



Registered charity number: 1175863

Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Downright Special is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with a care and support need, engaged in the breadth of its activities. Downright Special believes that everyone has the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Downright Special is a charity committed to supporting children and young people with Down syndrome in Hull and East Riding. We're here to assist families and professionals in all aspects care, education, health and inclusion.

Referring concerns about a child

The Downright Special designated safeguarding lead will support anyone referring concerns or allegations to Hull or East Riding Safeguarding Children's Partnership or the Police Protecting Vulnerable People Unit on 101 or 999 if a child is at immediate risk.

All Child Safeguarding policies should be read in conjunction with Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership guidelines and procedures.

<https://hullscp.trixonline.co.uk/>

See also relevant Downright Special policies:

- Health & Safety Policy, Risk Assessments
- Adult Safeguarding Policy
- Recruitment & Selection of Staff / Volunteers Policy
- Complaints & Disciplinary Policy
- Diversity & Equality Policy
- Data protection & Information Sharing Policy
- Photography & Filming Policy

This child protection policy was written: 08/12/2015

Last Review date: 22/11/24

Next Review date: 22/11/25

Downright Special has a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people they come into contact with. The need for guidelines and procedures is important to ensure that this is done with understanding and clarity.

The person with lead responsibility for safeguarding within the organisation is:

KATIE BEWELL

The lead for safeguarding has completed statutory and additional training to fulfil this role (list training including dates)

Vulnerability of Babies (Nov 21)

Neglect Training (Nov 21)

Makaton Safeguarding Workshop (April 21)

Safeguarding Adults (July 22)

Level 2 Safeguarding Children (Jan 23)

Domestic Abuse Awareness (May 23)

Safeguarding Children with a Disability (Oct 23)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (June 24)

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1. Statement of intent

All staff and volunteers are made aware of this policy and the process for reporting concerns. Downright Special will aim to protect and safeguard children and young people by:

- Ensuring that all staff / volunteers are carefully selected, trained and supervised. All personnel will undergo enhanced DBS checks. Training will be provided regarding child protection issues and specifically the child protection policy.
- Having a Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure and regularly reviewing and updating this in line with national and local policy developments. This will be the responsibility of the designated safeguarding lead, **Katie Bewell**.
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers are familiar with the Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedure. The relevant documentation will be easily accessible to all staff and volunteers.
- Ensuring that staff / volunteers attend appropriate Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Child Protection Training. Training will be monitored by the designated safeguarding lead.
- Ensuring that Downright Special has a designated safeguarding lead and that all staff and volunteers are aware of the named person and process of reporting concerns to them.
- Assessing the risk that children and young people may encounter and taking steps to minimise and manage this. Children are not seen alone by staff or volunteers. Any additional visitors to the group (for example, teachers and fundraisers) are accompanied at all times by a designated member of the Downright Special staff. External doors to the building utilised by Downright Special for group sessions are locked and casual visitors are not permitted on the premises during such sessions. All adults permitted to be in the building wear a coloured lanyard to identify them as staff, volunteers or visitors. All those attending Downright Special events are requested to sign in and out of the building. Photographs of children are only taken with the written consent

of parents by photographers and agreed by the charity manager in accordance with the Board of Trustees.

- Letting parents, carers, children and young people know how to report concerns about a child, young person, staff member or volunteer or complain about anything that they are not happy about. Details of how to contact the designated safeguarding lead are displayed at group sessions and in this policy which is on the Downright Special website.
- Giving children, young people, parents and carers information about what Downright Special does and what they can expect. There are a series of leaflets available documenting the services provided. The website also carries such details. Parents will be made aware of our child protection policy and this will be revisited annually or when any changes are made. Our Policy is also available on our website.
- Encouraging families to access the support network of Downright Special and providing relevant advice, advocacy and information.
- Within the educational activities of Downright Special, providing children with a means of communication through the use of improved speech, signing and symbols, to enable them to discuss their feelings and worries.

2. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

Defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

3. Child protection

Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

4. Children

Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.

5. Children in Need

A 'child in need' is a child who is thought to need extra help from children's services if they are to achieve or maintain 'a reasonable standard of health or development'. This is defined in law (Section 17 of the Children Act 1989) and includes all disabled children.

