

# POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING INCORPORATING CHILD PROTECTION

## **Updated June 2022**

### Summary of changes – June 2022:

This policy has been revised to reflect these changes to the statutory guidance as outlined below.

Section	Changes		
Throughout	All references to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2021) have been removed and replaced with reference to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2022).		
	Terminology change from peer-on-peer abuse to child-on-child abuse		
2.5	Amended to reflect the fact that all staff should be aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.		
2.9	Included the information that we must adhere to the		
	following legislation:		
	The Human Rights Act 1998		
	Equality Act 2010		
	Public Sector Equality Duty		
4.6	Amended to include the requirement for governors to attend training at induction and then at regular intervals to equip them to provide strategic challenge and ensure there is a robust whole staff approach to safeguarding.		
	Subsequent numbering altered.		
6.17	Information added in regard to decisions and actions being regularly and potential patterns are identified.		



6.18	Information added to ensure appropriate support is always offered to the perpetrator (if on the school's roll) and any other children.				
6.34	Domestic abuse Information added about domestic abuse and the detrimental long-term impact this can have on children. Subsequent numbering altered.				
6.31	Information added about the schools communicating with parents and carers to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.				
6.38	Children who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBT) Information added to ensure all staff recognise that those children who are LGBT could potentially be more vulnerable.				
12.13	Amended information about reporting low level concerns and the fact that it is up to the school to decide whether these are reported to a DSL or the Headteacher.  As an AP we would work closely with the school the child is on roll at, as they have duty of care.				
	Subsequent numbering altered.				

This policy has been adapted to meet the needs of an Unregulated Alternative Provision that works with school and commission direct to the local authority.



# SAFEGUARDING INCORPORATING CHILD PROTECTION

## Community Ed C.I.C.

#### **Policy Consultation & Review**

This policy is available on our website and is available on request from the office. We also provide a copy to commissioning school and the local authority. We also provide it to parents and carers when their children join our provision.

We recognise the expertise our staff build by undertaking safeguarding training and managing safeguarding concerns on a daily basis and we therefore invite staff to contribute to and shape this policy and associated safeguarding arrangements.

The policy is provided to all staff at induction alongside our Staff Code of Conduct, behaviour policy and the safeguarding response to those pupils who are missing from education. In addition, all staff are provided with Part One of the statutory guidance <u>'Keeping Children Safe in Education'</u>, DfE (2022).

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Board on an annual basis. This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Board on 10/09/2022. It is due for review on the 10/09/2023.

Signature	Headteacher	Date:	
Signature	Chair of Governors	Date:	



#### 1. PURPOSE & AIMS

- 1.1 The purpose of Community Ed's safeguarding policy is to ensure every child who is a attending our provision is safe and protected from harm. This means we will always work to:
  - Protect children and young people from maltreatment;
  - Prevent impairment of our children's and young people's mental and physical health or development;
  - Ensure that children and young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
  - Undertake that role so as to enable children and young people to have the best outcomes.
- 1.2 This policy will give clear direction to all staff including supply staff, volunteers, visitors and parents about expected behaviour and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our children.
- 1.3 Community Ed fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children from harm and supporting and promoting the welfare of all children. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support.
- 1.4 We recognise that our safeguarding responsibilities are clearly linked to our responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate safeguarding responses are in place for children who are absent from school or who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. Community Ed will regularly liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the child's school to discuss all persistently absent pupils and those who go missing to identify the risk of abuse and neglect including sexual abuse or exploitation and to ensure that appropriate safeguarding responses have been put in place to reduce the risk of future harm.
- 1.5 This policy applies to all students, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors.

#### 2. OUR ETHOS

2.1 The child's welfare is of paramount importance. Community Ed will establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children will be able to talk freely to any member of staff, if they are worried or concerned about something. All staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. Victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment.



- 2.2 Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. We recognise that our staff play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the best interests of the child.
- 2.3 At Community Ed we ensure that safeguarding and child protection is at the forefront and underpin all relevant aspects of process and policy development. We operate with the best interests of the child at their heart.
- 2.4 Where there is a safeguarding concern, the child's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide. The systems we have in place are well promoted, easily understood and easily accessible for children to confidently report abuse, knowing their concerns will be treated seriously, and knowing they can safely express their views and give feedback.
- 2.5 All staff and regular visitors will, through training and induction, know how to recognise indicators of concern, how to respond to a disclosure from a child and how to record and report this information. We will not make promises to any child and we will not keep secrets. Every child will know what the adult will have to do with any information they have chosen to disclose. All staff will be trained to recognise that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.
- 2.6, Community Ed will provide activities and opportunities for children to develop the knowledge, values and skills they need to identify risks, including knowing when and how to ask for help for themselves and others to stay safe (this includes online).

