

Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children for Volunteers

- Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership
- www.wscp.org.uk
- [Link to TPD free E-Learning courses](#)

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Aims & Outcomes

This briefing will give you information on:

- The different **types of abuse**.
- What **you should do** if you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult
- What **you should do** if you have concerns about a volunteer
- What **will happen** once you have informed someone about those concerns.

Importance of Safeguarding Children

- Nothing is more important than **children's welfare** (Children Act 1989)
- Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support **as soon as a need is identified**
- Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare is **everyone's responsibility**
- **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.
- Important to consider needs of the **whole family = Think Family**

Key Guidance

There is legislation and guidance that sets out how we should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults.



[Working together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)

[Care Act 2014](#)

[London Child Protection Procedures 2017](#)

[Wandsworth Adult Safeguarding Guidance](#)

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding Children is defined as:

Protecting children from **maltreatment**

Inc Physical / Sexual /
Emotional Abuse and
Neglect

Preventing impairment of children's **health or development**

eg Are children
registered with GP &
dentist, able to see
HV, School Nurse? Are
they meeting
development
milestones?

Ensuring that children are growing up with **safe and effective care**

eg Are children
supported to be Safe /
Healthy / Able to
Enjoy & Achieve? Able
to make a positive
contribution?

Taking action to enable all children to have the **best outcomes**



Vulnerable adults



The Care Act 2014, is the legal framework for safeguarding adults



- *A vulnerable adult is someone who has:*
 - *Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)*
- and;*
- *Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect;*
- and*
- *As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect*



There are 10 categories of abuse for vulnerable adults

Safeguarding vulnerable adults



- If you are worried about a vulnerable adult you must speak to the person supervising you or the safeguarding lead.
- If needed they will make a referral to either:
 - The adult social care Access Team: 020 8871 7707
Email: accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk
 - Community Mental Health Team: 020 8767 3411
Safeguarding Adults Team:
safeguardingadults@wandsworth.gov.uk
 - **Emergency Duty Team – Out of hours
Service 020 8871 6000**

Culture and Diversity



- Child abuse is present through all society and in all cultures
- Child abuse is not acceptable in any culture
- Harmful child-rearing practices must be challenged and reported e.g. beating a child, FGM
- Consider other forms of child / domestic / adult abuse e.g. forced marriage and so-called honour-based violence



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Definition

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child

This could also include harming a child by feigning illness or causing ill health to a child.

This is called illness fabricated or induced by carer

EMOTIONAL ABUSE



Definition

The persistent ill treatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

Children are made to feel:

- they are worthless or unloved or inadequate.
- Inappropriate expectations placed on them.
- Children frequently frightened.
- Children exploited or corrupted

SEXUAL ABUSE



Definition

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not they are aware of what is happening.

- May involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts;
- Non contact activities such as involving children in watching pornographic material
- Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways

NEGLECT

Definition

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result

in the serious impairment of their health or development

Persistent failure:

- to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing
- to protect from physical harm or danger
- to ensure access to appropriate medical care and treatment
- including neglect of a child's basic emotional needs

Other forms of abuse

We are not expecting that you would encounter these issues however following slides are for information and awareness raising.

- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Female Genital mutilation**
- **Radicalisation**
- **Adolescent exploitation (criminal/ sexual)**
- **Missing Children**
- **Child trafficking**

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Violence Act 2018 - The definition of domestic violence and abuse states:

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 the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional



Female Genital Mutilation

- **Legislation**

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

- **Definition**

Female Genital Mutilation comprises all procedures or rituals that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. There are no health benefits to FGM and it is recognised internationally as a human rights violation.

Child protection procedures apply if a child is thought to be 'at risk'.



Prevent – Radicalisation



Terrorism Act 2000 - Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the national counter-terrorism strategy and aims to stop people being drawn into or supporting terrorism.

The strategy focuses on three key areas which are:

- 1. **Responding** to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it*
- 2. **Preventing** people from being drawn into terrorism and*
- 3. **Ensuring** that they are given appropriate advice and support*

Adolescents at high risk of exploitation

There are groups of young people who are experiencing multiple risk factors associated with exploitation.