6. Early Help

Children and their families will experience a range of needs at different times in their lives. All children require access to high-quality universal services (such as schools, health visitors and nurseries), but some will also benefit from extra support to address additional needs. In Hull and the East Riding this support is called Early Help.

Early help is support for children of all ages that improves a family's resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. It is not an individual service, but a system of support delivered by local authorities and their partners working together and taking collective responsibility to provide the right provision in their area. (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)

In Hull, the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH) offer a range of support for practitioners who need advice, guidance or advice with decision making when working with children and families with additional needs.

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/children-and-families/family-support/early-help-family-support>

In the East Riding, The East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership (ERSCP) oversees and co-ordinates all of the work undertaken within the East Riding to keep children safe. It is a partnership between the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Humberside Police and the NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board working alongside other relevant agencies.

<https://www.erscp.co.uk/>

All staff and volunteers should understand the importance of intervening early, and know how to access additional support for children, young people and families through the Early Help Hubs.

The consent of parents / carers (and children depending on their age and understanding) should always be sought before making a request for support from Early Help services.

If at any time the concerns about the child become more serious, they should be referred to:

Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership <https://www.hullscp.co.uk/> A report can be made here <https://www.hull.gov.uk/children/worried-child> or using the telephone numbers on page 14

East Riding Safeguarding Children's Partnership

<https://www.erscp.co.uk/>

A report can be made using the telephone numbers here <https://www.erscp.co.uk/reporting-concerns/>

7. Definitions of harm

Abuse

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which 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.

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 a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person 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, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment 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 adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

This is not an exhaustive list and it must be recognised that it is not the role of staff / volunteers to make an assessment of whether children or young people have suffered harm. Staff / volunteers / as well as the designated safeguarding lead have a duty to report any concerns about harm in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Guidelines and Procedures.

Other specific sources of harm

Staff / volunteers also need to be aware of other specific sources of harm which may include:

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM),
- Abuse Linked to Spiritual, Cultural or Religious Beliefs,
- Radicalisation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Abuse or misuse of images of children

8. Recognition of harm

The harm or possible harm of a child may come to your attention in a number of possible ways;

- Information given by the child, his/ her friends, a family member or close associate.

- The child's behaviour may become different from usual, be significantly different from the behaviour of their peers, be bizarre or unusual or may involve 'acting out' a harmful situation in play.
- An injury which arouses suspicion because;
 - It does not make sense when compared with the explanation given or is not in line with their developmental stage such as a pre-mobile baby with bruising
 - The explanations differ depending on who is giving them (e.g., differing explanations from the parent / carer and child).
 - The child appears anxious and evasive when asked about the injury.
- Suspicion being raised when a number of factors occur over time, for example, the child fails to progress and thrive in contrast to his/her peers.
- A young person having contact with an individual or individuals who have been identified as presenting a risk or potential risk of harm to children.
- The parents' behaviour before the birth of a child may indicate the likelihood of significant harm to an unborn child, for example substance misuse, or, previous children removed from their care.

9. Additional factors to consider:

- i. **Substance misuse** -Drug and/or alcohol misuse refers to: illegal drugs, alcohol, solvents and the misuse of prescription and over the counter medications, the consumption of which is either dependent use, or use associated with having harmful effects on the individual, other members of their family or the community. Practitioners should be alert to and consider multiple factors of concern and how this might lead to cumulative risk of harm to a child; but also what strengths and support are in place and how this minimises risk in their assessments.
- ii. **Mental Health** -means that a parent or carer has a diagnosable mental health condition. This can include: depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, personality disorders. Mental health problems can vary in severity and impact differently on people's day to day lives. This depends on

parents' individual circumstances and the support they receive. Parental mental health problems might occur alongside other stressful life experiences. (NSPCC)

iii. **Domestic Abuse**

Legal definition of domestic abuse (NCVO) Domestic abuse involves any single incident or pattern of conduct where someone's behaviour towards another is abusive, and where the people involved are aged 16 or over and = are, or have been, personally connected to each other (regardless of gender or sexuality).

The abuse can involve, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional
- violent
- threatening
- controlling
- coercive behaviour.

'Personal connection' means the individuals concerned:

- are due to be, are currently, or have been, married or civil partners to each other
- are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
- are, or have been, parents (or had a parental relationship) to the same child
- are relatives (the Act gives further definitions of 'relatives')

Children are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse between two personally connected individuals who are aged 16 or over.

