



Chance UK Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Policy Statement

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Chance UK including all staff, trustees, volunteer interns and researchers, sessional workers, group facilitators, paid consultants (at our discretion), or anyone else working on behalf of Chance UK

Chance UK believes that ALL children and vulnerable adults have the right to be protected.

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Designated Safeguarding lead: Head of Service and Operations (07471 314 498) or samantha.darrell@ChanceUK.com.

Deputy Safeguarding Lead:

Introduction and Purpose

Responsibility for safeguarding children lies with everyone, including all Chance UK employees, when children, young people and their families are engaged in service provision

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children who directly receive Chance UK's services, as well as other children within the families who use any element of our services.
- To provide parent/carers, Chance UK staff and volunteers with the principles and the legal framework that guides Chance UK's approach to safeguarding and child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Chance UK including all staff, trustees, volunteer interns and researchers, sessional workers, group facilitators, paid consultants (at our discretion), or anyone else working on behalf of Chance UK.

Definition of Safeguarding

“Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm” (NSPCC 2021)

To Safeguard you are:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Preventing harm to children's health or development

Part of the safeguarding process is child Protection. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child. (NSPCC)

Definition of Child

In England a child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. Child protection guidance points out that even if a child has reached 16 years of age and is:

- living independently
- in further education

- a member of the armed forces
- in hospital; or
- in custody in the secure estate

they are still legally children and should be given the same protection and entitlements as any other child (Department for Education, 2018a).

The responsibility of Chance UK is to:

- Ensure that all staff / volunteers / people working on behalf of Chance UK understand their legal and moral responsibilities to protect Children and Young People from harm, abuse and exploitation
- Provide opportunities for all staff / volunteers/ people working on behalf of Chance UK to develop their skills and knowledge particularly in relation to the welfare and protection of children and young people
- Ensure that all working for Chance UK understand their duties to report concerns that arise about a child or young person to the organisation's designated safeguarding officer(s)
- Ensure that the designated safeguarding officer(s) understands their responsibility to refer any safeguarding concerns to the relevant statutory agencies (i.e. Children's Social and or the Police)

Legal Framework

Key overarching legislation and guidance relating to this policy include:

- Children's Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- London Child Protection Procedures (5th edition)
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2015
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special education needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015

- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children; HM government 2015

Chance UK will seek to keep children safe by

The 5 guiding principles of Chance UK's Safeguarding policies are

1. [The protection and wellbeing of children and adults is paramount](#) and therefore at the forefront of our practice.
2. We recognise that all children and adults have a right to **equal protection** from all types of harm or abuse, regardless of age, gender, disability, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.
3. We understand that factors such as a child or adult's previous experiences, level of dependency or communication needs may make them **particularly vulnerable** to harm or abuse.
4. We will work in **partnership** with the children, their parent/carer(s) and other adults where appropriate, and other agencies as this is essential in ensuring their welfare.
5. We will **actively promote** good safeguarding practice, and work pro-actively for children and adults where we identify areas where safeguarding may be improved.

Chance UK will seek to keep Children safe by:

- Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from abuse and harm
- Valuing them, listening to them and respecting them.
- Responding quickly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, using our **Child Abuse Identification** and **Child Safeguarding Procedures**.
- Recognising that harm and abuse can occur through their use of technology and the internet, and this is held at the same level of concern as for real-world situations, and has real-world impact.
- Using these **Child Safeguarding Procedures** to inform our recording, storing and sharing of relevant safeguarding information with agencies that need-to-know, whilst involving children and their parent/carer(s) appropriately.
- Ensuring that we are also safeguarding adults involved with these children with our **Adult Safeguarding Policy** and **Adult Abuse Identification** and **Adult Safeguarding Procedures**.
- Recruiting staff using checks as detailed in our **Safer Recruitment policy** and using our **Safeguarding Training Policy** to ensure individuals have the knowledge to act appropriately.
- Appointing Safeguarding Lead, Safeguarding Deputy and Safeguarding Trustee roles as detailed in our **Safeguarding Roles & Responsibilities policy**.

