriate body. If the person is under the age of 18 then we will report it to the children's social care team as this is a child protection issue. We will follow our safeguarding reporting procedure.

Important numbers:

- Local authority children's social care team 0151 489 2606
- LADO Catherine Ballans 07716072034 and Pauline Trubshaw 07841727309
- Local authority referral team 0161 912 5125
- Local authority out of hours team 01942 486 042/ 01942 828 300
- Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership 233 0493
- Liverpool Children and Family Partnership 0800 0852022
- NSPCC 0808 800 500
- Local Safeguarding Children Partnership 0151 233 0493
- Local Early Help Services 0151 233 5772
- Ofsted 0300 123 1231
- Merseyside Police 0151 709 6010
- Emergency police 999
- Non-emergency police 101
- Government helpline for extremism concerns 020 7340 7264
- Child exploitation and online protection command (CEOP)
<https://www.ceop.polive.safety.uk/safety-centre/>