Child Sexual Exploitation, Criminal Exploitation, Children Looked After, children known to Youth Offending and children who are Missing.

These young people benefit from a more intensive, coordinated and targeted approach and are usually known to Children's Services.

As with all other concerns please speak to your Supervisor or Safeguarding Lead.

What is Private Fostering?

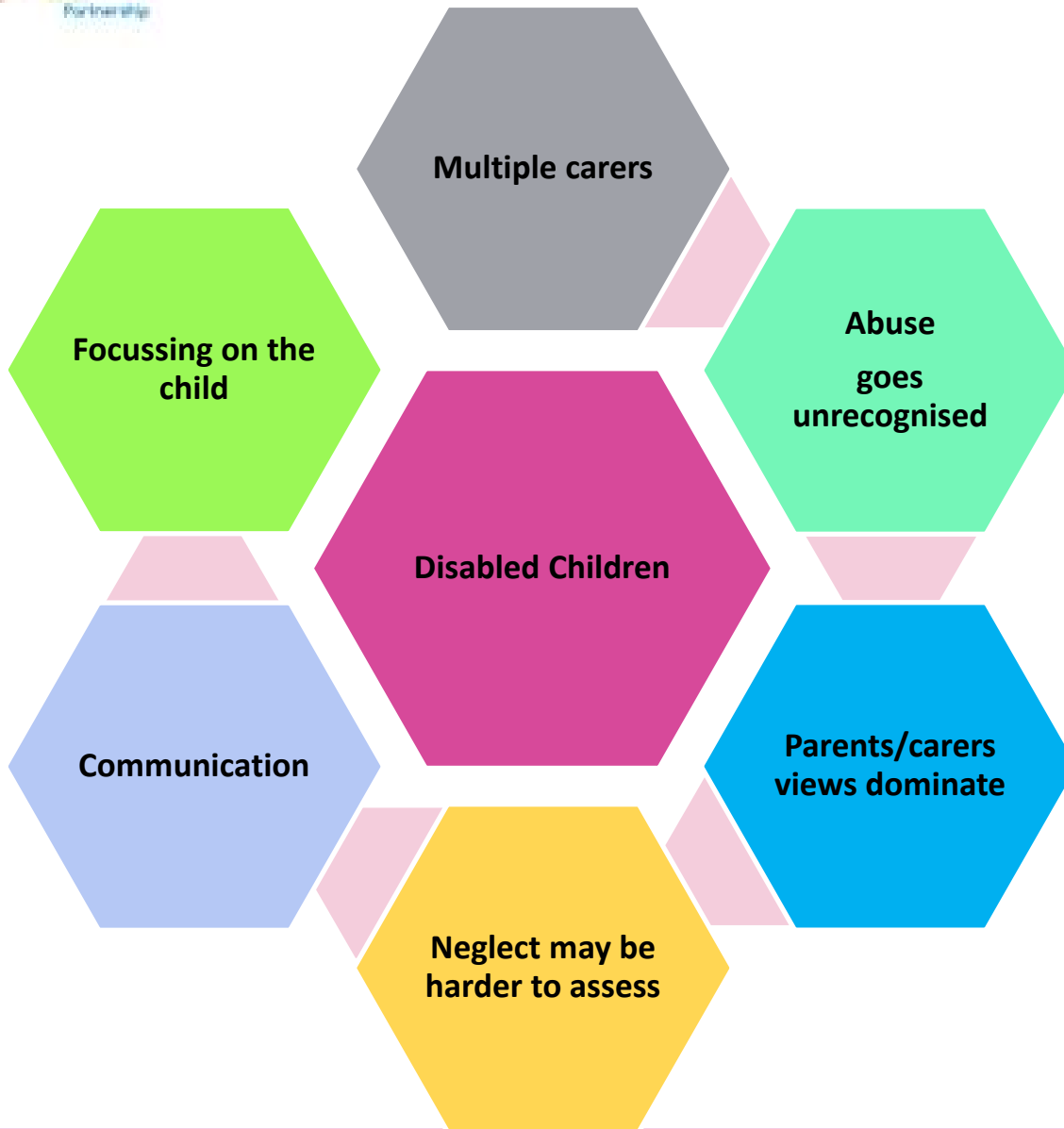
Private fostering is an arrangement between a parent, legal guardian and another adult (not an immediate relative) to care for their child for a period of 28 days or more. The child is under 16 years old or under the age of 18 years and has a disability.