This covers student's well-being, where students have the opportunity to address bullying, racism, stereotyping and other forms of discrimination. Students learn, respect and tolerance for others and positively challenge each other's beliefs.

2.7 At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with commissioning school the local authority and parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with <a href="Working Together to Safeguard Children">Working Together to Safeguard Children</a> (2018) and the <a href="Norfolk Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership arrangements">Norfolk Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership arrangements</a>.



- 2.8 As part of our responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, we will provide a co-ordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified. These may include if a child:
  - is disabled and has specific additional needs;
  - has special educational needs;
  - has a mental health need;
  - is a young carer;
  - is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
  - is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
  - is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
  - is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
  - is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
  - has returned home to their family from care;
  - is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
  - is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
  - is at risk of 'honour'-based abuse such as Female Genital Mutilation or Forced Marriage:
  - is a privately fostered child
  - has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending;
  - is persistently absent from education, including persistent absences for part of the school day.
- 2.9 At Community Ed we understand the importance of working in a way that adheres to the following legislation:
  - The Human Rights Act 1998
  - Equality Act 2010
  - Public Sector Equality Duty

This means we do not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).

#### 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Name	Contact details
Designated	Andrew McGovern	Andrew@community-
Safeguarding Lead	Sally Alden	ed.co.uk
(DSL)		sally@community-
		ed.co.uk



Mental Health Lead	Emma Doonan	Emma@community- ed.co.uk
Named Safeguarding Governor	Julie Bernadas	Julie@community- ed.co.uk
Chair of Governors	David Harvey	David@community- ed.co.uk

3.1 It is the responsibility of *every* member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the students attending. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

#### The Governing Board

3.2 The Governing Board of Community Ed is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. Although our Governing Body takes collective responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils, we also have a named governor who champions safeguarding across our provision.

#### 3.3 The Governing Board will ensure that:

- The safeguarding policy is in place and is reviewed annually, is available publicly via our website and has been written in line with Local Authority guidance and the requirements of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership policies and procedures;
- Community Ed contributes to inter-agency working in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018);
- A senior member of staff from the leadership team is designated to take
  the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection and that there
  is at least one DSL(s) who is appropriately trained member to deal with
  any issues. There will always be cover for this role. The role will be
  evidenced explicitly in the role holder's job description.
- All staff receive a safeguarding induction and are provided with a copy of this policy, the staff code of conduct, the behaviour policy and the safeguarding response for those pupils who go missing from education as detailed section 6 of this policy.
- All staff undertake appropriate child protection training that is updated annually and on-line safety training;



- Procedures are in place for dealing with allegations against members of staff and volunteers in line with statutory guidance;
- Safer recruitment practices are followed in accordance with the requirements of <u>'Keeping Children Safe in Education'</u> DfE (2022);
- They remedy without delay any weakness in regard to our safeguarding arrangements that are brought to their attention.
- 3.4 The governing board will receive a safeguarding report at each meeting that will record the training that has taken place, the number of staff attending and any outstanding training requirements.
- 3.5 Ensuring that all staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and such concerns are addressed sensitively in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing procedures;
- Liaise with the LADO in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a member of staff or volunteer.

#### The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- 3.6 As Designated Safeguarding Lead the director takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection within our provision. As DSL he will carry out their role in accordance with the responsibilities outlined in Annex C of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.
- 3.7The DSL will provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. Any concern for a child's safety or welfare will be recorded in writing and given to the DSL. The DLS will report any concern immediately to the commissioning school's DSL or the local authority if that child is not on roll.
- 3.8 During term time the designated safeguarding lead for staff or college to discuss any safeguarding concerns. If in *exceptional* circumstances, a DSL is not available on site in person, we will ensure that they are available via telephone.
- 3.9 The DSL at Community Ed is will to support schools at child protection conferences and core group meetings. Through appropriate training, knowledge and experience our DSL will liaise with Children's Services and other agencies where necessary, and make referrals of suspected abuse to Children's Services, take part in strategy discussions and other interagency meetings and contribute to the assessment of children.
- 3.10 The DSL will maintain records and child protection files ensuring that accurate documentation is passed to the child's school. All kept confidential information is stored securely (see section 7 for more information.)