- Supporting all staff in bringing concerns to their Managers and or Safeguarding Lead (s) quickly and efficiently; and having an alternative option should those staff members (for any reason) be unobtainable.
- Providing parent/carers and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have. This includes having knowledge, and ensuring children have access to their preferred method of communication and that staff are aware of using a variety of communication tools.
- Adopting positive behaviour management strategies which are non-violent and do not impose humiliation.
- Ensuring any allegations against mentors or staff are dealt with through our **Escalation / Complaints / Whistleblowing procedures**.
- Ensuring wherever relevant, we are providing a safe physical environment for children, parent/carer(s), families, staff and mentors through our **Health & Safety measures** (not included here) and in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Supporting the implementation and review of this policy, with the support of management and trustees, with training provision, supervision, and sharing safeguarding updates.

Child Abuse Identification

The four main categories of abuse are:

1. **Neglect**
2. **Emotional Abuse**
3. **Physical Abuse**
4. **Sexual Abuse**

Children can be subject to more than one type of abuse at the same time. Following these 4 definitions and signs, there are **Additional Notes** (Appendix A) on: Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines, Domestic Violence and Domestic Abuse, Significant Harm, Bullying, Children Harming Other Children, Female Genital Mutilation, Radicalisation, Safeguarding Differently Abled Children, Spirit Possession or Witchcraft, Forced Marriage, Honour based violence.

1. 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. For Example: Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties or a cluster of such issues. Where there is domestic abuse and violence towards a carer, the needs of the child may be neglected. 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. This could be

when a child's/young person's personal or intimate requirements are ignored, not ensuring children/young people are safe, or exposure to undue cold, heat or unnecessary risk of injury. Some possible signs of neglect:

- Constant or frequent hunger
- Small stature or growth or, in babies or young children, not meeting milestones with no medical explanation
- Poor personal hygiene – in babies or young children this might present as always having nappy rash or regularly being left in dirty, soiled clothes/underwear
- Frequently being sent to school or nursery when ill
- Inappropriate clothing (eg too large, too small)
- Frequent lateness or non-attendance
- Medical needs not met or treatment not sought
- Low self-esteem, sense of unworthiness
- Poor social and peer relationships
- Constant tiredness or hunger
- Compulsive stealing or scrounging
- Constant lack of response or interest from parent/carer
- Under-achieving at school or nursery
- High and unusual levels of anxiety or being preoccupied

2. Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. It can 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 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 over protection 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 e.g. where there is domestic abuse; serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger; exploiting or corrupting children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Some possible signs of Emotional abuse

- Continual self-deprecation, low self esteem
- Fear of new situations, beyond what would be appropriate
- Inappropriate emotional responses to new, difficult or painful situations
- Self-harm (this can present in young children as well as older ones)
- Compulsive stealing, scrounging
- Obsessive behaviours such as rocking or thumb-sucking

- Detachment – ‘Don’t care’ attitude
- Social isolation – does not join in and does not have friends
- Attention-seeking behaviour beyond what would be age appropriate
- Eating problems including lack of appetite or over-eating
- Depression, withdrawal
- Inability to concentrate
- Obsessive masturbation in public
- Acting out aggression between parents or talking about domestic violence at home
- Attaching inappropriately to strangers or people that they do not know well
- Fabricated Illness or induced illness (FII)

3. 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 the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child. Physical abuse can also occur outside of the family environment.

Some possible signs of physical abuse:

- Unexplained injuries, for example, bruising, bite marks, burns and fractures, particular if recurrent.
- Improbable, differing or multiple explanations given for injuries.
- Signs of physical discomfort without explanation.
- Refusal to discuss or treat injuries.
- Untreated injuries
- Withdrawal or flinching from physical contact.
- Admission of punishment which seems excessive or inappropriate.
- Shrinking from physical contact or flinching
- Fear of going home or of a parent/carer being contacted.
- Fear of undressing, changing or being changed.
- Fear of medical help.
- Aggression/bullying.
- Over-compliant behaviour.
- Running away
- Significant changes in behaviour with no explanation.
- Unexplained patterns of non-attendance with no explanation
- Covering up i.e. wearing seasonally inappropriate clothing
- Female genital mutilation- partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or injury to the female genital organs.
- Fabricated illness or induced illness (FII)

4. Sexual Abuse

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or manipulating a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, and 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 looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in a sexually inappropriate way, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet or other technologies). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

In addition; Sexual abuse includes abuse of children through sexual exploitation including those over the legal age of consent (16). Sexual activity, penetrative and non-penetrative, where one of the partners is under the age of 16 is illegal, although prosecution of similar aged, consenting partners is not usual unless coercion is apparent. Where a child is under the age of 13 it is classified as rape under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Some possible signs of Sexual Abuse:

