

Bristol Children's Help Society

Safeguarding Policy

Date of Current Policy: April 2025

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Board Member Responsible: Dawn Butler

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4.1 Declaration

Part 1: Policy

1.1 Safeguarding Policy Statement:

Bristol Children's Help Society has a duty of care and will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in the use of its premises at Barton Camp by ensuring all groups hiring the premises have their own Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. This has to be confirmed by the hirer as an acceptable condition for the use of the premises.

1.2 Definitions

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing the impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Child Protection is defined in the Children Act 1989 (s.47) as when a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Under statutory guidance and legislation, action must be taken to safeguard and promote the child's welfare

1.3 Introduction

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children, their families and carers, has a role to play.

- In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should always consider what is in the **best interests** of the child.
- We take an 'it can happen here' approach where safeguarding is concerned.
- **Everyone** who comes into contact with children has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
- Victims should **never** be given the impression that they are creating a
 problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence, or sexual harassment.
 Nor should anyone who has experienced harm ever be made to feel
 ashamed for making a report.

Barton Camp Children's Residential Centre or any activities arranged in association with the Bristol Children's Help Society is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children by:

- The provision of a safe environment in which children and young people can learn.
- Acting on concerns about a child's welfare immediately.
- Fulfilling our legal responsibilities to identify children who may need early help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

All action taken by Bristol Children's Help Society will be in accordance with:

- **Current legislation** (these are summarised within <u>Working Together to</u> Safeguard Children: statutory framework)
- Statutory, national, and local guidance this includes:
- Working Together to Safeguard Children, which sets out the
 multiagency working arrangements to safeguard and promote the
 welfare of children and young people and protect them from harm; in
 addition, it sets out the statutory roles and responsibilities of schools.
- Keeping children safe in education 2024 is statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education which all schools and colleges must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework is statutory guidance which sets standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5.

1.4 Equalities Statement

With regards to safeguarding we will consider our duties under the <u>Equality</u> <u>Act 2010</u> and our general and specific duties under the <u>Public Sector Equality</u> <u>Duty</u>. General duties include:

- 1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- 2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 3. Foster good relations across all protected characteristics between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Staff and Volunteers are aware of the additional barriers to recognising abuse and neglect in children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This will be in line with our Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy.

Bristol Children's Help Society also adheres to the principals of and promotes anti-oppressive practice in line of the <u>United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child</u> and the <u>Human Rights Act 1998</u>

1.5 Overall Aims

This policy will contribute to the safeguarding of children during the residential camps run by Bristol Children's Help Society at Barton Camp by:

- Clarifying safeguarding expectations for members of the education setting's community, staff, children, and their families.
- Contributing to the establishment of a safe, resilient, and robust safeguarding culture in the setting built on shared values; that children are treated with respect and dignity, taught to treat each other and staff with respect, feel safe, have a voice and are listened to.
- Supporting contextual safeguarding practice recognising that the setting's site can be a location where harm can occur.
- Setting expectations for developing knowledge and skills within the setting's community (staff, children, parents/carers) to the signs and indicators of safeguarding issues and how to respond to them.
- Early identification of need for vulnerable children and provision of proportionate interventions to promote their welfare and safety.
- Working in partnership with children, parents, and other agencies in the Local Safeguarding Partnership.

1.6 Roles and Responsibilities

The Camp Leader at each BCHS holiday will be responsible for the role of Child Protection Officer on site for the duration of the holiday; ensuring any issues or concerns are reported to the BCHS Child Protection Officer.

Every member of staff and all volunteers should know:

- the identity of the Camp Leader Child Protection Officer on site;
- that the Camp Leader Child Protection Officer is the person with whom all staff and volunteers should make direct contact as soon as they have a concern about a child;
- the place where the South West Child Protection Procedures are on line <u>Welcome to the South West Child Protection Procedures</u>

The Role of the Designated Child Protection Officer

The Designated Child Protection Officer has responsibility for liaising with the Local Authority Education and Social Care departments and other agencies on individual cases of suspected or identified child abuse, acting as the contact point within the society.

