

ST DAVIDS DCSR – PLANT DEWI

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

To nurture families and strengthen communities in the Diocese of St Davids

Plant Dewi aims to provide a non-threatening, open access service that, by working in partnership with family members, empowers both parents and children.

Underlying principles to the work of Plant Dewi

- Parents/carers are vital to the well-being of their children and the service provided fully acknowledges and nurtures this
- Parents are respected and engaged as partners in change, valuing their experiences, their gifts and their capacities as parents
- Parents have equality of access to support regardless of age, gender, ethnic status, personal circumstances, disability or sexual orientation, class, culture, beliefs or lifestyles.
- Parent's strengths are built upon to empower and develop their capacity.
- The safety and welfare of all children is our paramount consideration.

Through our services we are committed to practice that safeguards children and young people and promotes their well-being. We believe that all children whatever their circumstances have the right to grow and develop in an environment free from fear or harm. Similarly, we believe that parents have the right to feel confident that their children are being cared for in a safe environment. For this to happen, practitioners and volunteers need to be supported to ensure that the safety and welfare of the children we work with is their first consideration.

To do this we have implemented the following measures:

- ◇ A comprehensive procedure for the recruitment and selection of practitioners and volunteers, including references, verification of identity and qualifications, criminal records checks, interviewing and probationary periods
- ◇ A code of good practice that all practitioners and volunteers are required to sign up to
- ◇ Guidance and training for all practitioners and volunteers on recognising and responding to concerns about a child's safety or welfare
- ◇ Clear procedures for practitioners and volunteers to follow to report concerns about a child or the behaviour of an adult towards a child that accord with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 and are relevant to each workplace
- ◇ Nominating a 'designated safeguarding person, or people' (DSP) within Plant Dewi and each of the Family Centres
- ◇ Providing effective management of practitioners and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- ◇ Keeping up to date on changes in the relevant legislation and guidance surrounding the safeguarding of children
- ◇ Anti-bullying policies and procedures for groups and for practitioners.

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CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

These procedures apply to all practitioners and volunteers within Plant Dewi and the Family Centres, including those who may not have direct or regular contact with children or young people. The document cross-references with the Plant Dewi Staff Handbook and the Code of Practice. *The Code of Practice forms an integral part of our safeguarding measures and should be read and signed by all staff and volunteers on appointment.*

The procedures accord with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 (<https://safeguarding.wales/>) and these should be consulted for further detail. *It is recommended that each Family Centre, or Group downloads the app onto work mobile phones for easy access to that guidance.* All individuals joining Plant Dewi will be required to sign that they have read and understood these procedures. These procedures were reviewed in 2020. The next review is scheduled for **2023** or earlier to respond to significant changes in legislation or guidance.

DEFINITIONS

Within these procedures, the term CHILDREN refers to both children and young people up to the age of 18 years.

The term CHILD AT RISK refers to a child who is:

- experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and
- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)

The term 'PRACTITIONER' refers to any person working or volunteering with children and young people.

The term DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSON (DSP) refers to the identified person within Plant Dewi or your family centre or group (see below for duties)

CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

Generally, children are safe and well cared for, both by their families and the organisations that provide activities for them. However, children can be abused or neglected by someone inflicting harm, or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, in an organisational or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Children from all walks of life, cultures and religions may suffer abuse or neglect. *Some children, eg disabled children and those from black, minority ethnic or marginalised groups can be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect due to a number of factors including unconscious bias in practitioner responses.*

Abuse may be **PHYSICAL**, eg being hit or deliberately burnt; **EMOTIONAL**, eg being scapegoated or continuously criticised; **SEXUAL**, eg being used for someone else's sexual satisfaction; or a child may be **NEGLECTED**, eg. not getting necessary medical or dental treatment. Children may also suffer **FINANCIAL ABUSE** eg: the child's care needs are not being provided despite direct payments.

Other actual or potential harm to a child or young person may result from; criminal exploitation such as **COUNTY LINES (CCE); RADICALISATION; FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, MODERN SLAVERY, CHILD TRAFFICKING and CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.**

See Appendix One for fuller definitions of the categories of abuse.

