**Safeguarding Policy Ladybirds Barnstaple Ltd**

 **October 2020**

**Purpose and Aims**

The purpose of Ladybirds Daycare’ssafeguarding and child protection policy is to provide a secure framework for the workforce in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of those children/young people who attend our setting. The policy aims to ensure that:

* All our children are safe and protected from harm.
* Other elements of provision and policies are in place to enable children to feel safe and adopt safe practices;
* Staff, children, visitors, volunteers and parents are aware of the expected behaviours’ and the settings legal responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our children.

**Ethos**

*‘Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right.’* Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Safeguarding at Ladybirds Daycare is considered everyone’s responsibility and our setting aims to create the safest environment within which every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Ladybirds Daycare recognises the contribution it can make in ensuring that all children registered or who use our setting have trusted adult/key worker with whom they feel safe and that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken. We recognise that this is especially important for children who are unable to communicate e.g. babies and very young children that they have strong attachment to their care givers. We will work to ensure children’s safety by working in partnership with other agencies i.e. Early Help, MASH, Social Care and the Police as well as seeking to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and other colleagues to develop and provide activities and opportunities that will help to equip our children with the skills they need. This will include materials and learning experiences that will encourage our children to develop essential life skills and protective behaviours.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989; and in line with the following:

* “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018” [[1]](#footnote-1)
* “What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused” 2015 [[2]](#footnote-2)
* “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2019 [[3]](#footnote-3)
* “The Prevent Duty” 2015[[4]](#footnote-4)
* “Information Sharing; Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers” 2018[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Responsibilities and expectations**

The management committee/proprietor takes seriously its responsibility under section 11 of the Children Act and duties under “working together” to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; to work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements exist within our setting to identify, and support those children who are suffering harm or are likely to suffer significant harm. We recognise that all staff and management have a full and active part to play in protecting our children from harm, and that the child’s welfare is our paramount concern.

The ***proprietor/Director*** should also ensure the following:-

* that the safeguarding and child protection policy is made available to parents and carers.
* that all staff and volunteers are properly checked to make sure they are safe to work with the children who attend our setting.
* that the setting has procedures for handling allegations of abuse made against members of staff (including the Room leaders/Manager) or volunteers.
* the safe and appropriate use of cameras, mobile phones, technology and on line equipment within the setting.
* the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on early years and childcare providers “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” (The Prevent Duty) is implemented, taking into account the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board ‘*Prevent’*  policies, protocols and procedures and ensuring the Fundamental British Values are implemented as stated in the EYFS.
* a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is appointed who has lead responsibility for dealing with all safeguarding issues in our setting.
	+ The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** is **Tanita Spear.** If they are not available, then contact
	+ The **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead** **Bryony Madge.** *(This/these persons /s can also be contacted with any safeguarding concerns).*
* Our procedures will be annually reviewed and up-dated.

**The responsibilities for the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) are:-**

* to ensure that all safeguarding issues raised in setting are effectively responded to, recorded and referred to the appropriate agency.
* To ensure all adults are alert to circumstances when a child and family may need access to early help
* All adults, (including volunteers) new to our setting will be made aware of this policy and the procedures for child protection, the name and contact details of the DSL and have these explained, as part of their induction into the setting.
* Be responsible for arranging the settings safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers who work with the children and young people. The DSL must ensure that the safeguarding training takes place at least every three years for all with regular updates during this period; which they can deliver in-house provided they are linked in to the support and quality assurance process offered by the Local Authority and the Devon Children and Families Partnership (formerly the Devon Safeguarding Children’s Board).
* to attend or ensure that a senior member of staff who has the relevant training and access to appropriate supervision, attends where appropriate, all child protection case conferences, reviews, core groups, or meetings where it concerns a child in our care and to contribute to multi-agency strategy discussions to safeguard and promote the child’s welfare.
* for ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones through the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the appropriate policies and procedures. This includes the on-line Safety Policy which includes Camera & Image Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, Acceptable Use Policy.
* Implementing the Fundamental British Vales.
* To ensure allegations regarding adults in the setting are effectively responded to and referred to the appropriate agency.