The Role of the Camp Leader - Child Protection Officer

The Camp Leader - Child Protection Officer has responsibility for the well-being and safety of all children on site for the duration of the holiday.

They must ensure that all volunteers have clear roles for the duration of the holiday.

They must promote good practice and encourage all volunteers to demonstrate exemplary behaviour creating a positive culture and climate.

- ➤ The designated Child Protection Officer is the Board Member responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection; Dawn Butler.
- Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership:
 Welcome to the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership website.
 (bristolsafeguarding.org)
- ➤ The South West Child Protection Procedures are available on line: Welcome to the South West Child Protection Procedures
- Any person on site who is concerned about a child is to record their comments and inform the designated person (Camp Leader).
- ➤ The Child Protection Record which details all concerns and records any actions is kept in the Office in the Pool Building.

1.7 Safeguarding Training

All staff and volunteers:

- Will receive at least three hours of training which should take place for new volunteers and the Child Protection Policy should be part of this:
 - where child protection procedures are explained
 - o job requirements and responsibilities clarified
 - o training needs are identified
 - includes clear reference to internal whistleblowing procedures and guidance for escalating concerns.
- Will receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection refresher training (via formal training, email e-bulletins and staff meetings).
- Should sign up to the Bristol Children's Help Society Code of Conduct.

Camp Leader:

- Will undergo formal training to provide them with the knowledge and skills required to carry out the role. The training will be updated at least every two years.
- Will complete FGM awareness training and will understand their legal duty under the mandatory reporting duty.
- Will complete PREVENT awareness training. This is to ensure that they can comply with the legal expectations under the PREVENT duty.

Designated Officer for Child Protection:

Training has been undertaken by the Designated Officer for Child Protection and will be refreshed every 2 years:

- To raise awareness about aspects and recognition of child abuse;
- To give detailed knowledge of the Local Authority's procedures for dealing with individual cases
- To identify those officers within the statutory agencies with whom they may need to liaise.

Part 2: Procedures

2.1 Reporting Concerns

It is the responsibility of the BCHS Designated Officer for Child Protection to report any incidents or concerns to First Response.

To ensure that any information is as helpful as possible a detailed record of events should be made at the time of the concern / disclosure and include the following:

- The child's name age and date of birth.
- > The child's home address and telephone number.
- Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else.
- > The nature of the allegation. Include dates, times, any special factors and other relevant information.
- Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries. Also any indirect signs, such as behavioural changes.
- Details of witnesses to the incidents.
- > The child's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
- Have the parents been contacted?
- If so, what has been said?
- > Has anyone else been consulted? If so, record details.
- ➤ If the child was not the person who reported the incident, has the child been spoken to? If so, what was said?
- ➤ Has anyone been alleged to be the abuser? Record details.
- Where possible referral to the Police or Social Services should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours and the name of the contact who took the referral should be recorded.

2.2 Respond to incidents of child-on-child harm

All staff and volunteers should recognise that children can harm other children. It is important that incidents of abuse and harm are treated under safeguarding policy.

Information about key safeguarding areas can be found in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Annex B); the NSPCC website-Types of Abuse;

At Bristol Children's Help Society

• We have a 'zero tolerance' approach to abuse. Incidents are taken seriously. These will never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter,' just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up.' Banter and teasing can and should be acknowledged and recognised as bullying behaviour and may require proportionate intervention.

- Even with a zero-tolerance approach, we take steps to educate and take action to ensure we mitigate the risk of contributing to a culture of unacceptable behaviours or a culture that normalises abuse.
- It is understood that child-on-child harm may reflect equality issues in terms of those who may be targeted are more likely to have protected characteristics.

Contextual safeguarding approach to child-on-child abuse:

Bristol Children's Help Society at Barton Camp will minimise the risk of childon-child abuse by taking a contextual approach to safeguarding by increasing safety in the contexts of which abuse can occur – this can include the settings environment itself, peer groups and the neighbourhood.