- iv. **Bullying** - Bullying is when individuals or groups seek to harm, intimidate or coerce someone who is perceived to be vulnerable (Oxford English Dictionary, 2021). It can involve people of any age, and can happen anywhere - at home, school or using online platforms and technologies (cyberbullying). This means it can happen at any time. Bullying encompasses a range of behaviours which may be combined and may include the behaviours and actions we have set out below.
- v. **Verbal abuse:**
- name-calling
 - saying nasty things to or about a child or their family.
- vi. **Physical abuse:**
- hitting a child
 - pushing a child
 - physical assault.
- vii. **Emotional abuse:**
- making threats
 - undermining a child
 - excluding a child from a friendship group or activities.
- viii. **Cyberbullying/online bullying:**
- excluding a child from online games, activities or friendship groups
 - sending threatening, upsetting or abusive messages
 - creating and sharing embarrassing or malicious images or videos
 - 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
 - voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
 - setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
 - creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

Bullying and cyberbullying can be a form of discrimination, particularly if it is based on a child's disability, race, religion or belief, gender identity or sexuality. (NSPCC)

- ix. **Young carers** - Children and young people under 18 who provide or intend to provide care assistance or support to another family member are called young carers. They carry out on a regular basis, significant or substantial caring tasks and assume a level of responsibility, which would usually be associated with an adult. The person receiving care is often a parent but can be a sibling, grandparent or other relative who is disabled, has some chronic illness, mental health problem or other condition connected with a need for care support or supervision. Young carers can be particularly vulnerable and under the Children and Families Act (2014) are entitled to an assessment of their own needs by the local authority.

10. Acting on concern

No single practitioner can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances so effective sharing of information between practitioners, local organisations and agencies is essential for early identification of need, assessment, and service provision to keep children safe. Rapid reviews and child safeguarding practice reviews have highlighted that missed opportunities to record, understand the significance of, and share information in a timely manner can have severe consequences for children (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)

(For more information about information sharing and effective communication see appendices 1 and 2)

11. Seeking Medical Attention

If a child has a physical injury and there are concerns about abuse;

If medical attention is required then this should be sought immediately by phoning for an ambulance, attending the Emergency Department or Minor Injury Unit depending on the severity of the injury. You should then follow the procedures for referring a child protection concern to Local Authority Children's Social Care.

Any safeguarding concerns should be shared with the Ambulance staff/ Medical and Nursing staff in order that they can appropriately assess and treat the child, and share relevant information.

12. Managing a disclosure or allegation

- Listen to what the child has to say with an open mind.
- Do not ask probing or leading questions designed to get the child to reveal more.
- Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make note of the discussion, taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, as well as what was said.
- Do not ask children to write a statement.
- Never promise the child that what they have told you can be kept secret. Explain that you have responsibility to report what the child has said to someone else.
- The designated lead for child protection within your organisation must be informed immediately.

13. Referring concerns about a child

The Downright Special designated safeguarding lead will support anyone referring concerns or allegations to Hull or East Riding Safeguarding Children's Partnership or the Police Protecting Vulnerable People Unit on 101 or 999 if a child is at immediate risk.

Downright Special Office (01482) 420160

Hull

Referrals during normal office hours (01482) 448879

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) (01482) 300304

East Riding

Referrals during normal office hours (01482) 395500

Emergency Duty Team (out of office hours) (01482) 393939

If the designated safeguarding lead is in any doubt about making a referral it is important to note that advice can be sought from Local Authority Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH). The name of the child and family should be kept confidential at this stage and will be requested if the enquiry proceeds to a referral.

It is not the role of the designated safeguarding lead to undertake an investigation into the concerns or allegation of harm. It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to collate and clarify details of the concern or allegation and to provide this information to the Local Authority EHASH, or Locality Team if Children's Social Care is already involved, whose duty it is to make enquiries in accordance with Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

14. Consent

Issues of consent should always be considered.

Before making a referral, parents/carers must be informed that you are making contact with Children's Social Care - including the reasons for you doing this - and be asked to give consent to the referral being made. This includes protecting a child from Significant Harm.

There are circumstances when it may be appropriate to dispense with the requirement to obtain consent to share information; this includes when:

- Discussion with the parents/ carers could place the child or other family members at risk
- The child is in immediate danger (e.g. requires medical attention)
- Discussion with parents / carers may place you or another member of staff at risk.

