**Safeguarding And Child Protection Policy** -

**Written By**: Joshua Morgan

Little Stars Childminding is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. We recognise the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect the children from harm, abuse, and exploitation. For the purpose of this policy and associated procedures: a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years old.

Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

* The welfare of children is the primary concern
* All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of abuse or harm.
* Child protection is everyone’s responsibility
* Children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
* We will work in partnership with organisations together with children and parents/carers to promote the welfare, health, and development of children.

Little Stars Childminding will: -

* Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in activities safely.
* Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children
* Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and protect them from abuse.
* Recruit, train, support and supervise our staff members and volunteers to adopt the best practice of safeguarding and protect the children from abuse and to reduce the risk to themselves.
* Require staff and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
* Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
* Observe guidelines issued by the Local Authority for the protection of children
* Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy and these procedures.

**Definition of Abuse:**

There are many different types of abuse, Children can be abused by an adult’s direct actions (e.g., beating a child) or because of an adult’s inaction (e.g., not feeding or bathing a child), and even an adult’s indirect action (e.g., domestic abuse, etc).

Children can be abused by adults as well as by other young people or children.

The authorities will be notified if any professional suspects that a child is either suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

Sometimes a single traumatic event constitutes ‘significant harm’ to a child; and, sometimes, a build-up of concerns or a series of incidents over time also gives rise to ‘significant harm’.

The law recognises the following categories of abuse under the Children Act (1998):

**Physical:**

* Where adults physically hurt or injure a child by hitting, shaking, squeezing, burning, biting, etc.
* Giving children alcohol, inappropriate drugs or poison is also considered physical abuse.

**Sexual:**

* Where adults use children to meet their own sexual needs
* This might be full intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse or fondling.
* Showing children pornography and using sexualised language with children is also sexual abuse.

 **Emotional Abuse:**

* When there is a persistent lack of love and affection that damage children emotionally.
* Being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted can make a child very nervous or/and withdrawn.
* Seeing or hearing another person being harmed also constitutes emotional abuse, as in Domestic Violence and parental Substance Misuse.

 **Neglect:**

* Where adults fail to meet a child’s basic needs, for example for clothing or food.
* Children might also be left unsupervised and alone
* Sometimes adults fail or refuser to give children their love and affection

**Responsibilities and Expectations -**

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Alice McPherson.** The DSL is mostly available and if not then please contact our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead who will deal with any safeguarding concerns. **Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Kellie Grey.**

It is the responsibility of the DSL and Deputy DSL to ensure that all safeguarding issues are effectively responded to, recorded, and referred to the appropriate agency. They are also responsible for arranging the whole settings safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers who work with the children. These training courses will take place at least every year, which they can be deliver within the setting provided they are linked into the support and quality assurance process offered by the local authority.

The DSL and Deputy DSL is required to attend and assure that a senior member of staff who has the relevant training and access to appropriate supervision, attends where appropriate, all child protection case conferences, reviews, core groups or meetings where it concerns a child at our setting and top contribute to multi-agency discussions to safeguarding and promote the child’s welfare to the best of our ability.

The DSL is responsible for ensuring the acceptable, safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones through the implementation, monitoring and reviewing the appropriate policies and procedures. This includes the E-Safety Policy.

All child protection concerns need to be acted on immediately. If you are concerned that a child may be at risk or is actually suffering abuse, you must tell the DSL or Deputy DSL if the DSL cannot be contacted.

**The Prevent Duty -**

In Line with section 26 of the counterterrorism and security act (2015) we understand the importance of staff members being able to recognise and identify vulnerable children and to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

We recognise the importance of protecting children from the risk of radicalisation and promoting British Values in the same way we would protect and safeguard children from any other abuse.

We will ensure all staff members are able to notice changes in children’s behaviour as we would do with any kind of safeguarding matter as there is no single way of being able to identify a child who is at risk of being vulnerable or susceptible to radicalisation/extremism.

All staff members are also aware of the appropriate time to make a referral to the “channel programme”.

**Monitoring -**

This policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

* Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
* As required by the Local Authority
* As a result of any other significant change or event

**Policy Review Date**: 6th September 2022

**Last Review:** 6th September 2021