Following any incidents of child-on-child abuse, the Camp Leader will review and discuss with the Designated Officer for Child Protection to consider whether any practice or environmental changes can be made in relation to any lessons learned. This can include making changes to staffing and supervision, making changes to the physical environment.

The environments of Barton Camp should always be planned in ways which minimise the risks to children.

2.3 Responding to Allegations Against Staff/Adults

All staff and volunteers should be aware of their duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of colleagues and must report any concerns or allegations about a person's behaviour where they may have:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

If a child makes an allegation against a member of staff or a volunteer the Camp Leader should be immediately informed.

The Camp Leader must report any allegation to the BCHS Child Protection Officer immediately.

The BCHS Child Protection Officer will discuss the allegation with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at the earliest opportunity and before any actions are taken.

If the allegation concerns the behaviour of the BCHS Child Protection Officer the Chief Executive of the Board should be informed immediately.

All volunteers/staff are aware of the following whistleblowing channels for situations where they feel unable to raise an issue with the camp leadership team or feel that their genuine concerns are not being addressed:

- General guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing.
- The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available here for staff/volunteers who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff/volunteers can call: 0800 028 0285 line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: help@nspcc.org.uk.

2.4 Safer Recruitment

Bristol Children's Help Society recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children.

The following procedure pays regard to safer recruitment practices detailed in Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 3) and is in place to ensure safe recruitment:

- All volunteers/staff should complete an application form. The application form will elicit information about an applicant's past and a self-disclosure about any criminal record.
- Consent should be obtained from an applicant to seek information from the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- Two confidential references, including one regarding previous work with children. These references must be taken up and confirmed through telephone contact.
- Evidence of identity should be provided (e.g. passport or driving licence with photo).
- Explore applicant's experience of working or having contact with young people and/or children through family contacts, through work with voluntary organisations, schools etc.

Part 3: Appendices

Appendix A: Specific Safeguarding Issues

Preventing RadicalisationFemale Genital Mutilation

• Child Sexual Exploitation

Appendix B: Dealing with a Disclosure

Appendix C: Good Practice Guidelines

Appendix D: Safeguarding Contacts Poster

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Appendix A: Specific Safeguarding Issues

Preventing Radicalisation

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies ("specified authorities" listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent Duty.

The prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives

- To respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat posed form those who promote it
- To prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support and
- To work with sectors and institutions where there is a risk of radicalisation

The Camp Leader and the Designated Officer for Child Protection should familiarise themselves with the guidance Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation should be notified directly to the Camp Leader who must immediately report to the BCHS Designated Officer for Child Protection.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Mandatory reporting duty: Click here for government guidance

This is a legal duty for all professionals undertaking teaching work to report known cases of FGM to the police via 101. This is when they:

- 1. Are informed by a girl under 18 that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
- 2. Observe physical signs which appear to show that an act of FGM has been carried out

These cases must be referred to the Camp Leader who must immediately report to the BCHS Designated Officer for Child Protection and always confirmed in writing by the person reporting their concerns.

It is also advised any referrals made to the police under the mandatory reporting duty is followed up with children's social care so an assessment of need and support is concurrently considered.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, gifts, money or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities. Sexual exploitation can take many forms ranging from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for affection or gifts, to serious organised crime by gangs and groups. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power in the relationship.

The perpetrator always holds some kind of power over the victim which increases as the exploitative relationship develops. Sexual exploitation involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation or enticement, including unwanted pressure from peers to have sex, sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming.

However, it also important to recognise that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not exhibit any external signs of this abuse.

Concerns that a child may be at risk of sexual exploitation should be notified directly to the Camp Leader who must immediately report to the BCHS Designated Officer for Child Protection who will share information with Operation Topaz (the police).