- Asking if you will keep a secret if they tell you
- Unexplained sources of money, sweets or presents
- Reluctance to get changed for an activity
- Chronic ailments such as stomach-ache or headaches – where no medical reason is found
- Involving other children in sexual activity
- Self-harm
- Bruises, bites or marks on the body
- Scratches, abrasions or persistent infections in anal or genital regions
- Age-inappropriate sexual awareness, may be evident in play, drawings, vocabulary, writing or behaviour towards children or adults
- Attempts to teach other children about sexual activity
- Continual or excessive masturbation
- Attempting to coerce other children into sexualised games or behaviours
- Refusal to stay with certain people or to go to certain places
- Aggression, anger, anxiety, tearfulness

Lead responsibility for safeguarding

The designated safeguarding lead, who has the lead responsibility for safeguarding at Chance UK is the Head of Service and Operations.

The Deputy Designated safeguarding Lead is the Programme Lead.

In the absence of the Safeguarding lead the Deputy Safeguarding lead will be supported by the Head of Service and Impact.

The roles and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead and the deputy designated safeguarding officer are:

- To ensure that all staff, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Chance UK are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they are concerned that a child/young person may be subject to abuse and/or neglect
- Ensure that any concerns about a child/young person are acted upon and followed up to ensure the issues are addressed
- To ensure they attend relevant training courses; the designated safeguarding lead and the deputy safeguarding lead should have an appropriate level of safeguarding training to equip them to effectively undertake this role.

Safeguarding procedures for Chance UK teams

Safeguarding children and families is of paramount importance at Chance UK.

As Chance UK operates across a number of different boroughs, all members of staff will adhere to the relevant individual local Safeguarding board procedures and contact numbers for each areas can be found in Appendix 2.

Family members will be informed at the start of mentoring that confidentiality may not be maintained if the withholding of information will prejudice the welfare of the child.

Youth Workers may be invited to attend child protection case conferences and reviews about children on their caseload. Records pertaining to these meetings should be uploaded to the families Salesforce page. Family records should be retained for 100 years after the completion of the service.

This section outlines what to do if you suspect that a child is at risk of harm or has been harmed.

Chance UK Staff and Mentors have a [statutory duty](#) to notify appropriate agencies if we have a [concern about children's safety and welfare](#). It is very important that all concerns are reported and acted on quickly.

Safeguarding Procedures (Identify – Call – Evidence)

IDENTIFY

In the event of a Safeguarding concern all staff are expected to follow ICE (**I: Identify, C: Call, E: Evidence**)

Chance UK staff must be vigilant regarding child protection issues when working with families this includes face to face and online support. If there are any concerns that a child may be being neglected or suffering physical, sexual or emotional abuse. It is important not to ask any leading questions or interview the child regarding any comments they have made that have given rise to concern.

1. **Act Quickly (within 30 minutes)** if you are concerned in anyway, if in doubt escalate. It is always better to share a query or issue than not raising something that could be (or become) a more serious concern. **If a child is in immediate danger than 999 should be called immediately.**
2. The 4 main **categories of abuse** for children are and are not limited to: *Neglect; Emotional Abuse; Physical Abuse; Sexual Abuse*. Multiple categories are possible.
3. A disclosure is **never** 'a joke', even if it is later retracted or reduced. If the person making the disclosure says that they did not mean it, or made it up, Youth Workers and Mentors should follow procedure in the same way.
4. Youth Workers and Mentors should **not try to address safeguarding concerns outside of the guidance below**, or share their views on any concerns with parents, children or families.





In order to assess the most appropriate response to a disclosure or concern, Youth Workers and Mentors should consider:

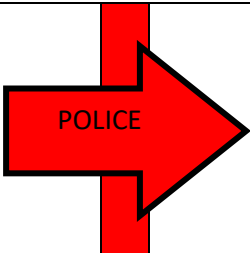
- **The SEVERITY (or IMPACT) of harm to child or adult**
- **The LIKELIHOOD of this harm occurring**
- **WHEN the harm may happen**

If a child or adult tells you they have been harmed or abused:

1. Listen carefully and calmly to what they say. Move to a calmer space if necessary. Do not interrupt.
2. Ask them **when** it happened but **nothing else**. Do not ask leading questions, or express your views on what they have told you.
3. Tell them that:
 - "It is not your fault that this has happened"
 - "Telling someone was the right thing to do"
 - "I will have to tell someone else, and they will be able to help"

It is vital that whatever your concern, you should act QUICKLY.

