

House of Fun

Safeguarding Children Policy

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

House of Fun will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child that may occur. House of Fun's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). An '*it could happen here*' mindset will be employed by staff at all times.

House of Fun's designated Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are Mr Jake Motion (Senior Lead), Mrs Jessica Downing and Mrs Jacqs Motion. The DSLs coordinate child protection issues and liaise with external agencies (eg the LSCB, LCSS).

Child Abuse and neglect

Child abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. An individual may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them, by others (eg via the internet). Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children (*Working together to Safeguard Children 2018*).

Some forms of abuse are listed here (the list is by no means exhaustive):

- **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, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
- **Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.
- **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, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It 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.
- **Child criminal exploitation/Contextual safeguarding** is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology (*Serious Violence Strategy 2018*)
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**
- **Fabricated or induced illness**
- **Forced marriage**
- **Human trafficking/Modern slavery**
- **Radicalisation**
- **Domestic abuse**

Signs of child abuse and neglect

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include:

- significant changes in a child's behaviour
- deterioration in a child's general well-being
- unexplained bruising or marks
- comments made by a child which give cause for concern
- inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member 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 use leading questions
- 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 (see *Logging an incident* below). If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, the matter will be referred to one of the House of Fun DSLs, who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

Extremism and radicalisation

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism. There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, including:

- feeling alienated or alone
- seeking a sense of identity or individuality
- suffering from mental health issues such as depression
- desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause
- associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of radicalisation

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

- changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified
- viewing violent extremist material online
- possessing or sharing violent extremist material

If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a **Logging a concern** form, and refer the matter to the DSLs.

Logging an incident

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure, or concern about radicalisation, 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 the incident, or the observation 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 one of House of Fun's DSLs who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

For concerns about **child abuse**, the DSL will contact the LSCB or LCSS. The DSL will follow up all referrals in writing within 48 hours. If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact the LSCB or LCSS directly.

For emerging concerns regarding **radicalisation**, the DSL will contact the Local Authority Prevent Coordinator and the LSCB. For more serious concerns the DSL will contact the Police on the non-emergency number (101), or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. For urgent concerns the DSL will contact the Police using 999.

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).
- The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and House of Fun 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 House of Fun will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Promoting awareness among staff

House of Fun promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training. House of Fun ensures that:

- the designated DSL has relevant experience and receives appropriate training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty, and is aware of the Channel Programme and how to access it
- 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, neglect or radicalisation
- all staff are aware of their statutory duties with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse, and concerns about radicalisation
- all staff receive basic safeguarding training
- all staff receive basic training in the Prevent Duty
- staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept in the staff room
- House of Fun's procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)' 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 House of Fun camera will be used to take photographs of children at House of Fun, except with the express permission of the manager.

Contact numbers

Social Care: **0345 050 7666**

Social Care out of hours contact: **0800 833408**

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): Alison Beasley 01865 810603

LADO.SafeguardingChildren@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board): 01865 815843 oscb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Local Authority Prevent Co-ordinator: 0345 050 7666 Oxfordshire MASH (for a child) or the Social and Health Care Team (for an adult)

Police: 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency)

Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

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| This policy was adopted by: House of Fun | Date: June 2019 |
| To be reviewed: June 2020 | Signed: Jake Motion |

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Child Protection [3.4-3.8]* and *Suitable People [3.9-3.13]*.