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Children themselves report that they find **BULLYING** by other children or young people extremely hurtful. The effects of bullying, like abuse, can last into adulthood and affect someone's emotional well-being. For this reason it is also important that we do all we can to ensure children are not bullied either by their peers or by adults caring for them. Similarly bullying between adults caring for children has an adverse effect on children and can contribute towards an environment where abuse is more likely.

WHAT MIGHT MAKE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD'S SAFETY?

- A child or young person may tell you something that makes you worried about their safety or the safety of another child. *(see below for how to respond if this happens)*
- ♦ Someone else may report that a child has told them, or they are very worried that a child may be being harmed
- ♦ A child may show bruising or other physical injury for which there appears to be no satisfactory explanation
- ♦ A child's behaviour may make you concerned that the child may be being abused
- ♦ Something in the behaviour of a worker or volunteer, another adult, or a young person, or the way they relate to a child, makes you feel uncomfortable and anxious
- ♦ You may observe a child abusing or bullying another.

You should also be aware of risks of harm to an unborn child which may arise from

- The use of drugs or alcohol
- Mental health issues
- Domestic violence
- The parents' ability to care for a baby
- A baby or child previously removed from the parent's care
- The names of other children in the family on the Child Protection Register.

IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD YOU MUST REPORT YOUR CONCERNS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO YOUR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSON (DSP) – *(see 'How to Report Concerns' below)*.

You should know who the DSP in your own setting is. (see appendix 4 for individual project safeguarding responsibilities)

You are not expected to be an expert, and in fact, it is not your responsibility to decide if a child is being abused. Social services and the police have the duty to investigate possible child abuse. However, if you are worried then it **is your responsibility** to pass on any concerns you might have, following these procedures. The information you have may not seem significant to you, but it may be the piece of the jigsaw that completes the picture. *(See also Appendix Two, Some Indicators)*

HOW TO REPORT CONCERNS

As a practitioner or a volunteer with Plant Dewi/Family Centre you have a duty of care to the children and young people using our services and you are in a position of trust. You should be aware of and alert to, signs that may indicate a child or young person is being subjected to bullying, or may be suffering abuse or neglect. Some of these signs are listed in *Appendix Two*. The safety and welfare of the children and young people who use our services **must** be your first consideration.

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- 1. If you are worried about a child or young person attending a group or family centre setting, you must report your concerns at the earliest opportunity to the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) within your Project. The DSP will consider your information and any other information they may have and make a decision about what action to take, if any. (see below for contact details)**
- 2. You may become worried about a child or young person outside of your work setting. You still have a responsibility to respond to your concerns. Discuss your concerns with your DSP, and/or the NSPCC helpline (0808 800 5000)**
- 3. If your concerns are about the behaviour of a group or family centre leader, or another adult:**
 - **Do not dismiss your concerns**
 - **Do not confront the person about whom you have concern**
 - **contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer within Plant Dewi and ask to speak in confidence (see below for contacts) or,**
 - **contact the NSPCC helpline for Whistleblower advice – 0800 028 0285**

Even if your concerns prove to be unfounded you will not be penalised as long as there was no malicious intent. Plant Dewi recognise that safe organisations are open organisations that listen to and take seriously worries about the safety of children and young people. (Look also at ‘What to do if your concerns are not being taken seriously’ below).

- 4. If a child or young person tells you they or another child is being harmed:**
 - **Stay calm**
 - **Listen carefully to what is said and allow the child to proceed at their own pace**
 - **Keep your questions to a minimum – only ask questions to help you understand what the child has chosen to tell you. Don’t ask about explicit details and don’t ask questions that imply a particular answer.**
 - **Don’t promise to keep secrets. Explain that any information that indicates that a child may be being harmed by other people needs to be passed on so that something can be done about it. Tell the child it is not alright that children are hurt by adults who are supposed to look after them or by other children.**
 - **Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing in telling you**
 - **Tell the child or young person what you will do next and who you have to share the information with**
 - **As soon as you can, record in writing what was said, using the child’s own words. Note the date, time and any names mentioned, to whom the information was given and make sure your record is signed and dated. (Use the recording form provided with these procedures)**
 - **Report your information to the designated person as outlined above.**

Remember children can communicate abuse verbally, through play or by their behaviour.