	<p>Session reports must be submitted after each session.</p> <p>Safeguarding concerns should be raised directly with your line Manager over the phone as soon as possible. Including a safeguarding concern on a session report will NOT alert staff quickly enough for appropriate action to be taken. If in doubt, call.</p>	<p><u>Examples of what should be included on a Session Report as a concern</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child's home is becoming very dirty and smelly ○ Mum blamed the child for her partner leaving ○ Child says last year Auntie's baby died ○ Elder brother is unable to talk but seems very upset when Mum closes the door of his room ○ Dad allows the child to eat sweets daily on their way to school ○ You hear arguing from another room whilst on a remote mentoring video session
	<p>Call your line managers work mobile or if after 18:00 the out of hours line.</p> <p>If you cannot speak to your line manager or DSL directly within 30 minutes, or it is possible that the child or adult has been, or is likely to be harmed soon, escalate your concerns by calling Social Care in the child's home borough.</p>	<p><u>Examples of when to call Chance UK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child says Mum burned a bag full of the children's toys last week ○ Mum asks you for money for food and the heating ○ Dad says that Mum is using drugs again in her hostel ○ Child seems to have unrestricted internet access at home ○ Several teenagers stop you as you leave the home and demand to know where the child's elder brother is ○ Dad requests you no longer call him but instead contact the child on their own mobile for remote mentoring sessions ○ Mum was very tearful and upset when you dropped the child home ○ Another child is now staying in the family home
	<p>1. Call Social Care (of the child's home borough). If out of office hours, call the Duty Team.</p> <p>2. Contact Chance UK and inform them of this immediately afterwards.</p>	<p><u>Examples of when to call Social Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child tells you that the bruises on their arms were from Mum who was cross with them yesterday ○ Child explains that their elder sister made them watch a pornographic video online last weekend ○ Mum says as she leaves the home that the children (all under 14) are always fine alone at home overnight when she does work shifts ○ Your remote mentoring video session ends abruptly as the device is snatched from them by the parent/carer and you see the child be punched in their face ○ After a late session, the child's carer is unexpectedly not at home and none of the child's safety contacts are available, despite you trying for over an hour; it is very late and there is still no response
	<p>1. Call 999 and ask for the Police.</p>	<p><u>Examples of when to call 999</u></p>

	<p>2. Contact Chance UK and inform them of this immediately afterwards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Child says that Dad (who is not allowed any contact) is staying in the home with them this week</i> ○ <i>Child says that they were threatened with a knife outside school today</i> ○ <i>Mum says that their neighbour exposed himself to the children yesterday evening</i> ○ <i>Nan says that Mum kicked the child in the ribs today</i>
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<h1>EVIDENCE</h1>	<p>It is important that after reporting an incident or concern, Youth Workers and Mentors make careful note of what happened, as soon as possible after the event. This will help ensure an accurate account of the situation, and help find appropriate support.</p> <p>All incidents and concerns should be written down at the time of the event and a Salesforce Safeguarding alert completed once the above steps have been actioned. (see appendix 2) if possible, if it is not possible to complete the relevant form immediately this should be completed within 3 hours of the initial Incident or concern or later with agreement from line manager.</p> <p><u>Tips on good evidencing include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Note what happened, before during and after, in chronological order. Note the time of events if possible. ✓ Use clear language, and accurately quote any words or phrases used wherever possible. ✓ Describe any actions clearly, and be clear about what you did or said. ✓ State who else was there, or who else may have heard or seen your concerns. Context is important. ✓ Only report what actually happened and not your thoughts or views. Avoid making any assumptions. <p>If after any safeguarding event you feel that you need any additional support, contact your Line Manager.</p>
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Where the decision made is to contact the Local Children's Services as a Safeguarding referral, the Child's Parent, Carer or Guardian must be informed first. **Expect** where it is suspected doing so may put the child at further risk or harm such as where Physical, sexual abuse or Neglect is suspected.

