



Street Beat

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The values held by (Name of Organisation) are: Street Beat

Street Beat recognises that all children have a right to protection from abuse. Street Beat takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people. We will:

- Respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse and neglect
- Provide parents and children with the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Have a system for dealing with concerns about possible abuse and neglect

THE POLICY

Street Beat recognises that many children and young people today are the victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse and/or neglect. Accordingly Street Beat has adopted the following policy guidelines. The policy sets out agreed guidelines for responding to allegations of abuse/neglect, including those made against staff and volunteers. These guidelines have been prepared in accordance with North Lincolnshire Children's MARS Policies and Procedures. They will be kept under review and be supported by appropriate training.

The policy applies to all staff and volunteers who act on behalf of Street Beat and who work with children. 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 should decide if the concerns should be communicated to North Lincolnshire Children's Services or the police. However all staff and volunteers can contact North Lincolnshire Children's Services directly if necessary.

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE (Working Together 2018)

A concern should be raised if any of the following circumstances have or are happening to a child:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Neglect

PHYSICAL ABUSE



A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocation 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

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 a child 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 a 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 cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploration 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

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.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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 (a) in exchange for something the victims needs or wants, and/or (b) 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.



NEGLECT

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 caregivers); or
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

Street Beat will only retain records when necessary and in compliance with GDPR. Records will be destroyed via confidential waste when not required.

Documents will be stored in a locked draw with access limited.

Retention periods

For concerns raised and acted upon, a record should be kept until the child is 25 years old. For concerns not acted upon, a record should be kept for 6 years after the child has ceased association with the organisation. For concerns regarding staff or volunteers they should be kept on their personal file for 10 years or until retirement age, 67 years old, whichever is longer

EVENTS, CLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES

All staff attending workshops, classes, performances or events will be DBS checked. We will ensure that we have the correct ratio of licenced chaperones for events and performances.

No parents will be permitted backstage or within workshops or rehearsals.

No spectators will be permitted in the room during classes.

E-SAFEGUARDING

We will obtain consent from parents for all images used on social media or the internet for marketing purposes.