- 5. If another parent/carers or other member of the public tells you of concerns they have about a child:**
 - **Do not ask them to make their own referral to social services.**

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- **Take adequate details to be able to identify the child and report the concerns to the DSP within Plant Dewi or your Family Centre**

See Wales Safeguarding Procedures 'the Duty to report a child at risk'. Members of the public can remain anonymous when making referrals to social services, or when a referral is made from their information.

When reporting concerns to your DSP you will need to provide the following information:

- ♦ The child's name, age and address, if known and a short description of the child if possible
- ♦ The name/s of the child's parent/s
- ♦ Why you are concerned, including anything the child has said, using the child's own words wherever possible
- ♦ You should say where the child is at that moment and whether anyone has been alleged to be the abuser
- ♦ You should say whether you have talked to anyone else about your concerns.
- ♦ Under no circumstances should you confront anyone who may be alleged to be the abuser.

Any concerns or reports about possible harm to a child must be treated in the strictest confidence and respect for the privacy of the child and family involved and should only be discussed with those who 'need to know'.

You will make a written record of your concerns using appendix 3 - recording form, and you will also sign and date the form and present to the DSP to discuss any action that has been or will be taken. The DSP will sign and date the record also.

If you are the DSP, please discuss with a DSO (Designated Safeguarding Officer listed below). It is important to note that you do not have to make a child protection decision on your own both in terms of the support needed by yourself (person who has the concerns), but also in the best interests of the child, and in the need for the organisation to know what is going on.

EMERGENCY ACTION

It is rare but if you are confronted with a situation where emergency action is needed to treat a child who has been intentionally harmed, or to prevent imminent abuse to a child, and it would cause an unacceptable delay to contact a DSP, then

you should contact Dyfed Powys police, immediately by dialling 999 and say you are making an emergency child protection report.

You should then contact a DSP without delay so that further action can be decided on.

CHILDREN ON THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

A child's name is placed on the Child Protection Register when a multi-agency child protection conference decides that the child needs a care and support plan to ensure their safety. Therefore, you should inform your DSP (as above) if the following apply:

- you become aware that a child whose name is on the Register is going to move to another local authority

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- you become aware that a child who has recently moved into the area is on the Child Protection Register in another local authority
- a child whose name is on the Child Protection Register goes missing ~ in this case you should inform your designated person immediately you become concerned.

Even if you think someone else or another agency has the information already, you must still report what you know to your DSP.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CONCERNS ARE NOT BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY

If you have reported concerns about a child or about the behaviour of an adult towards a child and you feel that:

- a) your concerns have not been taken seriously, or
- b) the action agreed has not been taken quickly enough,

you should, in the first instance, raise this with the designated safeguarding person (DSP) to allow them to provide an explanation. If this is not possible, or your concerns remain, then you should contact the DSO (Designated Safeguarding Officer) within Plant Dewi (see below) who will consider your concerns and advise on, or take, appropriate action. That person may consult with the NSPCC if needed.

Concerns about the response of social services to a safeguarding report should be made to the team manager, or service manager in social services if still dissatisfied. Any concerns of this nature should also be reported to the DSO within Plant Dewi who may collate concerns and report them to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board (CYSUR).

The Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO) within Plant Dewi (St Davids DCSR) are:

Catrin Eldred, Manager – 01267 221551 or 07483 963553

Christina Jenkins, Family Support Manager – 01267 221551 or 07398 767150

St Davids DCSR Designated Safeguarding Trustee - Rev Helen Nicholls - 01554 821992

{They have ‘safeguarding responsibility’ which means the ultimate responsibility for safeguarding practice within Plant Dewi. It is not their role to make a child protection report. This should be done from the Project as detailed above} see appendix 4 for project specific safeguarding responsibilities.

THE NSPCC HELPLINE: provides advice to professionals and other adults. You can phone 0808 800 5000 (24hrs) to report concerns about a child or the ‘whistleblowing’ number 0800 028 0285 for concerns about a member of staff, or the way safeguarding is being handled in your organisation.

THE CHILDREN’S COMMISSIONER FOR WALES.

The Children’s Commissioner has legal powers to independently investigate concerns raised by a ‘whistleblower’ where these concern the rights or welfare of a child and are made in good faith. *(The Children’s Commissioner for Wales has Prescribed Person status under the Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) (Amendments) Order 2003).* The Public

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Interest Disclosure Act 1998 also provides legal protection for those who raise serious concerns within an organisation.

