



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1 POLICY STATEMENT

The NLYC, the Participation Team, other support workers and volunteers are firmly committed to the belief that all children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. The Participation Team, other support workers and volunteers fully recognise their responsibility to safeguard and protect children and young people engaged with the NLYC and wider young voice activities. For the purposes of this document the term 'a child or young person' refers to those under the age of 18 or 25 if with additional needs.

The safety and protection of all children and young people that are engaged with the NLYC and wider young voice activities is paramount and has priority over all other interests, unless life is at imminent risk.

In order to fulfil their responsibility for to safeguard and protect NLYC members and other children and young people involved in wider young voice activities, the Participation Team, other supporting officers and volunteers are required to comply with the Local Safeguarding Children Board Policies and Procedures accessed via www.northlincspsc.co.uk. As part of this, they will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and provide children and young people with the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Have system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse
- Maintain good links with relevant colleagues in children's services
- Comply with the LSCB principles outlined in appendix 1

2 THE POLICY

The NLYC, the Participation Team, other support workers and volunteers recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of neglect, and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Accordingly the NLYC has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines relating to responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against the Participation Team, other support workers and volunteers who have a responsibility to safeguard and protect children and young people engaged with the NLYC and other young voice activities. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidance. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to the Participation Team, other support workers and volunteers who are associated with the NLYC. 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 children's services or the police.

3 DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

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.

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.

4 WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF THERE ARE SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE

- If NLYC members have any concerns they should be reported as soon as possible to the designated person in the Participation Team to act on their behalf in referring allegations of suspicions of neglect or abuse to the relevant colleagues in children's services. In the absence of the designated person, the matter should be brought to the attention of the deputy designated person. If it is an emergency, and the designated persons cannot be contacted, then children's services or the police should be contacted at the numbers given below.
- If the suspicions relate to the designated person, then the deputy or children's services should be contacted.
- Suspicions should not be discussed with anyone, other than those named above.
- It is the right of any individual to make direct referrals to the child protection agencies. If NLYC members feel that the designated officer(s) have not responded appropriately to their concerns, it is open to them to contact the child protection agencies direct.

5 ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

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

- The designated person should contact children's 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's services.
- Where emergency medical attention is necessary it should be sought immediately. The designated person should inform the doctor of any suspicion of abuse.
- If a referral is being made without the parent's knowledge and non urgent medical treatment is required, children's services should be informed. Otherwise, speak to the parent/carer and suggest medical attention be sought for the child.
- If appropriate the parent/carer should be encouraged to seek help from children's service prior to a referral being made. If they fail to do so in situations of real concern the designated person will contact children's services directly for advice.

6 ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

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

- Contact children's services or police directly. The designated person will not speak to the parents.
- 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.

7 WHAT TO DO ONCE A CHILD HAS TALKED ABOUT ABUSE

- 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.
- Report your discussion as soon as possible to the designated person.
- 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
- You may include details of where and how child protection concerns will be recorded and stored.
- Allegations against the Participation Team, other support workers 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 the Participation Team, another support worker 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.

8 PROCESS FOR ENSURING SAFE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS (THEREFORE SAFE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

As a means of safeguarding and protecting children and young people engaged with the NLYC and wider young voice activities, Safer Recruitment principles and procedures will be followed when recruiting all members of the Participation Team, other support workers and volunteers. As part of this:

- an appropriate person specification and job description will be developed and the position will be advertised

- members of the NLYC will be involved in the recruitment process
- references will be taken up and checked as appropriate
- checks will be undertaken via the Disclosure and Barring Service
- relevant induction, training, development and supervision will be undertaken as required
- people in positions supporting children and young people engaged in the NLYC and wider young voice activities will comply with the Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidance on Code of Conduct for Employers Staff and Volunteers working with Children and Young People.
- people in positions supporting children and young people engaged in the NLYC and wider young voice activities will need to understand all relevant policies and procedures to support good, safe practice.

9 REVIEW

Policy and Procedure adopted by NLYC July 2018

Policy and Procedure Review date July 2019 (NLYC AGM)

If you would like any further information about our Safeguarding Policy, or there is anything you do not understand, or you want a copy, or need it in a different format please contact:

young.voice@northlincs.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

LSCB 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.

APPENDIX 2

Contact Details for Organisation

North Lincolnshire Youth Council

C/o Participation Team, North Lincolnshire Council

young.voice@northlincs.gov.uk

01724 298440

Designated Person

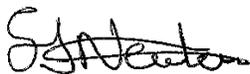


Sarah Eales, Participation Officer

sarah.eales@northlincs.gov.uk

01724 298434

Deputy Designated Person



Sarah Newton, Participation Assistant

sarah.newton@northlincs.gov.uk

North Lincolnshire Children's Services

Church Square House, Church Square, Scunthorpe, DN15 6XQ

01724 296500 or

01724 296555 (after hours)

Police Child Protection Unit

Emergency Services

999 or 101

Local Authority Designated Officer

01724 298293