It should be noted that when parents, carers or child may not agree to information being shared, but this does not prevent professionals from being able to make a referral where child protection concerns persist. When sharing information without consent it is important to record why any such decision has been made.

15. Making a referral to the appropriate service within the local authority.

A member of staff or volunteer must report any concerns or allegation of harm immediately to the designated safeguarding lead. In the absence of the designated safeguarding lead, the matter should be reported to the person identified as their deputy. In the event of neither of these individuals being available the matter should be reported through the line management. In the unlikely event of management not being available the matter should be reported directly to the appropriate Local Authority EHASH Team, or Locality Team if Children's Social Care is already involved. In the case of it being out of hours the Emergency Duty Team should be contacted (see contact details below)

Preparing to Discuss Concerns about a Child with Children's Social Care

Try to sort out in your mind why you are worried, is it based on:

- What you have seen;
- What you have heard from others;
- What has been said to you directly.

Try to be as clear as you can about why you are worried and what you need to do next:

- This is what I have done;
- What more do I need to do?
- Are there any other children in the family?
- Is the child in immediate danger?

In the conversation that takes place the duty Social Worker will seek to clarify:

- The nature of the concerns;
- How and why they have arisen;
- What appear to be the needs of the child and family; and

- What involvement they are having or have had with the child and / or family.

Questions Children's Social Care may ask at Initial Contact

- Agency (i.e. school, etc) address and contact details of referrer;
- Has consent to make the referral been gained? Information regarding parents' knowledge and views on the referral;
- Where consent has not been sought to make a referral you will be asked to explain what informed your decision making;
- Full names, dates of birth and gender of children;
- Family address and, where relevant, school/nursery attended;
- Previous addresses;
- Identity of those with **Parental Responsibility**;
- Names and dates of birth of all members of the household;
- Ethnicity, first language and religion of children and parents;
- Any special needs of the children or of the parents and carers;
- Any significant recent or past events;
- Cause for concern including details of allegations, their sources, timing and location;
- The child's current location and emotional and physical condition;
- Whether the child needs immediate protection;
- Details of any alleged perpetrator (name, date of birth, address, contact with other children);
- Referrer's relationship with and knowledge of the child and his or her family;
- Known involvement of other agencies;
- Details of any significant others;
- Gain consent for further information sharing / seeking;

- The referrer should be asked specifically if they hold any information about difficulties being experienced by the family/household due to domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and/or learning difficulties.
- **Other information may be relevant and some information may not be available at the time of making contact. REMEMBER - the collation of additional information should not result in a delay in making a referral.**

After making a telephone referral

All telephone referrals made by professionals should be followed, within 48 hours by a written referral giving specific and detailed information.

Expectation of feedback

Children's Social Care should acknowledge a written referral within one working day of receiving it. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within 3 working days, they should contact Children's Social Care again.

16. Allegations against staff members / volunteers

If any member of staff or volunteer has concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another individual working within the group or organisation including:

- Behaving in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children

the nature of the allegation or concern should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for dealing with allegations against staff/volunteers/carers, *etc.*, (Katie Bewell) immediately. The member of staff who has a concern or to whom an allegation or concern is reported should not question the child or investigate the matter further.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for your organisation will report the matter to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

In the case that the concern or allegation relates to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, their line management should be contacted (Charity Manager of Downright Special - Gillian Bowlas). If the immediate line manager / or other members of the management structure is implicated in the concerns or allegations or the Designated Officer is not available then the matter should be reported directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer. If suspension of the alleged abuser is required the designated officer should discuss this with the LADO to consider the timing.

In cases where there is an immediate risk to any child or young person, the information must be passed to Local Authority Children's Social Care or the Police, as soon as possible.

Allegations against staff in their personal lives or which occur in the community

If an allegation or concern arises about a member of staff, outside of their work with children, and this may present a risk of harm to child/ren for whom the member of staff is responsible, the general principles outlined in this policy will still apply.

If the member of staff lives in a different authority area to that which covers their workplace, liaison should take place between the relevant agencies in both areas and a joint Strategy Meeting / Discussion or Professional's Meeting should be held.

17. Staff & Volunteer Self-Protection

Adherence to guidelines on self-protection for staff and volunteers working with children and young people can avoid vulnerable situations where false allegations can be made.