If you have reported serious concerns about the behaviour of a member of staff or a volunteer, where that behaviour may constitute a criminal offence, or may have harmed or be likely to harm a child or children, and you remain unconvinced that this is being, or has been, properly dealt with then you can contact the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales (telephone 01792 765600 or 01492 523333).

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSON (DSP)

The designated people for safeguarding within Plant Dewi or your Family Centre are there to help and support you as well as ensuring that any necessary correct action is taken to safeguard a child. Their role is to:

- ♦ receive information from staff, volunteers, children or parents and carers who may be worried about a child, or the behaviour of an adult towards a child, and to record that information
- ♦ assess the information promptly and carefully, clarifying or obtaining more information about the matter as appropriate, *but not investigating*.
- ♦ consult initially with social services' children's services (*see Appendix 3 for contact telephone numbers*) or the NSPCC (telephone : 0808 800 5000) to test out any doubts or uncertainties about the concerns as soon as possible
- ♦ where necessary, make a safeguarding report to social services or the police without delay – *see Appendix 3 for Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)*
- ♦ liaise with social services or the police, if necessary, following a report
- ♦ ensure that all written records relating to concerns about a child are completed, signed and dated, and kept securely until no longer needed
- ♦ immediately pass any information that may relate to unprofessional, or inappropriate behaviour by a member of staff or volunteer, to the manager of Plant Dewi or your Family Centre, or other such senior person, so that appropriate action can be taken – consult the Wales Safeguarding Procedures if necessary (www.safeguarding.wales)
- ♦ advise and support staff or volunteers in relation to child protection concerns.

The designated safeguarding people (DSP) will also:

- ♦ be familiar with the statutory child protection system and keep up to date with contact details and telephone numbers
- ♦ be aware of the Wales Safeguarding procedures and the role of CYSUR
- ♦ identify training needs relating to safeguarding within Plant Dewi and the Family Centre Network, and obtain suitable training courses
- ♦ collate management information relating to safeguarding activity within Plant Dewi and the Family Centre Network, and report on this as necessary
- ♦ ensure that these procedures are reviewed at least every three years to incorporate any new guidance or legislation.

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PROCEDURES FOR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE (DSP) - RECEIVING AND REPORTING INFORMATION

Your role as a designated safeguarding person is summarised above. The following sets out the detailed procedures you should follow if someone reports concerns about a child or young person, or concerns about the behaviour of an adult towards a child. (*see Appendix 3 for Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF)*)

When you receive concerns or information about a child or young person, or about inappropriate behaviour by an adult, (*but see below re members of staff*)

YOU SHOULD:

- listen carefully to ensure you understand what is being said
- ask questions to clarify your understanding but remember it is not your role to investigate
- check that you have all the necessary factual information to allow you to identify the child and family, ie, names, addresses, date of birth etc. and, where possible, a short description of the child
- reassure the person reporting the concern that they have done the right thing
- make a written record of the conversation, including anything the child may have said, using the child's own words as reported to you
- check the written account with the person reporting to you to ensure that it is accurate and that nothing significant is left out
- sign and date the written account and ask the person reporting to you to sign the record also
- assess the information you have received and check whether there is previous information available to you that has a bearing on the situation, e.g. previously recorded observations or concerns about a child's behaviour or presentation
- if someone has been alleged to be the abuser, consider what contact the child or other children may be having with this person and assess if any immediate action needs to be taken to safeguard any child or children.
- (If a child or children are at immediate risk of significant harm then the police should be called by dialling 999)
- decide whether you should inform a child's parent or carer about the concern or that you are going to make a safeguarding report to social services (*this should not be done if the concern is about sexual abuse or fabricated or induced illness, or might otherwise place the child at risk or where a criminal act may have been committed*)
- If you feel unsure about the significance of the information, and/or whether you should talk to the child's parent or carer, clarify this by either contacting the local social services office or the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) to discuss the information
- Where indicated make a safeguarding report to children's services (*see Appendix 3 for contact details and MARF form*)
- Maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the child and family by only sharing the information with those who 'need to know'.