All Child Protection concerns need to be acted on **immediately**. If you are concerned that a child may be at risk or is actually suffering abuse, you must tell the DSL.

**All Adults, including the DSL, have a duty to refer all known or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant agency including MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) – Social Care, or the Police.** Where a disclosure is made to a visiting staff member from a different agency, e.g. Early Years Consultants, Health Visitors, it is the responsibility of that agency staff to formally report the referral to the Setting’s DSL in the first instance and to follow their organisations procedures. Any records made should be kept securely on the Child’s Protection file.

**Recognising concerns, signs and indicators of abuse**

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. For our setting it includes such things as child safety, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, visits, intimate care and internet safety etc. However, it must be acknowledged that technology itself will not present the greatest risk, but the behaviours of individuals using such equipment will. The witnessing of abuse can have a damaging effect on those who are party to it, as well as the child/adult subjected to the actual abuse, and in itself will have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of the child

The table below outlines the four main categories of abuse as defined by the Department of Health ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ document 2010. Adults should be aware that that the possible indicators are not definitive list although children’s poor behaviour maybe a sign that they are suffering harm or that they have been traumatised by abuse, some children may present these behaviours for reasons other than abuse. However, it is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the **need to consult further.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Abuse**  | **Possible Indicators**  |
| **Neglect** The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairments 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 food, clothing and shelter; protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision; ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.  | Obvious signs of lack of care including: Problems with personal hygiene; Constant hunger; Inadequate clothing; Emaciation; Lateness or non-attendance at the setting; Poor relationship with peers; Untreated medical problems; Compulsive stealing and scavenging; Rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking; Running away; Low self-esteem.  |
| **Physical Abuse** May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child  | Physical signs that do not tally with the given account of occurrence conflicting or unrealistic explanations of cause repeated injuries delay in reporting or seeking medical advice.  |
| **Sexual Abuse** Forcing or enticing a child 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, penetrative or non-penetrative acts and also includes involving children in watching pornographic material or watching sexual acts.  | Sudden changes in behaviour Displays of affection which are sexual and age inappropriate Tendency to cling or need constant reassurance Tendency to cry easily Regression to younger behaviour – e.g. thumb sucking, acting like a baby Unexplained gifts or money Depression and withdrawal Wetting/soiling day or night Fear of undressing for PE  |
| **Emotional Abuse** The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.  | Rejection Isolation child being blamed for actions of adults child being used as carer for younger siblingsaffection and basic emotional care giving/warmth, persistently absent or withheld.  |

**Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities**

All children have the right to be safe yet research shows that disabled children are three times more likely to be abused. A number of factors have been identified as to reasons why these children are more at risk (see bullet points) and as setting we are aware of these and endeavour to protect all our children.

* Assumptions that nobody would abuse or neglect disabled children …. fact *they are 3 times more likely to be abused.*
* Disabled children are well protected because of all the helpers they have… *fact this puts them at greater risk.*
* Disabled children are not attractive to abusers…*fact Abusers are usually driven by desire to dominate and some disabled children can be seen as particularly helpless.*
* You can’t expect disabled children to be as well dressed and turned out as other children……*when loved disabled children as well turned out as other children*.
* Disabled children won’t be believed… and will not be able to give evidence in court…

*Many abusers think this – but with the right help and support all disabled children can tell or show what happened to them.*

* If the child cannot speak s/he cannot communicate…*A wide range of communication systems and equipment is available and skilled people to help children communicate.*
* Abuse doesn’t have the same effect on disabled children…*Fact The betrayal of trust and hurt is as acutely felt as by any other child*

Reproduced by: Scottish Government Ministerial Government Working Group (2014) Child Protection and Disability Toolkit

**Prevent**

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015

The Act places a Prevent duty on settings to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

Settings subject to the Prevent Duty will be expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas

* Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
* Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
* Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board -Devon Children and Families Partnership.
* Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children and families at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
* Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in the setting

**What to do if you are concerned**

If a child makes a disclosure or allegation of abuse against an adult or other child or young person, it is important that you:

* Stay calm and listen carefully.
* Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling you.
* Do not investigate or ask leading questions. Ask
* Let them know that you will need to tell someone else.
* Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret.
* Inform your Safeguarding Designated Officer as soon as possible.
* Make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position using the setting safeguarding record log forms.

