

GetSetGO is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse and harm.

The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur.

The Club's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Club's designated Child Protection Officer (CPO) is Abi Bedford. The CPO coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (eg Social Care, the HSCB and Ofsted)

### **Forms of child abuse and neglect**

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect a child from harm. The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. These types of abuse are more often found in combination than alone.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of emotional abuse:

- Children who are excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong;
- Parents or carers who withdraw their attention from their child, giving the child the 'cold shoulder';
- Parents or carers blaming their problems on their child; and
- Parents or carers who humiliate their child, for example, by name-calling or making negative comparisons.

**Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of physical abuse:

- Children with frequent injuries;
- Children with unexplained or unusual fractures or broken bones; and
- Children with unexplained:
  - o bruises or cuts;
  - o burns or scalds; or
  - o bite marks.

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, or non-contact activities such as showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of sexual abuse:

- Children who display knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age;
- Children who use sexual language or have sexual knowledge that you wouldn't expect them to have;
- Children who ask others to behave sexually or play sexual games; and
- Children with physical sexual health problems, including soreness in the genital and anal areas, sexually transmitted infections or underage pregnancy.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Some children do not recognize themselves as victims of exploitation and believe they are acting voluntarily. It is important to remember that a child cannot consent to their abuse.

Some of the following signs may be indicators of sexual exploitation:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;
- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends;
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant;
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol;
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and
- Children who regularly miss school or education or don't take part in education.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. Neglect can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment

Some of the following signs may be indicators of neglect:

- Children who are living in a home that is indisputably dirty or unsafe;
- Children who are left hungry or dirty;
- Children who are left without adequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat;
- Children who are living in dangerous conditions, i.e. around drugs, alcohol or violence;
- Children who are often angry, aggressive or self-harm;
- Children who fail to receive basic health care<sup>4</sup>; and
- Parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their children are ill or are injured.

**Signs of child abuse and neglect**

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include:

- significant changes in a child's behavior
- Children who have ill-fitting/dirty clothes
- Children who talk about being left at home alone or with strangers
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members/friends without obvious reason
- Children who have unexplained bruises
- Children who are reluctant to go home
- Children who talk about running away or worry about younger siblings
- deterioration in a child's general well-being
- unexplained bruising or marks
- comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home or that a girl may have been subjected to (or is at risk of) female genital mutilation and/or
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any other person. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

### **If Abuse is suspected or disclosed**

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
- Listen to the child but not question them
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- Record the incident as soon as possible (see Logging an incident below).

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly

### **Logging an incident**

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded on the Logging a concern form as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident causing concern
- Date and time at which the record was made
- Name and date of birth of the child involved
- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the Club's CPO who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral. All referrals to Social Care will be followed up in writing within 48 hours. If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact Social Care directly.

### **Allegations against staff:**

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

- The allegation will be recorded on an Incident record form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.
- The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted.
- The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon their advice. Any telephone reports to the LADO will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.
- If appropriate the Club will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

### **Promoting awareness among staff**

The Club promotes awareness of child abuse issues through its staff training. The Club ensures that:

- Its designated CPO has relevant experience and receives appropriate training
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff

- All staff have a copy of this Safeguarding Children policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect
- All staff are aware of their statutory duties with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse
- Staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept in the staff cupboard.
- Its procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)' and staff are familiar with the guidance in 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015)'.

### **Use of mobile phones and Cameras**

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents' permission. Only the club camera will be used to take photographs of children at the Club, except with the express permission of the manager. Neither staff nor children may use their mobile phones to take photographs at the Club.

### **The Prevent Duty**

In order to comply with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, GetSetGo promotes the 4 British Values that are designed to keep children safe and promotes their welfare. It is our duty to raise awareness, recognise and support both children and adults. This includes awareness of the expression of extremist views. There is no single way to identify an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology, but at GetSetGo we; manage risks, notice changes and patterns in behavior and if we are concerned, we act proportionately, by referring through TAS and the Channel Panel. We use the Notice (recognise), check and share method. Staff at GetSetGo are trained to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and how to build resilience. By promoting fundamental British Values and debating controversial issues in a safe environment, allows children to understand how they can influence and participate in safe decision making, recognise pressures, know how to manage difficult situations and where to get help. We provide opportunities to converse with the children, listen to them and this rapport and trust that is built in a safe heaven is essential in safeguarding effectively. Teaching British Values in a Personal, Social, Health education (PSHE) environment such as GetSetGO is beneficial as we aim to teach children the transferable skills of; resilience, determination, questioning, self-esteem and confidence. It is our Duty of Care to safeguard children.

### **The 4 British Values GetSetGo continuously promote are:**

- Democracy: Making decisions together allows questions to be valued.
- The Rule of Law: Collaborating with children to create rules and codes of behavior. Understanding the rules and consequences of actions.
- Individual Liberty: Freedom for all, reflecting personal differences and understanding we are all free to have different opinions. Self-directed and free play. Celebrating festivals and beliefs.
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs: Treat others as you want to be treated.

**Contact numbers**

CHILDRENS SERVICES/SOCIAL SERVICES - 0300 123 4043

CHILDRENS SERVICES/SOCIAL SERVICES- OUT OF HOURS (SOOHS) - 0300 123 4043

HERTFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS BUREAU- HSCB - 01992 588757

LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER- LADO - **01992 555420**

CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION UNIT -CAIU - 01707354000

TARGETED ADVICE SERVICE –TAS - 01438 737511

OFSTED – 0300 123 1231

NSPCC- 0808 800 500

POLICE – Emergency 999 or Non- emergency 101

ANTI TERRORIST HOTLINE – 0800 789 321

NSPCC RADICALISATION HELPLINE- 0808 500 8000

Policy adopted by GetSetGo June 2017. To be reviewed June 2018.

*Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2017): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Child Protection [3.4-3.8] and Suitable People [3.9-3.13], Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment [6.2]. What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015), Working Together To Safeguard Children (2015), updated 16/02/17.*