



Kirton in Lindsey Town Council

Policy 13: Child Protection Policy

Reviewed and Adopted April 2019 (v.20191) *Next Review April 2020*

POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Kirton in Lindsey Town Council recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. Kirton in Lindsey Town Council takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
- Maintain good links with statutory child care authorities.

THE POLICY

Kirton in Lindsey Town Council recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and/or neglect. Accordingly, Kirton in Lindsey Town Council has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse/neglect, including those made against members, officers and volunteers. Kirton in Lindsey Town Council recognises the need to build constructive links with the local child care agencies. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Policies and Procedures. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all members, officers and volunteers who act on behalf of Kirton in Lindsey Town Council and who come directly into contact with children. Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person in respect of child protection or their deputy of concerns relating to safeguarding children. The designated person must decide if the concerns should be communicated to North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police, however all members, officers and volunteers can contact North Lincolnshire Children's Services directly if necessary.

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE [TAKEN FROM HM GOVERNMENT 'WORKING TOGETHER 2018']

A concern should be raised if any of the following circumstances have or are happening to a child:

Physical abuse
Emotional abuse
Sexual abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
Neglect

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institution or community setting; by those known to them, or more rarely by a stranger. 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 the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victims need or want, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

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.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

1. You must report concerns as soon as possible to the Town Clerk (designated child protection person) phone number 01652 648987 or 07518 284173 who is nominated by Kirton in Lindsey Town Council to act on their behalf in referring allegations of suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. In the absence of the designated person, the matter should be brought to the attention of the deputy designated person Cllr Joy Kofoed, the Chair of the Town Council on 07919 346136. If it is an emergency, and the designated persons cannot be contacted, then children and family services or the police should be contacted at the numbers given below.
2. If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then the deputy or North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police should be contacted.
3. Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.
4. It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to the child protection agencies. We would hope that an individual would use this procedure. However, if you feel that the organisation has not responded appropriately to your concerns, it is open to you to contact the child protection agencies direct.

ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

If a child has an injury which may be a non-accidental injury, or symptoms of neglect and a referral is to be made then:

1. The designated person should contact child and family services. If there has been a deliberate injury or where there are concerns about the child's safety the child's parents should not be contacted before first consulting with children and family services.
2. Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The designated person should inform the doctor of any suspicion of abuse.

3. If a referral is being made without the parent's knowledge and non-urgent medical treatment is required, children and family services should be informed. Otherwise, speak to the parent/carer and suggest medical attention be sought for the child.
4. If appropriate the parent/carer should be encouraged to seek help from the Children and Family Services Department prior to a referral being made. If they fail to do so in situations of real concern the designated person will contact children and family services directly for advice.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations of sexual abuse the designated person will:

1. Contact the Children Services or Police Child Protection Team directly. The designated person will not speak to the parents.
2. Under no circumstances should the designated person, or any other member of the organisation, attempt to carry out any investigation into the allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse. The role of the designated person is to collect the exact details of the allegations or suspicion and to provide this information to the child protection agencies that will investigate the matter under the Children Act 1989.

WHAT TO DO ONCE A CHILD HAS TALKED TO YOU ABOUT ABUSE

1. Make a note immediately of what the child has said, writing down exactly what the child has said, write down what you said in reply, when they said it and what was happening immediately beforehand. Record dates and times of the events and when the record was made. Keep all notes secure.
2. Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.
3. Once a child has talked about abuse the designated person must consider if it is safe for a child to return home to a potentially abusive situation. On a rare occasion it might be necessary to take immediate action to contact children and family services and/or the police to discuss putting into effect safety measures for the child so that they do not return home
4. You may include details of where and how child protection concerns will be recorded and stored.
5. Allegations against staff or volunteers will be investigated following local procedures. Where there are concerns that a child has been put in danger of abuse, or has suffered abuse owing to the actions of a member of staff or volunteer the Local Authority Designated Officer or the police will be contacted. Details of any allegation which has not resulted in a referral will be kept securely in the same way as described in 4 above.
6. Refer to Kirton in Lindsey Town Council Policies and Procedures – Code of Conduct, Member Development Policy, Grievance Policy, Disciplinary Policy, Health & Safety Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy and Complaints Policy, available from the Town Council office or the website.

MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The retention, storage and destruction of records where they relate to child welfare concerns or concerns about possible risk posed by members, officers or volunteers will be in line with the policy of Kirton in Lindsey Town Council on the retention of information.

HOW WE ENSURE SAFE STAFF/ VOLUNTEERS

- We will identify that there is a position for work and a job description will be produced.
- We will advertise the position.
- We will follow Safer Recruitment principles and procedures.
- We will take up references and ensure that we speak to the referees to confirm details.
- We will undertake relevant Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service and follow up any information pertaining to the person and their check. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/DBS
- We will undertake an induction, supply supervision and relevant training.
- We will ensure understanding of all the organisations policies and procedures [not only the safeguarding policy]; to support good, safe practice.

E-SAFEGUARDING AND ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Include details relevant to any electronic equipment used especially where equipment can be used to access the world wide web environment. Consider how Social Media will be used and how to stay safe.

WHISTLE BLOWING PROCEDURES

Provide details pertaining to your registering body, Voluntary Umbrella body or contact within the Local Authority.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Kirton in Lindsey Town Council: Tel: 01652 648978 or 07518 284173
email: enquiries@kirtoninlindseytowncouncil.gov.uk

DESIGNATED /SENIOR CHILD PROTECTION PERSON IN YOUR ORGANISATION

Town Clerk - Tel: 01652 648978 or 07518 284173

DEPUTY DESIGNATED PERSON FOR YOUR ORGANISATION

Cllr Joy Kofoed – Mayor of Kirton in Lindsey – Tel. 07919 346136

ANY NATIONAL OR SUPPORT BODY FOR YOUR ORGANISATION

Alan Barker:

East Riding North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association: 01652 661617

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CHILDREN SERVICES, CHURCH SQUARE HOUSE, CHURCH SQUARE,
SCUNTHORPE DN15 6XQ 01724 296500 OR 01724 296555 [EXTENDED
HOURS]

POLICE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT

EMERGENCY SERVICES 999 OR 101

**LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED OFFICER, INDEPENDENT REVIEWING
SERVICE 01724 298293**

Signed:..... Kirton in Lindsey Town Mayor

Date: 24/04/2019

Signed:.....Kirton in Lindsey Town Clerk

Date: 24/04/2019

Appendix 1

Safeguarding Principles:

- We will work in the best interests of children and young people.
- Children and young people will be listened to and we will hear what they have to say.
- We will support children and families at the earliest opportunity appropriate with meeting their needs.
- We will respect the individuality of each child, young person and their family.
- We will assess children, young people and families' needs using the agreed assessment processes, and we will undertake these assessments in partnership with children and their families.
- Professionals will collaborate with each other and work in partnership with children, young people and their families to deliver support.
- We will work to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- We will record and share information appropriately with children and families so that they receive consistent responses from professionals from all agencies.
- We will be open to learning and be willing to develop responding to best evidence and best practice.
- We will work in an open and honest manner with children, young people and their families and each other.