If you are concerned that a member of staff or adult in a position of trust poses a danger to a child or young person or that they might be abusing a child or young person you should report your concerns to the DSL. Where those concerns relate to the DSL however, this should be reported to the ***Director*** using the settings ‘Whistle blowing’ policy.

**Whistleblowing**

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so. All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues via our whistleblowing and complaints policies and appropriate advice will be sought from the LADO or Safeguarding Team where necessary.

**Managing Allegations**

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 and young people whilst in our setting. Allegations will usually be that some kind of abuse has taken place. This could include inappropriate behaviour displayed by members of staff or other persons working with the children such as inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements their role and responsibilities, inappropriate sharing or images. They can be made by children and young people or other concerned adults. Allegations are made for a variety of reasons:

* Abuse has actually taken place.

* Something has happened to the child that reminds them of a past event – the child is unable to recognize that the situation and people are different; Children can misinterpret your language or your actions.
* Some children recognise that allegations can be powerful and if they are angry with you about something they can make an allegation as a way of hitting out.
* An allegation can be a way of seeking attention.

If an allegation is made against an adult in a position of trust whether they be members of staff or volunteers this should be brought to the immediate attention of the DSL who will advise the ***Director.*** In the case of the allegation being made against the DSL this will be brought to the immediate attention of the ***Deputy Safeguarding Lead***. The DSL will need to discuss with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) the nature of the allegations made against the adult, in order for the appropriate action to be taken. This may constitute an initial evaluation meeting or strategy discussion depending on the allegation being made.

***The Director***  will need to:

* Refer to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) immediately and follow up in writing within 48 hours. Consider safeguarding arrangements of the child or young person to ensure they are away from the alleged abuser.
* Contact the parents or carers of the child/young person if advised to do so by the LADO.
* Consider the rights of the staff member for a fair and equal process of investigation.
* Advise Ofsted of allegation within 14 days of the allegation
* Ensure that the appropriate disciplinary procedures are followed including whether suspending a member of staff from work until the outcome of any investigation if this is deemed necessary.
* Act on any decision made in any strategy meeting.
* Advise the Disclosure and Barring Service where a member of staff has been removed, dismissed or would have been removed had they a result of the allegations being founded.

A copy of “**What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused, Advice for Practitioners”** booklet is kept with this policy. This sets out the guidelines on dealing with incidents, disclosures and the procedures that must be followed.

**Confidentiality**

* We recognise that all matters relating to child protection are confidential.
* The DSL will disclose personal information about a child or young person to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.
* However, all staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
* All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets which might compromise the child’s safety or well-being or that of another.
* We will always undertake to share our concerns with parents and guardians and their consent is sought in accordance with Early help and MASH procedures unless doing so would increase the risk of harm to the child. If in doubt regarding sharing information with parents and guardians, we will consult with the MASH consultation team.
* We will take no names consultations with our MASH team to discuss concerns we may have, but we understand that if they then ask for a name we will disclose those details and it will become an enquiry.

**Training**

All members of staff and volunteers will have access to safeguarding training at least every three years in line with Devon Safeguarding Children’s Board (DCFP). We will also, as

part of our induction, issue information in relation to our Safeguarding policy and any policy related to safeguarding and promoting our children/young people’s welfare to all newly appointed staff and volunteers. There will also be regular safeguarding updatesatLadybirds Daycare(e.g. staff meetings, supervisions, in staff bulletins)

Our DSL’s will undertake further safeguarding training, Group 3 DCFP Multi-agency Safeguarding course or Group 3 Refresher Courses. This will be undertaken at least every three years which updates their awareness and understanding of the impact of the wide agenda of safeguarding issues. This will support both the DSL and deputy DSL to be able to better undertake their role and support the setting in ensuring our safeguarding arrangements are robust and achieving better outcomes for the children in our setting. This includes taking part in multi-agency training in addition to safeguarding training.