YOU SHOULD NOT:

- Dismiss concerns reported to you without considering them, and taking advice if need be ~ *remember taking no further action is a decision and needs to be made carefully*

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- Go and talk to the child/young person yourself
- Confront the alleged abuser
- Delay in taking appropriate action.

When you report information, either by making a report to social services, or by reporting to a senior manager, *(see Appendix 3 for contact details and MARF form)*

YOU SHOULD:

- State clearly that you are reporting a child protection matter
- Write down the name and status of the person you speak to (e.g., Paul Jones Duty social worker)
- Give a concise account of the information you have received, including how and when it was reported to you
- Ensure that you provide the necessary factual information to identify the child and family, and any alleged abuser
- Inform of any communication or other difficulties the child may have, and give a brief description of the child, if you can, to assist the person making contact with the child.
- Ask for any advice you may need e.g., what to do if the child does not return as expected to the centre
- If social services request on-going monitoring of a child, ensure you are clear exactly what should be monitored, for how long and how the information should be reported.
- Make a written note of any decisions made or action to be taken, either by you or by social services, including what you should or should not say to the child's parent or carer
- Ask for the name of the team manager and ensure you have the correct address for the office
- Within 2 working days, follow up your telephone call with a completed MARF form to the team manager confirming the report you have made; who it concerned, what the concerns were and who it was made to.
- Keep a copy of the MARF form of your report and note any decisions made or action taken or to be taken. Sign and date this record.
- Ensure all recording relating to the concerns is stored in a secure place.
- Inform the person who first reported the concerns, of the action you have taken. Offer any support that may be needed.
- Within two weeks, and if necessary, follow up with social services or the senior manager to ascertain what action has been taken in response to your report. Make a written record of this and store securely with the other information.

Social services is obliged to acknowledge your report and decide on what action they might take within 24 hours. They are also obliged to inform you of the outcome of the referral within 5 working days. If this does not happen, you should contact social services yourself, to ascertain the outcome of the report. A signed and dated record should be kept of the outcome of the call. *(See also 'What to do if you think your concerns are not being taken seriously' above).*

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CONCERNS ABOUT STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS

Comprehensive guidance in relation to concerns involving practitioners in a position of trust is given in Section 5 of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (Children) and should be consulted. <https://safeguarding.wales/chi/index.c5.html>

If the concern involves a member of staff or volunteer, it is generally NOT the role of Plant Dewi or the Family Centre to decide internally, whether this is a disciplinary issue or a child protection matter. These considerations should take place with the involvement of social services and the police, and so should be REPORTED TO THE DESIGNATED PERSON FOR SAFEGUARDING (DOS) WITHIN SOCIAL SERVICES in the first instance. Further action will be decided following a strategy meeting.

Legal Duty to Refer to the DBS: Local authorities and other statutory employers have a duty to refer individuals to the Disclosure and Barring Service where:

- ◆ there are concerns that the individual has harmed or poses a risk of harm to a child and
- ◆ following an internal investigation the individual is dismissed from the service or moved to a position that does not involve direct contact with children, **or**
- ◆ where the individual resigns or voluntarily leaves the post in response to allegations of abuse or concerns about a risk posed to a child or children.
- ◆ Or where the employer/manager becomes aware that the individual has been convicted or cautioned for serious sexual or violent crimes.

In these cases the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) within Plant Dewi should be contacted for support, and guidance should be sought from social services and/or the Wales Safeguarding Procedures or the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/dba

CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING

As a general rule you should treat all personal information you acquire or hold in the course of working with children and families as confidential and take particular care with sensitive information. However, sharing information between practitioners working with children and families is essential particularly when there are concerns about the safety or welfare of a child. There is no problem about sharing personal information about an individual if that person, or, for a minor, someone with Parental Responsibility has given permission. Good practice would therefore dictate that wherever possible a child's parent/carer should be informed if a safeguarding report is to be made about their family to social services. However, this should not be done if you think it would increase the risk to the child or be contrary to the child's welfare. You should also not seek permission if to do so could obstruct a criminal investigation, eg where allegations of sexual abuse have been made.

Information about an individual is not confidential information if it is already in the public domain, e.g., what school a child attends, or even if that child attended school that day.

When sharing personal information, you should consider;

- Who needs to know and
- What do they need to know.