Appendix B: Dealing with a Disclosure

If you have any reason to suspect that a child has been abused you should listen and ask only the minimum of questions. It is the role of all of us to clarify issues:

It is the role of Police and Social Care to investigate

We must take care not to ask questions which are not relevant to our role and responsibility for the child and which may also prejudice any action the Policy or others may wish to take about any offence someone may have committed.

When a child tells me about abuse, neglect or exploitation they have suffered, what must I remember?

- Stay calm.
- Do not communicate shock, anger or embarrassment.
- Reassure the child. Tell them you are pleased that they are speaking to you.
- Never promise confidentiality. Assure them that you will try to help but let the child know that you may have to tell other people in order to do this. State who this will be and why.
- Encourage the child to talk but do not ask "leading questions" or press for information. Use 'Tell Me, Explain to me, Describe to me' (TED) questioning.
- Listen and remember.
- Check that you have understood correctly what the child is trying to tell you.
- Praise the child for telling you. Communicate that they have a right to be safe and protected.
- It is inappropriate to make any comments about the alleged perpetrator.
- Be aware that the child may retract what they have told you. It is essential to record all you have heard.
- At the end of the conversation, tell the child again who you are going to tell and why that person or those people need to know.
- As soon as you can afterwards, make a detailed record of the conversation using the child's own language. Include any questions you may have asked. Do not add any opinions or interpretations.

NB It is not a volunteer or staff's role to seek disclosures. Their role is to observe that something may be wrong, ask about it, listen, be available and try to make time to talk.

 The 5 'R's are helpful in understanding what professional's duties are in relation to responding to an incident.

Recognise - Respond - Reassure - Refer - Record

Appendix C: Good Practice Guidelines

Introduction

All adults have a responsibility to protect each child from abuse; this means that if you have a concern about a child or about the practice of another adult you should talk to the designated officer for child protection.

Please respect a child's right to confidentiality so that only people who need to know are aware of any abuse to that child.

Good Practice at Barton Camp means:

- Always working in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication.
- Treating all children, young people and adults equally with respect and dignity.
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first.
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with children (eg; it is not appropriate for staff or volunteers to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them).
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust and empowering children to share in decision making.
- Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical/medical/hygiene support is required, it should be provided openly and with specialist knowledge.
- When children have to be supervised in the swimming changing rooms or dormitories, always ensure staff work in pairs.
- Always ensure appropriate ratios of leadership to children are observed according to age and gender.
- Any planned trips to environments outside of the camp the Camp Leader must ensure the Safety on Outings Policy is implemented.
- Records should be kept of which children and staff are involved in specific activities and any significant incidents.
- When children are transported by car or minibus, arrange as far as possible, to have more than one passenger in the vehicle.
- Ensure that children, when returning from their holiday at the camp, are collected by adults known to have permission to do so.
- There may be occasions when a worker has to work individually with a child in which case the member of staff/volunteer should inform the Child Protection Officer (CPO), remain visible, and establish mutually understood behaviour at the outset and record.
- BCHS holidays always involve mixed girls and boys groups and they should always be accompanied by a male and female member of staff. However, remember that same gender abuse can also occur.
- Adults should not invite children into their rooms.

- Being an excellent role model this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.
- Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Requesting written parental consent if leaders are required to transport young people in their car.

Practices to be avoided The following should be **avoided** except in emergencies. If a case arises where these situations are unavoidable (e.g. the child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital, or a parent fails to arrive to pick a child up at the end of a session), it should be with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge or the child's parents.

Otherwise, avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

The following practices should never be sanctioned. You should never:

- Engage in rough physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay.
- Share a room with a child.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults that they can do for themselves.
- Invite or allow children to have your personal telephone number and address or make further contact with the children outside the holiday period without a parent or other adult being present.

NB

It may sometimes be necessary for staff or volunteers to do things of a personal nature for children, particularly if they are young or are disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents and the children involved. There is a need to be responsive to a person's reactions. If a person is fully dependent on you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible. This is particularly so if you are involved in any dressing or undressing of outer clothing, or where there is physical contact, lifting or assisting a child to carry

out particular activities. Avoid taking on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained.