Our ***Director*** will have access to safeguarding training and our Named ***DSL*** for Safeguarding will also undertake additional awareness training at least every three years. They will also be advised to undertake additional training to support their employers’ role in Handling Allegations against adults who work with children and young people, including our staff and volunteers.

Our safeguarding arrangements are reported on an annual basis to our ***Director*** and our Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually, in order to keep it updated in line with local and national guidance/legislation.

We will include our Safeguarding Policy in our settings prospectus/website and will post copies of our policy throughout the setting. We are also able to arrange for our policy to be made available to parents whose first language is not English, on request.

**Mobile Phones, cameras & E-Safety**

Ladybirds Daycarehas policies and procedures in place with regard to the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting and on visits etc***.*** Please refer to Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Use.

**Related Setting Policies**

‘safeguarding covers more than the contribution made to child protection in relation to individual children.  It also encompasses issues such as child health and safety, bullying and a range of other issues, for example, arrangements for meeting the medical needs of children, providing first aid, setting security, drugs and substance misuse, etc.

This policy will cross reference to related setting policies and other protocol:

Behaviour Management (Including guidance on positive-handling)

Confidentiality

Drugs and alcohol

Staff Use of Mobile and Electronic Devices

Health and Safety

Discrimination

Equality and Diversity

Whistle Blowing

Safe Recruitment

*The above list is not exhaustive and as new policy guidance and legislation develops within the remit of Safeguarding we will review and update our policies and procedures as appropriate and in line with the Devon Children Families Partnership and Local Authority.*

**Useful Contacts**:

Devon Children Families Partnership <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/>

South West Child Protection Procedures <http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>

Devon Early Years and Childcare Service [www.devon.gov.uk/eycs](http://www.devon.gov.uk/eycs)

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency [www.ceop.org.uk](http://www.ceop.org.uk)

NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/>

**Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** **0345 155 1071**

email: **mashsecure@devon.gov.uk**

**MASH Consultation Line** 0345 155 1071 (ask for Consultation Line)

**Early Help co-ordination centre** 0345 155 1071 (ask for Early Help)

<https://www.dcfp.org.uk/early-help/>

**Out of hours for CYPS (Social Care):**

5pm -9am and at weekends and public holidays, please contact:

Emergency Duty Service 0845 6000 388 (low-rate call)

**Police Central Referral Unit**: 0845 605 116

**EYCS Consultation Service**:

If you have concerns about a child but are unsure whether to make a MASH enquiry. The numbers are:

Nikki Phillips – Locality Manager for Exeter and East Devon 01392 383000

Melissa Filby – Locality Manager for Northern and Mid Devon 01392 383000

Susan Bolt - Locality Manager for South West Devon 01392 383000

**DCFP**

DCFP Office: 01392 383000

**Child Protection Chairs and Local Authority Designated** **Officers** for managing allegations against staff:

Allegations against staff LADO Referral Co-ordinator 01392 384964

<https://www.dcfp.org.uk/training-and-resources/managing-allegations/>

**Devon’s Domestic Abuse Helpline** 0345 155 1074

**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – MASH**

* Manages contacts and enquiries received from any source (usually CYPS and Police 121A reports)
* Develops a document recording the concern information and all other available information in the Hubs within agreed timescales and an Early Years and Families manager makes an informed decision using all of the available information.
* Develops concern information into an Early Years and Families referral if services are required under section 17 or section 47 of The Children Act 1989
* Liaises with the Early Response Service for children and young people who need services but do not meet The Children Act 1989 threshold
* Provides consultation to agency enquirers about thresholds, appropriate action to be undertaken and services.

The Hub contributes to improved outcomes for safeguarding children because it has the ability to swiftly collate and share information held by the various agencies and to provide a multi-agency risk assessment of each case for ‘actual or likely harm’.

