



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Date of review: January 2025

Date of next review: January 2026

Reviewed by: Lee Smith, Operations Manager

Board approval date: 27 February 2025

Approved by: Lisa Carter



Policy Purpose

Good Shepherd Services is committed to safeguarding the well-being of all individuals, including both adults and children, who come into contact with our services.

Although we do not work with children and young people directly, we understand our responsibilities to ensure we think about children's wellbeing. We have a Think Family policy that recognises that the safety and well-being of adults are often closely linked to the safety and well-being of their children and other family members and a standalone adult at risk policy.

However, we wanted to have a one page children policy to support staff and ensure they are comfortable to be inquisitive in asking questions when something doesn't feel right and confident in dealing with any concerns regarding children.

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding legislations in the UK for children include:

- The Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017, which provide the framework for safeguarding and child protection in England.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, which set out the guidance and procedures for safeguarding children in education settings.
- The Education Act 2002, which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1992, which outlines the rights of children to be protected from harm, abuse and exploitation.
- The Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010, which protect children from discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

What is Child Abuse?

Child Abuse is anything another person does that could cause harm to someone under 18.

There are different types of abuse:

PHYSICAL ABUSE: When someone is hurting a child. Things like: – Hitting, smacking, and slapping, scalding, burning, spitting or throwing things, shaking, or suffocating. When children accompany parents/ guardians you may notice unusual bruises/ marks, nervous behaviours or social interactions with the parent/ guardian

SEXUAL ABUSE: This is when someone touches a child, says things that makes a child feel uncomfortable, makes or encourages a child to watch things that make them feel uncomfortable. When children accompany parents/ guardians you may notice unusual marks or bruises, uncomfortable social interactions with adults or unusual use of language for a child.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE: This is when a person intentionally makes a child feel bad about themselves, ignores them or puts them down. Some examples are: Putting a child in a dangerous situation, calling them names, being aggressive and violent to other people in their family for example a child living in an abusive household. When children accompany parents/ guardians you may notice the child being withdrawn, uncomfortable interactions with parents/ guardians or language the parent/ guardian uses towards the child.

NEGLECT: This is when a child may not have the things they need to be living appropriately. Things like: Food, clean clothes, medicine. It also includes things like protection from harm and dangerous people. When children accompany parents/ guardians you may notice the child being underweight/ malnourished and even not in school when they are scheduled to be.

If you think a child or young person might be experiencing the above things you should raise with:

Lee Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead, 07984542416

Chris Cole, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, 07399027633

Dawn Walls, Safeguarding Officer, 07957162481

Tina Lane, Safeguarding Officer, 07514492740

Lucie Tait Harris, Queens Building Community Shop, 07956 805054

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