If any of the following occur you should report this immediately to another colleague and record the incident. You should also ensure the parents of the child are informed:

- If you accidentally hurt a child
- If he/she seems distressed in any manner
- If a child appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- If a child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done

Appendix D Safeguarding Contacts Poster

If a child is at immediate risk call the POLICE	POLICE 999	
To make an URGENT referral, i.e. a child is likely to suffer or is suffering significant harm, call children's social care.	FIRST RESPONSE - 0117 9036444	
Out of Hours Referrals	EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM - 01454 615 165	
To make a NON-URGENT referral, contact FIRST RESPONSE using the online form	FIRST RESPONSE Online form https://www.bristol.gov.uk/social-care-health/make-a-referral-to-first-response	
To raise concerns and ask for advice about radicalisation (also contact First Response).	PREVENT DUTY - 01278 647466 PreventSW@avonandsomerset.police.uk	
To liaise with the specialist Safeguarding Police unit	Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit (Avon and Somerset police) 01278 649228 LighthouseBristol@avonandsomerset.police.uk	
For advice and guidance about whether to make a referral	Families in Focus (Targeted Support)	
South 0117 9037770	East Central 0117 3576460	North 0117 3521499

If you have concerns about a professional working with a child...

To raise concerns and ask for guidance in relation to the conduct of someone who works with children

Local Authority Designated Officer - (LADO)

T: 0117 9037795

KBSP LADO notification form

Appendix E: Wider Contacts

Child sexual exploitation & child criminal exploitation	Operation Topaz (Avon and Somerset Police) https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/vul	
Children affected by Forced Marriage	Forced Marriage Unit T: (0) 20 7008 0151 E: fmu@fco.gov.uk	
Online Safety Advice Reporting online abuse and grooming	Professional Online Safeguarding Helpline T: 0344 381 4772 E: helpline@saferinternet.org.uk Child Exploitation and Online Protection command https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/	
FGM advice	NSPCC FGM Helpline T: 0800 028 3550 E: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk	
Domestic Abuse support (Bristol)	Directorate of local and national services https://www.bristol.gov.uk/crime-emergencies/abuse-violence	
Young Carers – advice and support.	Carers Support Centre T: 0117 958 9980 W:https://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk/young-carers/contact-young-carers/	
Whistleblowing professional policy	NSPCC Whistleblowing hotline T: 0800 028 0285 E: help@nspcc.org.uk	
Advice around harmful sexualised behaviour.	Be Safe 0117 3408700 W: https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/HSB-services/be-safe Brook Traffic Light Tool CPD: Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool (RSE) Course	

Appendix F: Neighbouring Local Authority Contacts

Local Authority in which the child is resident	Contact details	Out of hours/ Weekend
South Gloucestershire	Access and Reponses Team • 01454 866000 - Monday to Thursday 9.00 – 5.00, 4.30 on Friday • accessandresponse@southglos.gov.uk Website: Access and Response Teams (ART) South Gloucestershire Council (southglos.gov.uk)	
North Somerset	 Single Point of Access 01275 888 808 – Monday-Thursday 8.45am-5pm, Friday 8.45am-4.30pm Website: Children, young people and families North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk) 	Emergency Duty Team 01454 615165
Bath and North East Somerset (BANES)	Children's Social Work Services • 01225 396312 or 01225 396313 Monday - Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm	

Part 4: Declaration

On behalf of **Bristol Children's Help Society** we, the undersigned, will oversee the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and take all necessary steps to ensure it is adhered to.

Signed: NB (One of the signatories s	should be the Child Protection Officer)
Name:	Name:
Dawn Butler	Annette Osbourne
Signature:	Signature:
Position:	Position:
Child Protection Officer	Chairperson
Date:	Date:
This signed copy is attached to the n Children's Help Society	ninutes of the Board of Directors of Bristo
Registered Charity Number:	Registered Company Number:

All Policies and Risk Assessments are reviewed annually