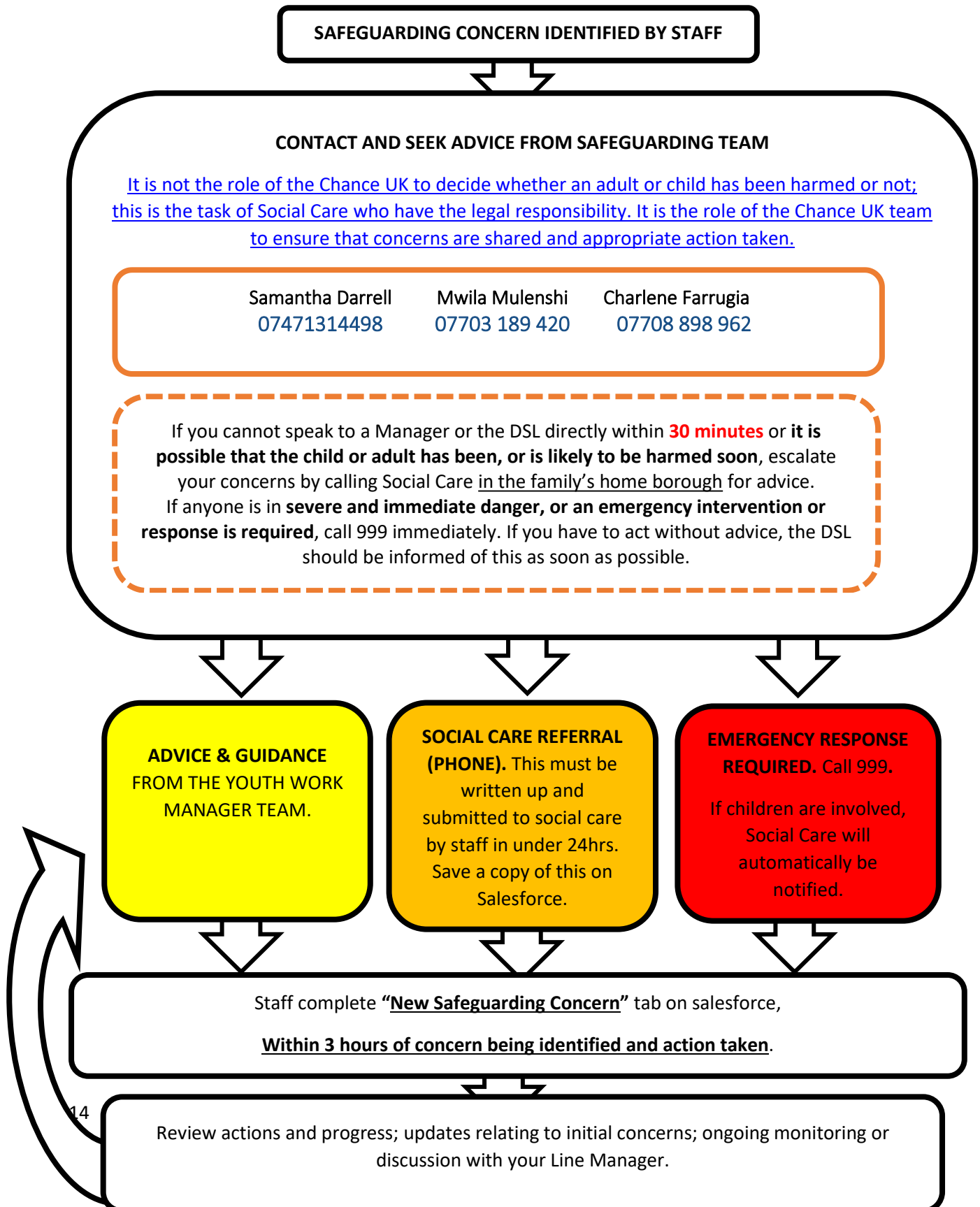
The Safeguarding concern on Salesforce must be updated constantly using the "follow up" function and include any new information being received, any further actions being taken and must include the details of any new professionals. Entries should be carefully dated, and timings entered.

The Youth Worker Managers must inform the Head of Service and Operations and Deputy Safeguarding Lead about any safeguarding referrals to Local Authorities.

Chance UK Staff Safeguarding Procedures

Staff should refer to the Child Identification sections, as specific concerns may require specific actions or protocol (e.g. FGM, Forced Marriage).

Staff working in group-only contexts at external venues should identify the safeguarding lead at the venue and alert them to any concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should also be alerted of any concerns they have.



Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training is compulsory at Chance UK, Staff are expected to complete online level 3 Safeguarding training within the first week of employment and needs to be refreshed every two years.

Within the first month staff are expected to complete the local authority Safeguarding training in the borough in which they support families and needs to be refreshed every two years.

The Designated Safeguarding lead will run in house workshops with staff members to embed policy changes and Safeguarding procedures.

