

The
protocol
Group



Safeguarding Training

► Throughout this presentation, you will gain an understanding of the fundamental aspects of safeguarding:

- When we talk about children in this presentation, we are talking about anyone under the age of 18 years old.
- The upcoming pages provide an in-depth exploration of diverse safeguarding issues. It's important to note that the content offers comprehensive examples but isn't an exhaustive list of all potential forms of abuse or indicators.
- Please remember that throughout this presentation we will be covering child abuse and child protection topics, and this is sometimes a difficult subject to think about. If you need a break at any point, please take one.

➤ Safeguarding in the context of education

Safeguarding in the context of education in the UK refers to the processes and measures put in place to ensure the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk.

It involves identifying and addressing concerns about their welfare, including protection from abuse, neglect, and harm. Education professionals need to be aware of several key areas to effectively safeguard those in their care.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined by the Government as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health and development
- Ensuring that children grow up with safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcome

Safeguarding requirements in the FE and Training sector pertain to:

- Children and young people up to age 18
- Adults at risk

All staff that work directly with children are required to read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education), the statutory guidance for schools, colleges, and training providers. A summarised version of part 1 might be suitable for those not directly working with children, as deemed appropriate by their organisation or governing body.

Upon completing this training, you will be prompted to confirm you have read and understood Keeping children safe in education 2023 part one. Please ensure you've fulfilled this requirement, if you haven't already.

► Key areas of harm

When we talk about the abuse of children or adults at risk, we tend to group harm into four key categories. They are:

- Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

There are other types of harm that children and adults at risk of harm can suffer, and some of these will be discussed in more detail in future slides. Other examples will be detailed in the Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance Part 1 which you are required to read.

In all the types of abuse, there may be signs of harm that you can see, but on some occasions, it may be that you have an instinctive feeling that something is not ok.

- A comment, an upset child or adult at risk, a change in behaviour.

Whilst not all changes are indicative of abuse, the best advice we can give is that if it doesn't feel right to you, talk about your concerns with the safeguarding lead in your organisation.

Reporting safeguarding concerns, no matter how small, is vital to gather a complete picture and take appropriate action. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

► Neglect

The Government's definition of Neglect is: The persistent failure to meet the basic physical and or psychological needs of a child or adult at risk, likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development.

The Office for National Statistics reports that Neglect was the most common category of abuse for child protection plans (CPPs) in England (25,330 children at 31 March 2019) and the second most common for the child protection register (CPR) in Wales (1,005 children).

Neglect can cause severe short- and long-term damage to the child or adult at risk including brain development, and is often made up of multiple incidents over time.

Some indicators of Neglect are:

- Malnutrition, dehydration, weight loss
- Poor personal hygiene
- Dishevelled appearance
- Frequently missing school

Remember that neglect is not always related to financial circumstances; affluent parents/carers can also neglect their children.

► What is Emotional Abuse?

Emotional abuse includes non-physical behaviors that are meant to control, isolate, or frighten you. Persistent emotional abuse can impair a child's or adult at risk's emotional development or self-worth.

A child or adult at risk can suffer emotional abuse at the hands of their parent or carer, their sibling(s), by a peer or by an older child, and this can happen in the physical or online world.

Some indicators of emotional abuse are:

- Lack of confidence and self-esteem
- Difficulties controlling emotions
- Extreme behaviour, like becoming overly demanding, aggressive, having outbursts, or becoming passive
- Difficulties making and maintaining relationships
- Behaviour that is inappropriately infantile or adult-like
- Persistent running away from home or being missing from school
- Anxiety, unhappiness or withdrawal
- Having few or no friends
- Lack of social skills
- Self-harm or attempts at suicide

► What is Physical Abuse?

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or adult at risk. It could happen at the hands of an adult, or between children (peer on peer abuse).

Everyone can injure themselves, playing sports, falling over, and during everyday knocks and bruises, however you should consider whether their injuries are inconsistent with the person's usual lifestyle.

Similar to psychological and emotional mistreatment, individuals who have experienced physical abuse often encounter feelings of fear, anger, perplexity, shame, and humiliation. Some might refuse to acknowledge the abuse or attempt to conceal it.

Some indicators of physical abuse are:

- Lack of explanation for injuries or discrepancies between the provided account and the injuries
- Presence of bruises, cuts, welts, burns, or distinctive marks on the body, or noticeable hair loss
- Frequent occurrences of injuries
- Unexplained incidents of falling
- Altered or subdued behaviour when around a specific individual
- Reluctance to seek medical care

However, the mere presence of bruises, marks, or injuries doesn't unequivocally confirm the occurrence of physical abuse. Any concerns should be promptly communicated to safeguarding personnel for further assessment.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse can be defined as: forcing or enticing a child or adult at risk to take part in sexual activities, whether or not they are aware of what is happening.

Sexual abuse can include activities which involves physical contact such as touching and kissing to serious sexual assaults. It can also include non-contact activities, such as online abuse, grooming, or introducing a child or adult at risk to inappropriate sexual material.