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In other words, the information given should be necessary to safeguard a child or children and should be shared with those who have the responsibility to decide what action needs to be taken – the ‘need to know’ basis.

The Data Protection Act 1998 stipulates that ‘personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully’. ‘Fairness’ is being open with people about how information about them is to be used and the circumstances in which it might be disclosed. It is therefore important that parents and carers of children using our services are made aware of the child protection policy and the action that will be taken if there are concerns about a child. *Plant Dewi takes its confidentiality and Data Protection responsibilities very seriously. Reference should be made also to the GDPR statement and Staff Handbook policy.*

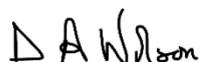
FURTHER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

CYSUR : Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board <https://www.cysur.wales/>

The CYSUR website gives contact details of local authority social services departments and further information

Wales Safeguarding Procedures : www.safeguarding.wales give comprehensive guidance on safeguarding children and young people as well as adults who may be at risk. They are only accessible on-line via the website or downloadable via the free apps for Android and iOs.

SIGNED



NAME

Delyth Wilson

POSITION

Chair person for St Davids Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility

DATE

7th July 2022

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APPENDIX ONE

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE AND HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures give more detailed definitions of abuse as they relate to children and young people and should be consulted especially for signs and indicators.

<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c1p.p2a.html> Remember, children can be abused or neglected by someone inflicting harm, or failing to act to prevent harm.

Sometimes sympathy for a parent's or carer's circumstances can prevent us from considering the impact of these circumstances on the child or children. It is very important to always remember the child if you become aware of instances of domestic abuse, substance misuse or where a parent or carer may have mental health problems that might impact on the child in their care. Disabled children have the same rights as non-disabled children to protection from abuse yet can be left particularly vulnerable due to a number of factors. These may include an over-identification with a parent's or carer's supposed difficulties in caring for the child. Similarly, children from minority or socially excluded groups can be overlooked due to assumptions we may make about the customs or culture of that group or the fear of being seen as racist or discriminatory. You should guard against this!

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse 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 or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after. For further details see www.safeguarding.wales

It should be noted that as of 21 March 2022, there is no longer a legal defence of 'Reasonable Punishment' in relation to physical harm to children. Just as it is illegal for Family Centre workers and other Practitioners to physically punish a child, this is now extended to parents/carers and those acting in 'loco parentis'. (See Addendum at the end of this document also, see Practice Guidance below)

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development. *(An environment of 'low warmth and high criticism')*. It can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them. Children who are emotionally abused are often suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is 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. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to

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protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Neglect may also occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.

Bullying

Bullying can include:

- ◇ physical pushing, kicking, hitting, pinching etc
- ◇ name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, persistent teasing and emotional torment through ridicule, humiliation and the continual ignoring of individuals
- ◇ racial or homophobic taunts, graffiti, gestures
- ◇ sexual comments and/or suggestions
- ◇ unwanted physical contact
- ◇ abusive text messages, phone calls, emails or chatroom messages.

Children from minority ethnic groups, disabled children, young people who are gay or lesbian, or those with learning difficulties are more vulnerable to this form of abuse and may be targeted. Bullying may be child to child, adult to child, child/children to adult, or adult to adult. Bullying in all circumstances is unacceptable and you should take action.

Sexually harmful behaviour *(see Wales Safeguarding Procedures Practice Guide as above)*

Children with harmful sexual behaviour should be considered as children first and their care and support needs should be considered in the same way as for any child.

However, a report to social services should be made if a child or young person is displaying sexually harmful behaviour towards other children. The following can help you distinguish the behaviour from non-abusive sexual experimentation.

- ◇ The power difference between the alleged abuser and his or her victim
- ◇ The sophistication and age-appropriateness of the activity, given the age and understanding of the young person
- ◇ Any evidence of overt violence, sexual bullying or exploitation
- ◇ Whether consent/choice could not be exercised because of the victim's age, social or economic vulnerability (children under the age of 13 are considered in law, to be unable to consent to sexual activity)
- ◇ Whether there was secrecy or denial of the activity
- ◇ How was the sexual activity revealed – was it observed by an adult, revealed by the victim? What was the context of the behaviour?
- ◇ How persistent is the sexual behaviour? Does it stop when addressed or is it repeated again?
- ◇ Is there evidence of the behaviour getting worse eg, an increase in intrusiveness/extent/number of victims/frequency?