The out of hours line

Chance UK offer a out of hours line for Youth Workers and Mentors. This is a 0800 number which is available:

Monday to Friday 18:00-20:00

Saturday 12:00-16:00

Closed bank holidays

The 0800 number is not a emergency line, it is a resource for Youth Workers or Mentors to call if they need further advice around a possible Safeguarding issue or to report an incident. The line does not replaced calling 999 if a child is in immediate danger.

08000 21 78 78

AS per the above procedures, where you have not been able to reach anyone through the 0800 number, 30 minutes has elapsed since calling with no response or the line is closed you will be expected to call your local out of hours safeguarding team or the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 500**

Appendix A

Additional Notes on Child Abuse Identification:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

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

- in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- 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. (Home Office Feb 2017)

A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home/care and education at some point. For more information [please click here](#)

Some possible signs of Sexual Exploitation:

- Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation
- Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant
- Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being
- Children who misuse drugs and alcohol
- Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late
- Children who regularly miss school or education or don't take part in education

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and "county lines"

Child criminal exploitation, though not defined in law, is an increasing risk of abuse for children and young people. Child criminal exploitation follows similar patterns to that of child sexual exploitation, where a child is coerced or threatened into criminal activity, for the financial gain of the perpetrator/facilitator.

"County lines" is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas [within the UK]. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. For more information [please click here](#)

Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse is not always physical violence. Domestic abuse is defined as: "Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling*, coercive** or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those **aged 16 or over** who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality". This can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.

**Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

***Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.*

This definition includes so called *honour-based violence* (HBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage (please see below for further details) and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

All agencies need to work together to identify and protect these children/young people.

It has been widely understood for some time that coercive control is a core part of domestic violence and it is important to recognise coercive control as a complex pattern of overlapping and repeated abuse perpetrated within a context of power and control.

The main characteristic of domestic violence is that the behaviour is intentional and is calculated to exercise power and control within a relationship. Seeing or overhearing violence to another person in the home has adverse effects on a child's development and welfare. Unborn children are also at increased risk; domestic violence is a prime cause of miscarriage, still birth, premature birth, foetal psychological damage, foetal physical injury and foetal death.

Children of all ages living with a parent, most often the mother, who is experiencing domestic violence, are vulnerable to significant harm through physical, sexual, emotional abuse and / or neglect. The legal definition of significant harm includes "the harm that children suffer by seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, particularly in the home".

Significant Harm

The legal definition of significant harm includes "the harm that children suffer by seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, particularly in the home". Professionals should apply the London Safeguarding Children Board guidance to all situations of domestic violence, for example, where it is perpetrated by women or girls against men and boys, within same sex relationships and from a child. Professionals should be aware of the possibility that adolescents could be experiencing violence within intimate partner relationship.

Bullying

Bullying can also be a category of abuse. Bullying is the abuse and/or intimidation by a person, people or an organisation against another or others. It may be a specific act or it may be institutional. It is an abuse of a perceived power relationship. Children can also bully other

children. Bullying may include verbal abuse and intimidation, acts of physical or sexual abuse and coercion, e-bullying, through texting, filming on mobiles and posting on social networks. Whatever its form it is unacceptable. It must be challenged appropriately and addressed.

Some possible signs of bullying:

- Tearfulness, depression, erratic emotions, loss of concentration
- Reluctance to attend activities previously enjoyed
- Stomach aches, headaches, difficulty in sleeping, bed-wetting, bruising, cuts, scratches, damaged clothing, bingeing on food, alcohol or cigarettes
- Shortage of money, frequent loss of possessions
- Asks for money or starts stealing (to pay bully/ies)
- Drop in academic performance

Children harming other children (Peer-on-Peer abuse)

- It is part of our duty of care that we make sure children are protected from harm from other children. If you think that a child has targeted or is targeting another child it is important to raise this with your Line Manager or DSL immediately.
- In reporting incidents, **it is important that the identity of the child that did the hurting is not disclosed to the parent carers of the victim.** If a parent/carer asks who has hurt their child, show understanding of their upset, anger or pain but explain that Chance UK is not able to share this information as this is part of our duty of confidentiality to all children and families.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- The World Health Organisation defines FGM as: *“all procedures (not operations) which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons”*.
- FGM is a criminal offence in the UK, it is [mandatory for Chance UK staff to report this](#). It is also illegal to take a child abroad to undergo FGM. A child for whom FGM is planned is at risk of significant harm through physical and emotional abuse. Where a child is thought to be at risk of FGM, practitioners need to act quickly before the child is abused through the FGM procedure in the UK, or taken abroad to undergo the procedure.