Staff and volunteers at Downright Special are advised:

- To avoid situations where a staff member or volunteer is on their own with a child.

- In the event of an injury to a child, accidental or not, ensure that it is recorded and witnessed by another adult in the accident book, located in the Downright Special office.
- Keep written records of any allegations a child makes against staff and volunteers and report in line with the Child Protection Policy.
- If a child or young person touches a staff member or volunteer inappropriately record what happened immediately and inform the Designated Safeguarding lead.
- To follow Downright Special guidance on behaviour management. Specific training, relevant to children with Down syndrome is provided by the organisation.
- Follow the guidance as set out in the staff and volunteer handbooks

18. Recruitment and selection

It is important when recruiting paid staff and volunteers to adhere to the organisations recruitment policy. This will ensure potential staff and volunteers are screened for their suitability to work with children and young people.

- All staff and volunteers working directly with children and young people or sensitive information relating to children and young people will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.
- Staff and volunteers regularly working with children or with access to sensitive information will be required to complete Child Safeguarding Training. Their training will be reviewed in supervision.
- All staff and volunteers will be required to read the Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures.
- All staff and volunteers to complete an application form, including details of previous employment, details of any conviction for criminal offences (including spent convictions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974), agreement for an enhanced DBS check, permission to contact two referees, including their current or most recent employer (which should be taken up).

- The potential staff member or volunteer will be interviewed for their suitability for the post by members of the board of trustees or staff member/s with delegated responsibility.
- Staff and volunteers will have a period of induction where they will complete any induction training specifically an introduction to Down syndrome and the learning profile of children with Down syndrome, Safeguarding training, and information regarding internal policies.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) can help employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. It replaces the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about>

A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups. If **Downright Special** knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups they will also be breaking the law. If there is an incident where a member of staff or volunteer has to be dismissed because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or would have been if they had not left, **Downright Special** will notify the DBS.

19. Code of Practice

Staff / Volunteers should always;

- Take all allegations, suspicions or concerns about abuse that a young person makes seriously (including those made against staff) and report them through the procedures.
- Provide an opportunity and environment for children to talk to others about concerns they may have.
- Provide an opportunity and environment for parents to discuss any stresses they may be experiencing and to seek help where necessary.

- Provide an environment that encourages children and adults to feel comfortable and confident in challenging attitudes and behaviours that may discriminate others.
- Risk assess situations and activities to ensure all potential dangers have been identified.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Staff / volunteers / children should not;

- Permit or accept abusive or discriminatory behaviour.
- Engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact.
- Use inappropriate or insulting language.
- Show favouritism to anyone.
- Undermine or criticise others.
- Give personal money.
- Use social networks for personal communication with children and young people for whom they are responsible.

20. Contacts

Hull

Children's Social Care (Local Authority)

Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (01482) 448879

Immediate Help (out of office hours) (01482) 300304

Local Authority Designated Officer (01482) 790933

Protecting Vulnerable People Unit 101

Hull Safeguarding Children's Partnership (01482) 379090

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/children/worried-child>

East Riding of Yorkshire

Children's Social Care (Local Authority)

Referrals (01482) 395500

Emergency Duty Team (out of office hours)	(01482) 393939
<u>Local Authority Designated Officer</u>	(01482) 396999
<u>Police Public Protection Team</u>	101

21. Resources and Internet links

This section acts as a guide, rather than an exhaustive list. Its aim is to provide you with some useful resources and links.

1. HM Government (2023) *Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children*. Department for Education Internet link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
2. HSCB (2018) *Procedures and Guidance*. Hull Safeguarding Children Board. <https://hullscp.trixonline.co.uk/>
3. DfE (2015) *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused*. Internet link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>
4. Department of Health and Social Care (2017) *Responding to domestic abuse: A handbook for health professionals*. Internet link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-a-resource-for-health-professionals>
5. Cleaver, H., Nicholson, D., Tarr, S. and Cleaver, D. (2007) *Child Protection, Domestic Violence and Parental Substance Misuse: Family Experiences and Effective Practice*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
6. Cleaver, H., Unell, I. and Aldgate, A. (2010) *Children's Needs - Parenting Capacity: The impact of parental mental illness, learning disability, problem alcohol and drug use, and domestic violence on children's safety and development*. 2nd Edition. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
7. HM Government (Home Office) Oct 2023 *Criminal Exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines*. Internet Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>
8. DoE (2017) *Preventing and Tackling bullying*. Internet link: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploa>

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12. Get Safe Online: awareness and advice. Internet link: www.getsafeonline.org
13. CEOP Website - Think U Know: awareness and advice. Internet link:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
14. NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: tel 0808 800 5000. Website
www.nspcc.org.uk.

