



Greenwich Safeguarding Children Board

Information for Voluntary Organisations

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Development Officer

Role of the GSCB

- Statutory Partnership
- Coordinate activities and functions of agencies to promote safeguarding
- Ensure effectiveness of agencies

What do we do for Voluntary Agencies?

- Training
- Information Sharing
- Consultation and Advice
- Policy Review

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

- **Voluntary Sector play a key role in providing information and resources to the public about the needs of children**
- **Provide a wide range of activities for children**
- **Need to have appropriate arrangements in place to safeguard children and protect their welfare**

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010)

Duty of Care

- **The Children Act 2004 places a legal duty on organisations to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children and young people.**
- **All adults who work with, or on behalf of children and young people in these organisations must be competent, confident and safe to do so.**
- **Everyone should be familiar with local procedures and protocols for safeguarding the welfare of children and young people.**
- **Duty to report any child protection or welfare concerns**

What to do if you are worried about a child

- Make a referral to the Greenwich Contact and Referral Team on 0208 921 3172.

Responsible for:

- Responding to information or referrals
- Carrying out assessments
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in need
- Supporting disabled children and their families.
- Responding to concerns about the welfare of children outside of normal office hours.

Why refer?

- Children have a right to be safe and well
- Adults have a responsibility to safeguard children
- You have one small piece of the jigsaw
- If children and families are given help it can stop a child from being harmed
- Children rarely lie about abuse
- An abuser may abuse many other children who also have a right to protection

Making a referral

- This is my worry
- This is what I have seen and/or heard: when, who from and where
- This is what I have done
- What more do I need to do?
- Are parents/carers/child aware of this referral?
- How will you let me know what is going to happen next?
- What is your name?
- Who should I speak to if I am not happy with what you say or do?

Making a referral – additional information

- Do you know if there are professionals involved (eg a psychologist, school nurse, health visitor)?
- Is the child disabled and in what ways?
- How do the child and family communicate, in what language?
- Do they use other ways of communicating, eg signing?
- Do you know the name and address of the child's GP?
- Put your concerns in writing within 48 hours

Children's services should:

- discuss your concerns
- decide what action is needed
- agree with you what the child and parents are told, by whom and when

If there are concerns about a child's safety:

- consult with other agencies
- take action to ensure the child is safe
- involve the police if a crime may have been committed
- tell you if they are taking no further action and why
- acknowledge your written referral within one working day of receipt

Safer Organisations

Do you have the following in place?

- Clear child protection policy and procedures
- Safe recruitment, checking C.V's , references and CRB checks.
- Clear expectations of staff and volunteers with regard to their personal conduct
- On-going training and supervision for staff and volunteers.
- Easy access to advice, guidance and consultation
- Listen to the concerns of service users with an open mind.
- A complaints process that is well publicised
- Accurate and up-to-date record keeping
- Regular audits of work
- Leadership and clear lines of accountability

Safeguarding Children is Everyone's Responsibility

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