

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Leonard Stanley

Leonard Stanley Early Years



Safeguarding children - 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection

(Including managing allegations of abuse against a member of staff)

Policy statement

Staff at Leonard Stanley Early Years, will work with children, parents and the community to ensure the rights and safety of all children and to give them the very best start in life. Leonard Stanley Early Years safeguarding policy is based on the three key commitments of the Pre-school Learning Alliance Safeguarding Children Policy.

EYFS key themes and commitments

| A Unique Child | Positive Relationships | Enabling Environments | Learning and Development |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| 1.3 Keeping safe | 2.1 Respecting each other 2.2 Parents as partners | 3.4 The wider context | 4.4 Personal, social and emotional development |

Procedures

At Leonard Stanley Early Years we carry out the following procedures to ensure we meet the three key commitments of the Alliance Safeguarding Children Policy.

Key commitment 1

Leonard Stanley Early Years is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which children are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.

Staff and volunteers

☺ Our designated person (a member of staff) who co-ordinates child protection issues is:

Vicki Richardson – Play Leader Manager

☺ Our deputy designated person (if the designated person is unavailable)

Christina Knapp – Deputy Play Leader

☺ Our designated officer who oversees this work is:

Andy Green – Head Teacher – Leonard Stanley Primary School

- ☺ At LSEY we ensure all staff, volunteers and parents are made aware of our safeguarding policies and procedures.
- ☺ At LSEY we provide adequate and appropriate staffing resources to meet the needs of children.
- ☺ Applicants for posts within the setting are clearly informed that the positions are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- ☺ Candidates are informed of the need to carry out 'enhanced disclosure' checks with the Criminal Records Bureau before posts can be confirmed.
- ☺ Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed, applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information.
- ☺ At LSEY we abide by Ofsted requirements in respect of references and Criminal Record Bureau checks for staff and volunteers, to ensure that no disqualified person or unsuitable person works at the setting or has access to the children.
- ☺ Volunteers do not work unsupervised.
- ☺ At LSEY we abide by the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Act requirements in respect of any person who is dismissed from our employment, or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have lead to dismissal for reasons of child protection concern.
- ☺ At LSEY we have procedures for recording the details of visitors to the setting.
- ☺ At LSEY we take security steps to ensure that we have control over who comes into the setting so that no unauthorised person has unsupervised access to the children.

Key commitment 2

Leonard Stanley Early Years is committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with statutory agencies in accordance with the procedures that are set down in 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (HMG 2006).

Responding to suspicions of abuse

- ☺ At LSEY we acknowledge that abuse of children can take different forms - physical, emotional, and sexual, as well as neglect.
- ☺ When children are suffering from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or may be experiencing neglect, this may be demonstrated through the things they say (direct or indirect disclosure) or through changes in their appearance, their behaviour, or their play.
- ☺ We take into account factors affecting parental capacity, such as social exclusion, domestic violence, parent's drug or alcohol abuse, mental or physical illness or parent's learning disability.
- ☺ We are aware of other factors that affect children's vulnerability such as abuse of disabled children, fabricated or induced illness, child abuse linked to beliefs in spirit possession, sexual exploitation of children such as through internet abuse and Female Genital Mutilation that may affect or may have affected children and young people using our provision.

- ☺ We also make ourselves aware that some children and young people are affected by gang activity, by complex, multiple or organised abuse, through forced marriage or honour based violence or maybe victims of child trafficking. While this may be less likely to affect young children in our care we may become aware of any of these factors affecting older children and young people who we may come into contact with.
- ☺ Where we believe a child in our care or known to us may be affected by any of these factors we follow the procedure for reporting child protection concerns.
- ☺ Where such evidence is apparent, the child's key person makes a dated record of the details of the concern and discusses what to do with the setting leader or manager who is acting as the 'designated person'. The information is stored on the child's personal file.
- ☺ At LSEY we refer concerns to the local authority children's social care department and co-operate fully in any subsequent investigation.
(NB In some cases this may mean the police or another agency identified by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.)
- ☺ At LSEY we take care not to influence the outcome either through the way we speak to children or by asking questions of children.
- ☺ We take account of the need to protect young people aged 16-19 as defined by the Children Act 1989. This may include students or school children on work placement, young employees or young parents. Where abuse is suspected we follow the procedure for reporting any other child protection concerns. The views of the young person will always be taken into account, but the setting may override the young person's refusal to consent to share information if it feels that it is necessary to prevent a crime from being committed or intervene where one may have been or to prevent harm to a child or adult. Sharing confidential information without consent is done only where not sharing it could be worse than the outcome of having shared it.
- ☺ At LSEY we use the detailed procedures and reporting format contained in the Pre-school Learning Alliance's publication 'Child Protection Record for use in Early Years Settings' when making a referral to children's social care or other appropriate agencies.

