

Child Protection (Disclosures)

All staff should be aware of warning signs of abuse and neglect, all staff should maintain up to date relevant Child Protection training in line with the latest national guidance:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/>

In the event of a disclosure from a child to an adult in the setting:

- Stay calm and do not panic during a disclosure from a child
- Listen attentively
- Do not allow shock or distaste to show
- Do not ask leading questions, stick to: Who? When? Where? and What?
- Do not speculate or make assumptions
- Do not make negative comments about the alleged abuser
- Do not approach the alleged abuser
- Do not make promises or agree to keep secrets
- Do not give a guarantee of confidentiality
- Ensure the person first hearing of or recognizing the abuse keeps the door open for the child to talk further
- Record carefully all disclosures, responses and actions in plain language

If there are fears about the safety of a child then these should be communicated to the **Manager, Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection (DMS), Louise Gormelen, or Carol Malkin, Deputy DMS, Lead Practitioner**, and an assessment of whether there are reasonable grounds to suspect harm, or risk of harm, carried out; this should be done using the wellbeing concern form, available in GIRFEC. If the fears are not dispelled by this superficial assessment and significant harm is suspected, then it is the duty of the Manager to call **Social Care Direct on 0131 200 2324**. If Social Care Direct are unavailable then we can call the Emergency Social Work Service on: 0800 731 6969. In an acute emergency it is still advised to call the Police on 999.

Support should be made available for staff directly involved in child protection matters which may be distressing.

Updated by:

Louise Gormelen, Manager

Carol Malkin, Lead Practitioner

April 2023



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Child Protection (Documents)

UNCRC: Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/unicef-convention-rights-child-uncrc.pdf>, children have the right to be free from exploitation, abuse, neglect, and danger.

GIRFEC: In Scotland, we use Getting It Right For Every Child <https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/> as a framework to ensure that it is the responsibility of every person who work with children to look after their wellbeing.

SSSC Code of Practice: As Social Services workers we have obligations under the Scottish Social Services Council code of practice <https://www.sssc.uk.com/knowledgebase/article/KA-02412/en-us> to respect, protect, empower, and form quality, trusting, professional relationships with our service users.

National Guidance: The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-guidance-child-protection-scotland-2021/> means that we must hold the welfare of the child as our highest priority, and that the child has a right to express opinions about decisions made in their interests.

Guidance as a Partner Provider: As a Partner Provider of Early Learning and Child Care on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council the Playgroup is obliged to follow the guidance for the Partner Providers Agreement. As part of this we must have a designated, trained, member of staff to operate as the Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection (DMS) and their name and role on display, and the same for staff as a deputy DMS.

PVG: Early Learning and Child Care is regulated work, and as such all workers and volunteers must be registered with the PVG scheme <https://www.mygov.scot/pvg-scheme> and have their membership updated whenever there is a change of circumstances, in particular the record must be updated specifically for the Playgroup.

Updated by:

Louise Gourmelen, Manager

Carol Malkin, Lead Practitioner

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