**Current Safeguarding Issues**

***The following Safeguarding issues are all considered to be child Protection issues and should be referred immediately to the most relevant agency. The issues featured below are linked to guidance and local procedures which can be found on the South West Child Protection Procedures at http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/ (Direct links to the policies listed below are included where available).***

**Internet Safety**

Children and young people can be exploited and suffer bullying through their use of modern technology such as the internet, mobile phones and social networking sites. In order to minimize the risks to our children and young people Ladybirds Daycarewill ensure that we have in place appropriate measures such as security filtering, and an acceptable use policy linked to our Social Networking policy. We will ensure that staff are aware of how not to compromise their position of trust in or outside of the setting and are aware of the dangers associated with social networking sites.

Our E-safety policy will clearly state that mobile phone, camera or electronic communications with a child or family at our setting is not acceptable other than for approved setting business. Where it is suspected that a child is at risk from internet abuse or cyber bullying we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

**Child sexual exploitation (CSE)** The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people, (or a third person or persons) receive something, (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affections, gifts, money) as a result of them performing and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidations are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child’s or young person’s limited availability of choice, resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. (DCSF 2009) Link to guidance[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Good practice – Individuals** Recognise the symptoms and distinguish them from other forms of abuse

* Treat the child/young person as a victim of abuse
* Understand the perspective / behaviour of the child/young person and be patient with them
* Help the child/young person to recognise that they are being exploited
* Collate as much information as possible
* Share information with other agencies and seek advice / refer to Social Care

**Good practice – Organisations**

* Ensure robust safeguarding policies and procedures are in place which cover CSE
* Promote and engage in effective multi-agency working to prevent abuse
* Work to help victims move out of exploitation
* Cooperate to enable successful investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators

**Peer on Peer Abuse**

Children can abuse other children and this referred to as ‘peer on peer abuse’ , this can take many forms including those listed in the table above as well as bullying, sexual violence and harassment etc. Staff will raise concerns when there are issues of peer on per abuse and DSL will consider what support might be needed for both the victim and perpetrators**.**

**Forced marriages (FM)**

FM is now a specific offence under s121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that came into force on 16 June 2014.

A FM is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties, and where duress is a factor Forced marriage is when someone faces physical pressure to marry (e.g. threats, physical violence or sexual violence) or emotional and psychological pressure (e.g. if someone is made to feel like they’re bringing shame on their family). This is very different to an arranged marriage where both parties give consent.

FM is illegal in England and Wales. This includes:

* taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
* marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they’re pressured to or not)

**Under-age Marriage** In England, a young person cannot legally marry until they are 16 years old (without the consent of their parents or carers) nor have sexual relationships.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures.

FGM is illegal in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Other than in the excepted circumstances, it is an offence for **any person (regardless of their nationality or residence status)** to:

* perform FGM in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 1 of the Act);
* assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (section 2 of the Act); and
* Assist (from England, Wales or Northern Ireland) a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a **UK national or permanent UK resident** (section 3 of the Act).

**Ritualistic Abuse** Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children). What should never be considered is the use of any physical or psychological violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is abusive and will result in the criminal conviction of those using this form of abuse even if the intention is to help the child.

**Sexually Active under Eighteen years old** It is acknowledged by those working with young people that most young people under the age of 18 will have an interest in sex and sexual relationships. The Protocol for Sexually Active Young People under 18 years old has been designed to assist those working with children and young people to identify where these relationships may be abusive, and the children and young people may need the provision of protection or additional services.

**Safer Recruitment and Selection** It is a requirement for all agencies to ensure that all staff recruited to work with children and young people are properly selected and checked. At Ladybirds Daycarewe will ensure that we have a member on every recruitment panel who has received the appropriate recruitment and selection training. That all of our staff are appropriately qualified and have the relevant employment history and checks to ensure they are safe to work with children in compliance with the Key Safeguarding Employment Standards.