Recording suspicions of abuse and disclosures

- ☺ Where a child makes comments to a member of staff that gives cause for concern (disclosure), observes signs or signals that gives cause for concern, such as significant changes in behaviour; deterioration in general well-being; unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect that member of staff:
 - listens to the child, offers reassurance and gives assurance that she or he will take action;
 - does not question the child;
 - makes a written record that forms an objective record of the observation or disclosure that includes:
 - ➔ the date and time of the observation or the disclosure;

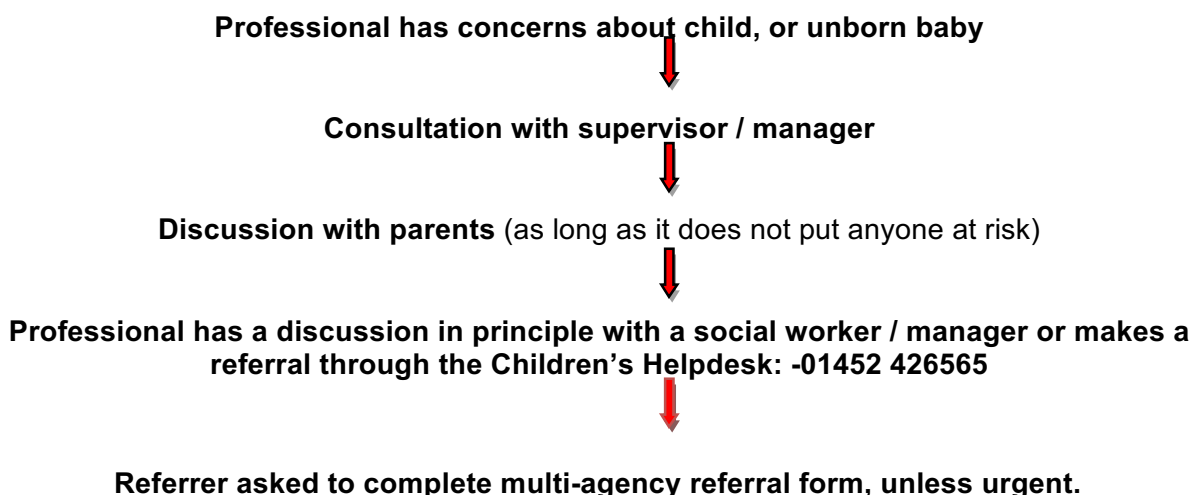
- the exact words spoken by the child as far as possible;
 - the name of the person to whom the concern was reported, with date and time; and
 - the names of any other person present at the time.
- These records are signed and dated and kept in the child's personal file which is kept securely and confidentially.

Where the Local Safeguarding Children Board stipulates the process for recording and sharing concerns, we include those procedures alongside this procedure and follow the steps set down by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Making a referral to the local authority social care team

- ☺ LSEY will follow the advice and procedures on the 'Flowchart' supplied by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board. Alongside the information given in the publication 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (HMG 2006)
- ☺ LSEYs keep a written copy of this action and follow the detailed guidelines given.
- ☺ All members of staff are familiar with the procedures for recording and reporting.

Gloucestershire Social Care Referral Process



Informing parents

- ☺ Parents are normally the first point of contact. We discuss concerns with parents to gain their view of events unless we feel this may put the child in greater danger.
- ☺ We inform parents where we make a record of concerns in their child's file and that we also make a note of any discussion we have with them regarding a concern.
- ☺ If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, parents are informed at the same time as the report is made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board does not allow this.
- ☺ This will usually be the case where the parent is the likely abuser. In these cases the investigating officers will inform parents.