SPECIFIC PROCEDURE: Concerns about someone who may undergo FGM should be reported immediately to Children’s Social Care. If FGM is reported as having already happened, Chance UK staff should call the Police 101 number.

Radicalisation

Chance UK recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. Radicalisation is the result of a promotion of extremist views that are in [“vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs”](#). Radicalisation can occur quickly, or over a long period. Sometimes there are clear warning signs, in other cases the changes are less obvious. Have confidence in your

instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong. Chance UK promotes positive values and community cohesion, seeks to protect children from extremist dialogues, encourage safe and open debate and critical thinking, engage children in positive activities, and educate them about personal and online safety. For more information [click here](#)

Some signs of possible radicalisation:

- Child becoming argumentative and unwilling to listen to other people's points of view.
- Refusal to engage with, or become abusive to peers who are different to themselves, perhaps on the basis of race, religion, gender or sexuality.
- Child becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution.
- Changes in friendship groups and appearance: young people may distance themselves from friends, both online and offline, convert to a new religion, significantly change their appearance or clothing, and reject activities they used to enjoy.
- A change of online identity, including own social media name or profile image. This may include two parallel online profiles – one being the 'normal' or old self, and the other being an extremist identity, often with another name. Spending excessive amounts of time online or on the phone, and being secretive and reluctant to discuss activities and/or whereabouts.
- Further signs include expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups or justification of their actions, which may include accessing extremist material online, including on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter, possessing other forms of extremist literature.
- being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining or seeking to join extremist organisations

Safeguarding Differently Abled Children

Any child with a disability is by definition a 'child in need' under s17 of the **Children Act 1989**. Research indicates that children with special education needs or physical differences are more vulnerable to abuse. This may be for the following reasons:

- Attitudes and assumptions can lead to the denial or failure to report abuse
- Additional needs of children with disabilities relating to practical assistance and physical dependency
- Dependency – exposure to a wide range of carers for personal and intimate care
- Reluctance to challenge carers (due to misplaced empathy)
- Seeing abuse as attributable to the stress and difficulties of caring for a child with a disability
- Beliefs that abuse does not impact on a child with a disability in the same way
- Double standards (unsatisfactory situations being accepted for children with a disability)
- Isolation (easier for abuse and neglect to remain hidden)
- Lack of participation and choice in decision making (can be disempowered and less likely to complain)

- Especially vulnerable to bullying and intimidation
- Communication barriers (may make it difficult to tell others what is happening - through a lack of understanding the child's preferred communication method, a lack of the vocabulary to describe abuse, or a lack of appropriate communication equipment or facilitation)
- Behaviours misconstrued as part of child's disability
- Judgements made about a child's ability to communicate not based on accurate and specialist advice

In addition to the above some possible signs of abuse for children with disabilities are:

- Bruising on sites that may not be concerning on a non-disabled child
- Not getting enough help with feeding
- Over or under medicating
- Poor hygiene and personal care arrangements
- Rough handling / excessive restraint
- Lack of stimulation
- Unwillingness to learn a child's means of communication
- Ill-fitting equipment / invasive procedures which are unnecessary or carried out against the child's will

Where there are concerns about the welfare of a child with disabilities, they should be acted upon in accordance with the guidance, in the same way as with any other child.

Note: Safeguarding children with Autism

"Autistic children share the right of all children to protection from abuse. We know that autistic children are potentially more vulnerable, because they may find it difficult to communicate with others, struggle with social interaction or have difficulties understanding people's motives, they may be less able to report abuse and thus be more vulnerable to it. This necessitates greater vigilance among professionals in recognising, reporting and investigating potential signs of abuse as well as ensuring that safeguarding issues remain on the agenda when working with autistic children and young people. Identifying safeguarding issues for autistic children and knowing what should be investigated can be complex as many traits of autism can be confused with signs of abuse and neglect." *National Autistic Society*. Please click [here](#) for further advice and guidance.

As with all children and vulnerable adults, it is important that Chance UK employees, including volunteers, report concerns of safeguarding that may arise. If you are unsure if the concern would be identified as safeguarding, always call for advice and guidance.