**Honour Based Violence** Honour based violence’ is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community’. It is important to be alert to signs of distress and indications such as self-harm, absence from setting, infections resulting from female genital mutilation, isolation from peers, being monitored by family, not participating in setting activities, unreasonable restrictions at home. Where it is suspected that a child/young person is at risk form Honour based violenceLadybirds Daycarewill report those concerns to the appropriate agency in order to prevent this form of abuse taking place.

**Trafficked Children** Child trafficking involves moving children across or within national or international borders for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation includes children being used for sex work, domestic work, restaurant/ sweatshop, drug dealing, shoplifting and benefit fraud. Where Ladybirds Daycareis made aware of a child is suspected of or actually being trafficked/exploited we will report our concerns to the appropriate agency.

**Domestic Abuse**

The Government defines domestic abuse as **“Any *incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”****.*

Staff need to understand what is required of them if children are members of the household where domestic abuse is known or suspected to be taking place. Our policy includes action to be taken regarding referrals to the Police and Children and Young People’s Services and any action to be taken where a member of staff is the alleged perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse. At Ladybirds Daycare we will follow our safeguarding policy and report any suspected concerns regarding Domestic Abuse to the relevant agency.

**Private Fostering** Private fostering is an arrangement made between the parent and the private foster carer, who then becomes responsible for caring for the child in such a way as to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.

A privately fostered child means a child under the age of 16 (18 if a disabled child) who is cared for and provided with accommodation by someone other than:

* A parent.
* A person who is not a parent but has parental responsibility.
* A close relative.
* A Local Authority.

 for more than 28 days and where the care is intended to continue. It is a statutory duty for us at Ladybirds Daycare to inform the Local Authority via MASH where we are made aware of a child or young person who may be subject to private fostering arrangements.

**Coronavirus Addendum- June 2020**

We will continue to follow our comprehensive safeguarding policy and procedure.

In addition, we will follow the specific government Covid-19 safeguarding in schools document and early years settings: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers)

Some of which is detailed below:

**Child protection policy**

Schools and colleges and early year’s settings will have an effective child protection policy in place reflecting business as usual. This should already have been updated to reflect the response to coronavirus. The planned return of more children is an appropriate time to consider a further review (led by a DSL or deputy), wherever possible reflecting that staff and volunteers may identify new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they see them in person following partial school closures

* what staff and volunteers should do if they have any concerns about a child, including new concerns where children are returning
* the continued importance of all staff and volunteers acting and acting immediately on any safeguarding concerns, including new concerns where children are returning
* reflecting (where resources allow) that DSLs (and deputies) will have more time to support staff and children regarding new concerns (and referrals as appropriate) as more children return
* reflecting the importance of ensuring relevant safeguarding and welfare information held on all children (including returning children) remains accurate. Schools and colleges (led by the DSL or deputy) should be doing all they reasonably can to ask parents and carers to advise them of any changes regarding welfare, health and wellbeing that they should be aware of before a child returns
* DSL (and deputy) arrangements
* peer on peer abuse - given the different circumstances schools and colleges are operating in, a revised process may be required for managing any report of such abuse and supporting victims (the principles as set out in part 5 of [KCSIE](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2) should continue to inform any revised approach)
* what staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children (the principles in part 4 of [KCSIE](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2) will continue to support how a school or college responds to any such concerns)
* the approach to protecting vulnerable children (see below for further details on vulnerable children)
* what arrangements are in place to keep children not physically attending the school or college safe, especially online and how concerns about these children should be progressed (see below for further details covering online safety)
* any updated advice received from the local safeguarding partners. DSLs (or deputies) should be leading the school or college’s input into the local arrangements
* any updated advice received from local authorities regarding children with education, health and care (EHC) plans, the local authority designated officer and children’s social care, reporting mechanisms, referral thresholds and children in need
* the continued importance for school and college staff to work with and support children’s social workers, the local authority virtual school head for looked-after and previously looked-after children and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners

It is important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the new policy and are kept up to date as it is revised. The revised policy should continue to be made available publicly.