Children are privately fostered if:

They are living with extended family such as a great aunt or uncle, cousin, former cohabitee of a parent or a non-relative. It is not private fostering if the arrangement was made by social services, or if the person looking after the child is an approved foster carer for the child

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Children with disabilities are 3 times more likely to be abused than any other child

Information Sharing:

**If your worried about report anything
speak to your supervisor or safeguarding
lead**

**below is a guide about information
sharing**

[Information Sharing: Guide for Safeguarding](#)

Volunteers

Do you have concerns about a child ?

Yes

Discuss with your Safeguarding Lead

Responding to disclosures

What do you do if a child or vulnerable adult tells you about something that worries you

Do

Act as quickly as possible.

Seek advice/assistance if necessary

Discuss with your supervisor or safeguarding lead

Don't

Promise confidentiality
Investigate

Ask leading questions –
Repeatedly question

Pre-judge what you are told or
make assumptions

Delay or wait to be sure

Be afraid of being wrong, or be
concerned about reporting - you
will be supported



If you are worried about a child young person

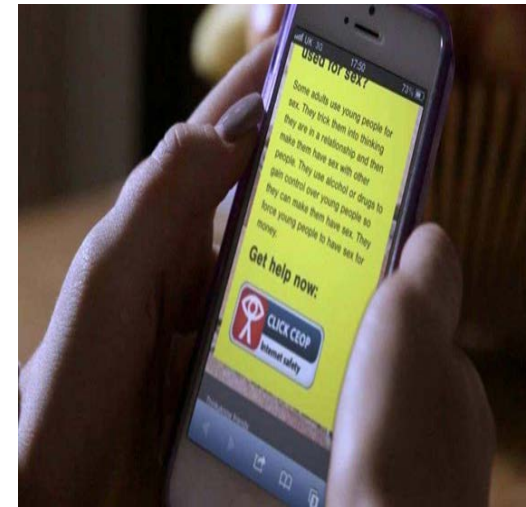
- Please speak to the person supervising you or the safeguarding lead as soon as possible or within one working day of the concern.
- The safeguarding lead will – **Contact the MASH Team immediately on 020 8871 6622**
- If Out of Office Hours - referrals can be made to 020 8871 6000.
- If an immediate response is needed to safeguard the child, then you need to call the Police on 999.

What happens next....

- The **MASH** Team will make a decision on the action that will be undertaken within 24 hours.
- Necessary action will be taken to ensure the immediate safety of children
- The referrer will receive feedback about their referral

Safe Practice Guidance

- Volunteers should follow the following GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES:
- Be careful about forming personal relationships with parents/carers. This could make it difficult to report suspicions of abuse.



Safe Practice Guidance

- **Practitioners and volunteers SHOULD NOT:**
- Add children/young people onto social networking sites e.g. Facebook, Snapchat. Also be aware of your online profile and check your privacy settings.
- Never let allegations, made by anyone, go unacknowledged, unresolved or not acted upon –
Talk to the person supervising you or your Safeguarding lead.

Concerns about the behaviour of volunteers



If you have a concern about the behaviour of a volunteer, speak to your supervisor or safeguarding lead

The Safeguarding Lead may consult or refer to the LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer

Referrals to LADO must happen where a professional or volunteer has:

- **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; or**
- **behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she could pose a risk of harm to children.**

Remember.....

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

**If in doubt about any concerns at all
– speak to your manager, supervisor
or designated safeguarding lead**

Resources



- [Link to TPD free on line](#)
- Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Partnership: www.wscp.org.uk

Legislation and Key Statutory Guidance

- [Working together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)
- [London Child Protection Procedures 2017](#)
- [Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families 2000](#)
- [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018](#)
- [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Advice for practitioners 2015](#)