Liaison with other agencies

- ☺ LSEY work within the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines.
- ☺ LSEY have a copy of 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' for parents and staff and all staff are familiar with what to do if they have concerns.
- ☺ LSEY have procedures for contacting the local authority on child protection issues, including maintaining a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of social workers, to ensure that it is easy, in any emergency, for the setting and social services to work well together.
- ☺ LSEY notify the registration authority (Ofsted) of any incident or accident and any changes in our arrangements which may affect the wellbeing of children.
- ☺ Contact details for the local National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) are also kept. **ChildLine 08001111 & Help for adults 0808 800 5000**
- ☺ If a referral is to be made to the local authority social care department, we act within the area's Safeguarding Children and Child Protection guidance in deciding whether we must inform the child's parents at the same time.

Allegations against staff

- ☺ LSEY ensure that all parents know how to complain about the behaviour or actions of staff or volunteers within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, which may include an allegation of abuse.
- ☺ LSEY follow the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board when responding to any complaint that a member of staff, or volunteer within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, has abused a child.
- ☺ LSEY respond to any disclosure by children or staff that abuse by a member of staff or volunteer within the setting, or anyone living or working on the premises occupied by the setting, may have taken, or is taking place, by first recording the details of any such alleged incident.
- ☺ LSEY refer any such complaint immediately to the local authority's social care department to investigate. We also report any such alleged incident to Ofsted and what measures we have taken. We are aware that it is an offence not to do this.
- ☺ LSEY co-operate entirely with any investigation carried out by children's social care in conjunction with the police.
- ☺ Where the management committee and children's social care agree it is appropriate in the circumstances, the Head Teacher will suspend the member of staff on full pay, or the volunteer, for the duration of the investigation. This is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place, but is to protect the staff as well as children and families throughout the process.

Disciplinary action

- ☺ Where a member of staff or a volunteer is dismissed from the setting because of misconduct relating to a child, we notify the Independent Barring Board administrators so that the name may be included on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Barred List.

Key commitment 3

Leonard Stanley Early Years is committed to promoting awareness of child abuse issues throughout its training and learning programmes for adults. LSEY is also committed to empowering young children, through its early childhood curriculum, promoting their right to be strong, resilient and listened to.

Training

- ☺ LSEY seek out training opportunities for all adults involved in the setting to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs and signals of possible physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect and that they are aware of the local authority guidelines for making referrals.
- ☺ LSEY ensure that all staff know the procedures for reporting and recording their concerns in the setting.

Planning

- ☺ The layout of the rooms allows for constant supervision. No child is left alone with staff or volunteers in a one-to-one situation without being visible to others.

Curriculum

- ☺ LSEY introduce key elements of keeping children safe into our programme to promote the personal, social and emotional development of all children, so that they may grow to be *strong, resilient and listened to* and that they develop an understanding of why and how to keep safe.
- ☺ LSEY create within the setting a culture of value and respect for the individual, having positive regard for children's heritage arising from their colour, ethnicity, languages spoken at home, cultural and social background.
- ☺ LSEY ensure that this is carried out in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children.

Confidentiality

- ☺ All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Support to families

- ☺ LSEY believe in building trusting and supportive relationships with families, staff and volunteers in the group.
- ☺ LSEY make clear to parents our role and responsibilities in relation to child protection, such as for the reporting of concerns, providing information, monitoring of the child, and liaising at all times with the local children's social care team.
- ☺ LSEY will continue to welcome the child and the family whilst investigations are being made in relation to any alleged abuse.
- ☺ LSEY follow the Child Protection Plan as set by the child's social care worker in relation to the setting's designated role and tasks in supporting that child and their family, subsequent to any investigation.
- ☺ Confidential records kept on a child are shared with the child's parents or those who have parental responsibility for the child in accordance with the Confidentiality and Client Access to Records procedure and only if appropriate under the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board

- **Legal framework**

- *Primary legislation*

- Children Act (1989 s47)
- Protection of Children Act (1999)
- Data Protection Act (1998)
- The Children Act (Every Child Matters) (2004)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)

- **Further Guidance**

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (revised HMG 2006)
- What to do if you're Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG 2006)
- Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families (DoH 2000)
- The Common Assessment Framework (2006)
- Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 (HMG 2007)
- Information Sharing: Practitioners' Guide (HMG 2006)
- **Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications:**
- Child Protection Record (2007)

- *Secondary legislation*

- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000)
- Human Rights Act (1999)
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000)
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act (1976) Regulations
- Equalities Act (2006)
- Data Protection Act (1998) Non Statutory Guidance

Written by – Vicki Richardson, Play Leader Manager

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