**Designated safeguarding leads (DSLs)**

As more children return, it is expected that schools and colleges will have a trained DSL (or deputy) available on site. However, it is recognised that in exceptional circumstances this may not always be possible, and where this is the case there are two options to consider:

* a trained DSL (or deputy) from the school or college can be available to be contacted via phone or online video - for example working from home
* sharing trained DSLs (or deputies) with other schools or colleges (who should be available to be contacted via phone or online video)

Where a trained DSL (or deputy) is not on site, in addition to one of the above options, a senior leader should take responsibility for co-ordinating safeguarding on site. This might include updating and managing access to child protection files, liaising with the offsite DSL (or deputy) and as required liaising with children’s social workers where they require access to children in need and/or to carry out statutory assessments at the school or college.

Whatever the scenario, it is important that all school and college staff and volunteers have access to a trained DSL (or deputy) and know on any given day who that person is and how to speak to them.

The DSL (or deputy) should provide support to teachers and pastoral staff to ensure that contact is maintained with children (and their families) who are not yet returning to school or college. Where possible staff should try and speak directly to children to help identify any concerns. Staff should be encouraged (where possible) to make calls from the school or college site via school or college phones and devices. Where staff use personal phones to make calls, they should withhold their personal number.

It is acknowledged that DSL training is unlikely to take place during this period (although the option of online training can be explored). For the period coronavirus measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

DSLs (and deputies) should continue to do what they reasonably can to keep up to date with safeguarding developments, such as via safeguarding partners, newsletters and professional advice groups.

Every school and college will face unique challenges at this time, including as they welcome back more children. Where reasonably possible and where relevant, the DSL (or deputy) should consider these challenges in a child protection context and reflect them in the child protection policy as appropriate.

**Identification of vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children for the purposes of continued attendance during the coronavirus outbreak are those across all year groups who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and it is determined, following risk assessment ([risk assessment guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance)), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
* have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued attendance. This might include children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children’s social care services, adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET (‘not in employment, education or training’), those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers and others at the provider and local authority’s discretion

Read more in the guidance on [vulnerable children and young people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people).

Local authorities have the key day-to-day responsibility for delivery of children’s social care. Social workers and virtual school heads will continue to work with vulnerable children in this difficult period. School and college staff (supported by the DSL or deputy) should continue to work with and support children’s social workers, virtual school heads and any other relevant safeguarding and welfare partners to help protect vulnerable children.

**Attendance**

Vulnerable children attendance is expected, where it is appropriate for them (that is, where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, and/or following a risk assessment for children with an EHC plan), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending. Vulnerable children – regardless of year group – that have not been attending in the recent period are expected to return to nursery, early years, school or college provision where this would now be appropriate for them to do so. We expect educational providers and other relevant partners to work with and support the relevant families and pupils to return to school or college, where attendance is appropriate. A brief summary of attendance expectations across the different groups of vulnerable children is as follows:

* for vulnerable children who have a social worker, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on [households with possible coronavirus infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) and [shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)
* for vulnerable children who have an education health and care (EHC) plan, attendance is expected where it is determined, following [risk assessment](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance), that their needs can be as safely or more safely met in the educational environment
* for vulnerable children who are deemed otherwise vulnerable, at the school, college or local authority discretion, attendance is expected unless the child/household is shielding or clinically vulnerable (see the advice set out by Public Health England on [households with possible coronavirus infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) and [shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as clinically extremely vulnerable](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)

Read more in the guidance on [vulnerable children and young people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people).

Schools and colleges should continue to notify social workers where children with a social worker do not attend. They should also continue to follow up with any parent or carer whose child has been expected to attend and doesn’t. To support the above, schools and colleges should take the opportunity when communicating with parents and carers to confirm emergency contact numbers are correct and ask for any additional emergency contact numbers where they are available.

Parents and carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend educational provision.

Schools and colleges should resume taking their attendance register from 1 June and continue to complete the online Educational Setting Status form which gives the Department for Education daily updates on how many children and staff are attending.

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)