



Health Fenland – briefing Sheet 4

Safeguarding

Safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- 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.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

(taken from Working Together 2015)

“the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.”

An excellent website developed by The NSPPC is:

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

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has the purpose to ensure that children and young people feel safe and cared for in Cambridgeshire, by ensuring that organisations work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. In Cambridgeshire this includes Social Care Services, the Voluntary Sector, Youth Offending Team and Localities, Early Years Services.

Their website is accessible to children and young people, families and communities as well as professionals working with Children. <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lscb/info/1/home>

1. Safeguarding for voluntary groups without paid staff who have infrequent or limited contact interactions with children or young people

Many small organisations and groups that do not have the care or support of children or young people as part of their core aim, still often have contact with them. They have a responsibility to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of each child or young person
- a responsibility to the volunteers who may have contact with them, ensuring they may do so without being put at risk from being placed in potentially compromising situations or subject to allegations.

The definition of this contact could be:

- **Infrequent** is occasional, irregular or short term contact over a period of time (i.e. once per month).
- **Limited Contact** is contact within a group context, in a public space – taking part in an activity with minimal physical contact, not providing intimate care or being left alone with the child or young person.

There is a model policy for limited and infrequent contact at the CCVS website.

A key feature of this policy is the appointment of a **Named Person** for safeguarding, who will be responsible for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children or young people, referring concerns through to the appropriate statutory agencies, and who will ensure the policy is enacted, monitored and reported on to the management committee.

This person will have a good working knowledge of safeguarding issues and will be the person volunteers approach regarding their concerns for an individual and who will take responsibility to ensure that appropriate bodies are informed if this should be required.

This person will also monitor, supervise and record contact to ensure that if it does grow into a more frequent and intensive contact, the management committee are made aware so that appropriate steps are taken to ensure safeguarding legislation and guidance is followed and appropriate volunteers are recruited according to safe practices and DSB checked where appropriate.

They will be someone who is ensuring that everyone is getting the best out of organisations' and groups' activities and who is talking with volunteers, parents, guardians or carers to ensure all understand their responsibilities and are considering how contact takes place in a safe, positive and happy environment.

2. **Regulated Activity** - is work which involves close and unsupervised contact with vulnerable groups including children, and which cannot be undertaken by a person who is on the Disclosure and Barring Services' Barred List.

Regulated activity relating to children comprises:

- I. Unsupervised activities: teaching, training, instructing, caring for or supervising children, or providing advice/guidance on well-being, or driving a vehicle only for children;
- II. Work for a limited range of establishment ('specified places'), with opportunity for contact: for example, schools, children's homes, childcare premises. **Not** work by supervised volunteers. Work under (i) or (ii) is Regulated Activity only if done regularly (carried out by the same person once a week or more often or on 4 or more days in a 30-day period);
- III. Relevant personal care, for example washing or dressing; or health care by or supervised by a professional;
- IV. Registered child-minding; and foster carers.

There is a duty on a 'regulated activity provider' to ascertain whether a person is barred before permitting that person to engage in Regulated Activity. It is a criminal offence for a barred individual to take part in Regulated Activity, or for an employer/voluntary organisation knowingly to employ a barred person in a Regulated Activity role. Regulated Activity is included within the Disclosure and Barring Service definition of 'Work with Children'.

More information:

Can be down loaded from the CCVS website at:

<http://www.cambridgecvs.org.uk/group-support>



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