Online abuse (cyber bullying, sexting and sexual harassment, on-line pornography, sexual abuse on-line, on-line radicalisation)

Pornographic or, more accurately, child abuse images of children on the internet are images of children who have been abused. They also encourage the abuse of other children. It is a criminal offence to view child abuse images and if you suspect that someone may be accessing these images you should report the circumstances immediately, either to your designated person, or directly to the police if outside of your work environment. It is also a criminal offence to 'groom' children via chat-rooms and other internet activities. All organisations that allow children or young people access to the internet, should have well

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publicised, secure safeguarding measures in place. *(See the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Practice Guide for comprehensive information and guidance (as above))*

Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, 'protection' or affection. The vulnerability of the young person and the grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of the relationship and unable to give informed consent. *(See the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Practice Guide for comprehensive information and guidance, as above)*

Child Trafficking:

In human *smuggling*, immigrants and asylum seekers pay people to help them enter the country illegally, after which there is no longer a relationship.

Trafficked victims are coerced or deceived by the person arranging their relocation. However, there is a difference between adult and child trafficking – where the victim is a child neither coercion nor deception need to be present for the child to be considered trafficked. On arrival in the country of destination the trafficked child or person is denied their human rights and is forced into exploitation by the trafficker or person into whose control they are delivered or sold.

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. The number of identified cases of trafficking is increasing in Wales and the UK. *See the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Practice Guide for comprehensive information and guidance (as above)*

- **Wales Safeguarding Procedures ~ Practice Guides** include further guidance on:
- Safeguarding related to cultural and religious beliefs
- Child Criminal exploitation (CCE)
- Safeguarding in Domestic Abuse situations
- Safeguarding from Neglect
- Children who are home educated
- Children who go missing from home or care
- Safeguarding children from sexual exploitation
- Safeguarding children in relation to the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020

These Guides should be consulted in any of the above circumstances.

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APPENDIX TWO ~ SOME INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE ABUSE

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures give more detailed definitions of abuse as they relate to children and young people and should be consulted especially for signs and indicators.

<https://safeguarding.wales/chi/cp/c1p.p2a.html>

The following are given to help and guide you, and there may be other indicators that are not included here. One or more of these indicators does not definitely mean that a child is being abused. Remember, you don't have to decide if a child is being abused. That is the role of social services. But if you are worried about the child you do have the responsibility to pass on your concerns as indicated above.

Physical Abuse

Bruises that may be indicative of possible physical abuse are:

- ◇ Bruising in babies
- ◇ Bruising in children who cannot move on their own
- ◇ Bruising that is not on the bony parts of the body
- ◇ Bruises to the face, back, stomach, arms, buttocks, ears and hands
- ◇ Bruises in clusters
- ◇ A number of bruises of a regular shape – eg, fingertip bruising
- ◇ Bruises that carry an imprint – of an implement or cord or hand
- ◇ Bruising where the explanation seems unlikely

Other signs of physical abuse might be:

- ◇ Cigarette burns
- ◇ Adult bite marks
- ◇ Broken bones
- ◇ Scalds, especially if of a regular shape or where the explanation seems unlikely
- ◇ A child flinching when touched or approached
- ◇ Fear of parents being asked about a bruise or other mark
- ◇ *See Addendum at the end of this document also, as above; 'Children and Young People at risk of harm; Section 6 All Wales Practice Guides; Safeguarding children in relation to the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment (Wales) Act 2020)*

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse can be difficult to detect as a child may appear well cared for yet receive little or no love, affection or positive attention and/or be constantly put down or belittled. A child living in an environment of low warmth and high criticism is likely to suffer emotional abuse.

Indicators may include:

- ◇ a failure to thrive or grow, especially if the child puts on weight when not in the care of their parents
- ◇ developmental delay in physical or emotional progress
- ◇ nervous behaviour, eg, rocking, hair twisting
- ◇ being unable to play and interact with others
- ◇ self harming behaviour, eg severe scratching, cutting etc.