Appendix 1: Seven Golden rules of information sharing

Information sharing- Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (Department for Education, July 2018) has been produced to support practitioners in the decisions they take when sharing information to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people. *Internet link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>*

Below are the 7 golden rules of information sharing that this guidance recommends.

- 1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing, but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.*
- 2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.*
- 3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or your information governance lead, if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.*
- 4. Where possible, share information with consent, and where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.*

5. Consider safety and well-being: base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.

6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (see principles).

7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it - whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose

Appendix 2 - Considerations when Contacting another Agency/Service

1) Effective Communication between Agencies

Effective communication requires a culture of listening to and engaging in, dialogue within and across agencies. It is essential that all communication is as accurate and complete as possible and clearly recorded.

Accuracy is key; without it effective decisions cannot be made. Equally, inaccurate accounts can lead to children remaining unsafe, or to the possibility of wrongful actions being taken that affect children and adults

Before contacting another agency, think about why you are doing it, is it to:

- **Share Information**

To share information is the term used to describe the situation where practitioners use their professional judgement and experience on a case by case basis to decide whether and what personal information to share with other practitioners in order to meet the needs of a child or young person.

Decisions to request and share information must be considered in terms of whether they are necessary and proportionate.

- **Signpost to Another Service**

The definition to signpost is to indicate direction towards. It is an informal process whereby a professional or a family is shown in the direction of a service.

If someone is signposted to a service it is because accessing the service may enhance the family's quality of life, but there would be no increased risk to the child or young person should the service not be accessed.

No agency is responsible for the monitoring or recording of signposting.

- **Seek Advice and Guidance**

Seeking advice and guidance at any time, making a general query or perhaps consulting with a specialist colleague within your own organisation (or from

another agency) may enhance the work that you are doing with a child, young person or family at any stage. It could be that you want further information about services available or that you want some specialist advice or perhaps need to consult about a particular issue or query for instance to ask if making a referral is appropriate.

The name of the child and family should be anonymised at this stage unless agreement to share the information has already been obtained.

It is vital that you record that you have sought information and advice in your own records. The agency you are contacting may not record this information, particularly if the case is not open or active with them. It should be agreed between agencies in this situation as to who records what information.

At the end of the conversation both parties must be clear about the next course of action.

- **Facilitate Access to a Service**

If you think that a family may benefit from a service then directing, signposting or facilitating is appropriate. For example, a family approaches your service and asks for some advice about leisure activities in the local area. You give them the information and directions to the nearest open access leisure centre.

- **Refer a Child or Family**

If you think that by not accessing a particular service, a child's situation could deteriorate then a referral is appropriate. However, a referral is only the start of the process. You as the referrer have a responsibility to monitor that the service has been taken up and the child's situation has improved.

Sometimes you may need to draw on other support services, for example when an intervention has not achieved the desired outcomes and the child/young person requires more specialist or sustained support.

A specific gap in services to meet a need or any level of concern warrants follow up and monitoring to ensure there is no risk to children.

At the end of the conversation both parties must be clear about the outcome and the next course of action.

2) Professional Differences

Where there are any professional differences about a particular decision, course of action or lack of action you should consult with a Senior Manager within your own organisation about next steps.

3) Recording

Well kept records about work with a child and his or her family provide an essential underpinning to good professional practice. Records should be clear, accessible and comprehensive, with judgements made and decisions and interventions carefully recorded. Where decisions have been taken jointly across agencies, or endorsed by a manager, this should be made clear.

You should record your decision and the reasons for it, whether or not you decide to share information. If the decision is to share, you should record what information was shared and with whom.

You should work within your agency's arrangements for recording information and within any local information sharing procedures in place. These arrangements and procedures must be in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations).

Staff should record any concerns on the form "Downright Special Record of Concern" and use the document "Downright Special Body Map- record of Concern" to detail any injuries or marks observed on the child.