Key facts to remember:

- Sexual abuse can be perpetrated by males or females.
- Children can sexually abuse other children, regardless of age. This is known as peer-on-peer abuse.
- More sexual abuse of children occurs from someone they know (a family member, a family friend or neighbour) than from a stranger.
- The age of sexual consent in the UK is 16 years old, however a child over the age of sexual consent can still be exploited.

Sexual abuse indicators may include:

- Demonstrating a level of knowledge or experience (verbal, artistic, written) surpassing their age or understanding
- Expressing discomfort or pain when walking or sitting, particularly in the abdominal area
- Complaints of soreness, bleeding, itching, or pain around the genital or anal regions
- Unexplained bruises or injuries to concealed body parts
- Unexpected pregnancy, especially when incapable of consenting to sexual interactions
- Exhibiting sexually inappropriate behaviour
- Displaying fear towards specific individuals.

► Exploitation of Children and Adults at Risk

Child sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation arises when an individual or a group (such as a criminal gang) capitalises on a power or authority imbalance, manipulating or deceiving a person under 18 into sexual involvement. This is often in exchange for something the victim requires or desires, benefiting the abuser financially or socially.

They may not even know this is exploitation.

Crucially:

- Consent may not truly indicate non-exploitation, as victims might still be sexually exploited.
- Child sexual exploitation isn't restricted to physical contact; technology, such as the internet or mobile phones, can also facilitate it.

Child Criminal Exploitation

Children can be forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting, or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/committing serious violence to others.

Adults at risk can also be affected by these types of exploitation.

► Domestic Abuse

The Office for National Statistics shows that of all crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2022, 17.1% were domestic abuse-related which remained similar to the year ending March 2021 (18.3%) and year ending March 2020 (15.1%).

Women's Aid, a charity working with survivors of domestic abuse, advises that children can experience both short-term and long-term negative effects on their wellbeing as a result of domestic abuse at home. The effects of this may vary significantly from child to child.

- They could become more childlike, be angry, anxious, scared, withdrawn, frightened or have a lower sense of self-worth.

It is important to remain alert to any change in child behaviour and consider whether there has been a change of circumstances in the family recently.

Domestic Abuse indicators include:

- Physical injuries.
- Clothing worn, or heavy make-up, to cover injuries, for example long sleeves or a scarf in hot weather, or sunglasses inside or when cloudy.
- Someone who is withdrawn and unwilling to engage in friendly conversation.
- Someone who is meek, fearful or extremely apologetic.

► Online Abuse or Harm

According to the Government White Paper on Online Harms published in February 2020: Illegal and unacceptable content is widespread online, and online platforms can be a tool for abuse and bullying.

This can take the form of abusive, harassing, and hate related messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography to those who do not want to receive such content.

Children and adults at risk can face abuse and harm online as well as in person. This can be particularly damaging for the mental health and wellbeing of children.

Many children and adults at risk use the internet for social, pleasure and educational purposes, and we do not want to discourage this. However, we need to remember that they and their carers may not always recognise the risks whilst being online.

There are a number of government recommended websites to support you with online safety.

We encourage you to visit these:

- [Thinkuknow](#) by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) - resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP - support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) - [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Inclusive Digital Safety Hub](#) and [Online Safety Hub](#), created by South West Grid for Learning in partnership with Internet Matters - support and tailored advice for young people with additional learning needs and their parents or carers
- The Children's Commissioner has published [advice for parents on talking to your child about online sexual harassment](#) specifically, based on input from children themselves

► What to do if a child or adult at risk makes a disclosure to you

Remember that a child or adult at risk can disclose in a variety of ways including verbal disclosure, through their writing; drawing pictures; or re-enacting abuse.

If a child or adult at risk does talk to you listen, without judging, and then without delay speak to the designated safeguarding lead at the school, college or training provider.

It may be difficult to listen to what they tell you about the abuse they have suffered, but you need to:

- Listen carefully
- Tell them that they have done the right thing by telling you and reassure them that they will be supported
- Make a clear written record of what the child or adult at risk has said to you

- Escalate the concern as soon as you are able
- You can ask the child to clarify something, but you should only ask open questions (an example of an open question is “can you tell me what happened?”)

If the disclosure is through writing; drawing pictures; or re-enacting abuse – again, speak to the designated safeguarding lead at the school, college or training provider providing them with as much information as possible.

If the child or adult at risk is at imminent risk, you must not delay. Contact your local authority children’s social care services, or for adults at risk contact your local authority social work department immediately or contact the police in an emergency.

► What to do if you have concerns about a child or adult at risk

Not all children and adults at risk will tell you they are being abused or neglected, but if you have suspicions or something doesn't feel right to you, talk about your concerns to the designated safeguarding lead at the school, college or training provider.

If you feel that the child or adult at risk is at imminent risk, you must not delay. Contact your local authority children's social care services, or for adults at risk contact your local authority social work department immediately or contact the police in an emergency.

► Important things that you must not do:

- Do **not** promise to keep a disclosure a secret – you will need to tell someone to get help for the child or adult at risk
- Do **not** ask leading questions (an example of a leading questions is ‘Did your Mum hit you?’)
- Do **not** gossip about the concerns/incidents with other staff
- Do **not** investigate. It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to do this.