Spirit Possession or Witchcraft

Spirit possession is when parents, families and the child believe that an evil force has entered a child and is controlling them; the belief includes the child being able to use the evil force to harm others. A child may suffer emotional, physical and sexual abuse and neglect if they are labelled and treated as being possessed with an evil spirit. Significant harm may occur when

an attempt is made to 'exorcise' or 'deliver' the evil spirit from the child. Dismissing the belief may be harmful to the child involved.

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage, as distinct from a consensual arranged one, is a marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties and where duress is a factor. Duress cannot be justified on religious or cultural grounds. A child who is being forced into marriage is at risk of significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Suspicious that a child may be forced into marriage include:

- a family history of older siblings leaving education early and marrying early
- depressive behaviour including self-harming and attempted suicide
- being kept at home by their parents; being unable to complete their education
- a child directly disclosing that they are worried they will be forced to marry
- a child always being accompanied including to school and doctors' appointments
- a child talking about an upcoming family holiday that they are worried about

SPECIFIC PROCEDURE: Where a suspicion or allegation of forced marriage (or intended forced marriage) is raised, there may be only one opportunity to speak to a potential victim, so an appropriate initial response is vital. Professionals should not minimise the potential risk of harm or attempt to be a mediator. Chance UK staff should immediately inform the SL or DSL, then contact Social Care (there is a risk involved in trying to mediate this type of situation) and as soon as possible arrange to see the child alone in a secure and private place. A Social Worker should attend this meeting.

Honour Based Violence

The Metropolitan Police definition of so-called honour based violence is: 'a crime or incident, which has or may been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'. Honour based violence cuts across all cultures and communities. Honour based violence and murders are often the culmination of a series of events over a period of time and are planned or premeditated, often with conspiracy within a family, and a belief that the victim deserved to die.

Signs of honour-based violence can include:

- House arrest and excessive restrictions
- denial of access to the telephone, internet, passport and friends
- threats to kill
- pressure to go abroad

The perceived immoral behaviour which could precipitate a murder include:

- Inappropriate make-up or dress
- the existence of a boyfriend
- kissing or intimacy in a public place
- rejecting a forced marriage
- pregnancy outside of marriage
- being a victim of rape

- interfaith relationships
- leaving a spouse or seeking divorce

A child who is at risk of honour based violence is at significant risk of physical harm (including being murdered) and/or neglect, and may also suffer significant emotional harm through the threat of violence or witnessing violence directed towards a sibling or other family member.

SPECIFIC PROCEDURE: When receiving a disclosure from a child, mentors should recognise the seriousness / immediacy of the risk of harm and report concerns to Chance UK staff immediately. Chance UK staff should inform the SL or DSL and arrange to see the child alone in a secure and private place immediately and contact Social Care, as there is a risk involved in trying to mediate this type of situation.

Appendix 2:

Social care (Borough)	Team	Day Time Number	Out of Hours Number	Email	Website
Camden	MASH	020 7974 3317	020 7974 4444	LBCMASHadmin@camden.gov.uk	Children's safeguarding and social work - Camden Council
Croydon	SPOC	020 8255 2888	0208 726 6400	childreferrals@croydon.gov.uk	Submit a referral to SPOC Croydon Council
Haringey	MASH	020 8489 4470	020 8489 0000	mashreferral@haringey.gov.uk	Child Protection Haringey Council
Islington	CSCT	020 7527 7400	020 7527 7400	CSCreferrals@islington.gov.uk	Are you are worried about a child? (islingtonscb.org.uk)
Lambeth	CSC	0207 926 3100	020 7926 5555	Report a concern about a child Lambeth Council	Report a concern about a child Lambeth Council
Southwark	MASH	020 7525 1921	020 7525 5000	MASH@southwark.gov.uk	Safeguarding The London Borough of Southwark • Worried about your safety, or that of someone else?
Westminster	AT	020 7641 4000	020 7641 6000	AccesstoChildrensServices@westminster.gov.uk	Children's Social Care Westminster City Council
NSPCC	NSPCC	0808 800 5000	0808 800 5000	help@nspcc.gov.uk	How to Report Child Abuse Without Any Worries NSPCC
Chance UK	SG Team	8000217878	8000217878	Safegaurding@chanceuk.com	Chance UK – Solution-Focused Mentoring & Support

If you are unsure of the borough please go to this web page and enter the Childs postcode: [Report child abuse to a local council - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Active from: September 2021

Review Date August 2022