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Sexual Abuse

Adults who use children for their own sexual gratification abuse both boys and girls of all ages, including babies and toddlers. Often a child's behaviour might make you worried, but physical signs might also raise concern. Children may try to tell about sexual abuse by dropping hints. It is important that they are listened to and taken seriously. (*See above 'What to do if a child tells you '*)

Indicators may include:

- ◇ sexual knowledge beyond the child's age or developmental stage
- ◇ inappropriate sexualised behaviour
- ◇ sexualised language or drawings
- ◇ stomach pains or pains when using the toilet
- ◇ urinary infections
- ◇ pain or itching in the genital area
- ◇ bruising or bleeding in the genital area
- ◇ referring to a secret they can't tell anyone about
- ◇ self harming behaviour
- ◇ nightmares

Neglect

Children who are neglected can suffer long term physical and emotional damage. Neglect can also be life threatening. However, it can be difficult to recognise especially where families are living in poverty.

Indicators may include:

- ◇ being constantly hungry, possibly stealing food from other children
- ◇ constantly dirty and/or smelly
- ◇ being very underweight or losing weight
- ◇ clothes not appropriate for the weather conditions
- ◇ being constantly tired or appearing depressed
- ◇ not getting appropriate medical or dental attention
- ◇ talking about being left alone
- ◇ frequently being left unsupervised especially if in risky or dangerous situations.

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APPENDIX THREE

CONTACT DETAILS AND RESOURCES

CARMARTHENSHIRE: During Office Hours: Central Referral Team – Tel: 01554 742322, Fax: 01554 742176 Email: CRTChildren@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Outside of Office Hours: Careline – Tel: 01558 824283 & 0300 333 2222
CEREDIGION: During Office Hours: Contact Centre – Tel: 01545 574000, Fax: 01545 574002 E mail: contact-socservs@ceredigion.gov.uk Outside of Office Hours: Emergency Duty Team – Tel: 0845 6015392
PEMBROKESHIRE: During Office Hours: Assessment Team – Tel: 01437 776444 Email: ccat@pembrokeshire.gov.uk Outside of Office Hours: Emergency Duty Team – Tel: 08708 509508 [doctors on call answering service take social services calls for out of hours]

Dyfed Powys Police Child Powys Police Child Protection Units: 0845 330 2000

Wales Safeguarding Procedures: www.safeguarding.wales

CYSUR is the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Children Board. CYSUR is an acronym for Child and Youth Safeguarding: Unifying the Region and is also the Welsh word for reassurance. It is an amalgamation of the former Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys. <http://cysur.wales/home/>

MULTI-AGENCY REFERRAL FORM ~ MARF

Available from:

<https://www.cysur.wales/contacts-and-useful-links/reporting-concerns-child/>

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000 Tx. 88858
www.nspcc.org.uk ~ contact us.

Childline: 0800 1111

The Children's Commissioner for Wales:

Swansea – 01792 765600;
Colwyn Bay – 01492 523333
www.childcomwales.org.uk

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PLANT DEWI AND THE FAMILY CENTRES RECORDING FORM FOR CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD OR CHILDREN

Date of Recording:

Name of Child

DOB

M/F

Address

Parents/Carers

Parental Responsibility Y/N

Address if different from above

Nature of Concern

Shared with Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) Y/N

Decision: Referral Y/N (if Y, attach copy of MARF)

Reason for not referring

Signed.....

Signed
DSP

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APPENDIX FOUR

SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUAL SETTINGS

The Designated safeguarding Person (DSP) is as follows for the following projects/settings;

Lampeter Family Centre

Jennifer Leigh Family Centre Coordinator – 07538 171721

Llandysul Family Centre

Miles Parker Family Centre Coordinator – 07984 072922

Young Parents project

Carys Davies and Vicky Thomas Project Workers – 07483 966 166/07483 966 167

Pembroke Dock Dads project

Peter Arnold Project worker – 07507 687 807

Families Together groups

Samantha Duggan Project worker – 07483 966 168

Garnant Family Centre

Sarah Orr Family Centre Manager – 01269 825 941

St Pauls Family Centre

Sarah Williams Family Centre Manager – 01554 775 338

Morfa Family Centre

Christina Jenkins, Plant Dewi Family Support Manager – 01267 221551 or 07398 767150402

Tregaron Family Centre

Karli Poole, Family Centre Coordinator -07498 521067

Burry Port Family Centre

Shan Cheesman, Centre Manager – 07565 931967