- 3.11 The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedure they need to follow. They will ensure that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors have received appropriate child protection information during induction and have been trained.
- 3.12 The DSL will obtain details of the Local Authority Personal Advisor appointed to guide and support a child who is a care leaver.
- 3.13 The DSL(s) will work with the DSL/headteacher of a commissioning school or the virtual school, taking lead responsibility for promoting educational outcomes by knowing the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues that children in need are experiencing, or have experienced, and identifying the impact that these issues might be having on children's attendance, engagement and achievement.
- 3.14 This will include understanding their academic progress and attainment and maintaining a culture of high aspirations, supporting teaching staff to provide additional support or reasonable adjustments to help children who have or have had a social worker reach their potential.
- 3.15 We recognise that a child's experiences of adversity and trauma can leave them vulnerable to further harm, as well as educationally disadvantaged in facing barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and mental health. The DSL will use the information that they hold about children with a social worker to make decisions in the best interests of the child's safety, welfare and help promote educational outcomes. The DSL will ensure that staff, know who these children are, understand their academic progress and attainment and maintain a culture of high aspirations; supporting teaching staff to identify the challenges that children in this group might face and the additional academic support and adjustments that they could make to best support these children.

#### 4. TRAINING & INDUCTION

4.1 When new staff join Community Ed they will be informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place. They will be given a copy of our safeguarding policy along with the staff code of conduct, Part one and/or Annex B of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and told who our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) are. They will also receive a copy of the behaviour policy and the response to children who go missing from education – this information is included in section 6 of this policy. All staff are expected to read these key documents. They will also be provided with information about how to record and report safeguarding concerns. All staff will have a full induction in terms of the system used, around recording all behaviour and safeguarding concerns.



- 4.2 Every new member of staff or volunteer will receive safeguarding training during their induction period within the first months of joining. This programme will include information relating to signs and symptoms of abuse, how to manage a disclosure from a child (including reassuring victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe), how to record, the processes to the DSL and the commissioning school.
- 4.3 In addition to the safeguarding induction, we will ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist staff to understand and discharge their role and responsibilities as set out in Part one of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. In order to achieve this, we will ensure that:
  - all members of staff will undertake appropriate safeguarding training on an annual basis and we will evaluate the impact of this training;
  - all staff members receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, staff meetings), as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively;
  - The Director delivers safeguarding training at the beginning of the September term. This will include updates from Keeping Children Safe in Education' and other related safeguarding policies.
  - 4.4 All regular visitors, temporary staff and volunteers will be given a
    set of our safeguarding procedures in the form of a leaflet and verbal
    information; they will be informed of whom our DSL and alternate staff
    members are and what the recording and reporting system is. (See
    Appendix 2).
- 4.3 Our governing body will also undertake appropriate training to equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place are effective and support the delivery of a robust approach to safeguarding. This training takes place at induction and is updated regularly.

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4.4 We actively encourage all of our staff to keep up to date with the most recent local and national safeguarding advice and guidance, Annex B of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (2022) provides links to guidance on specific safeguarding issues such as Child Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation. In addition, local guidance can be accessed via Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership and within the Safeguarding Section of the Norfolk Schools and Learning Providers website.

#### 5. PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING CONCERNS

5.1 Community Ed adheres to child protection procedures that have been agreed locally through the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership. Where we identify children and families in need of support, we will carry out our



responsibilities in accordance with <u>Norfolk Local Assessment Protocol</u> and the Norfolk Threshold Guidance.

- 5.2 Every member of staff including volunteers working with children attending our provision are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child and have a responsibility to take action as outline in this policy.
- 5.3 All staff are encouraged to report any concerns that they have and not see these as insignificant. On occasions, a referral is justified by a single incident such as an injury or disclosure of abuse. More often however, concerns accumulate over a period of time and are evidenced by building up a picture of harm over time; this is particularly true in cases of emotional abuse and neglect. In these circumstances, it is crucial that staff record and pass on concerns in accordance with this policy immediately to allow the DSL to build up a picture and access support for the child at the earliest opportunity. A reliance on memory without accurate and contemporaneous records of concern could lead to a failure to protect. All concerns are immediately to the commissioning schools DLS.
- 5.4 It is *not* the responsibility of Community Ed staff to investigate welfare concerns or determine the truth of any disclosure or allegation. All staff, however, have a duty to recognise concerns and pass the information on in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy.
- 5.5 Staff report concerns to Community Ed's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and they will contact the schools DLS as a first point of contact for concerns and queries regarding any safeguarding concern. Any member of staff or visitor to Community Ed, who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that a child is at risk of harm must report it immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, to the alternate designated person. In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff.
- 5.6 All concerns about a child or young person should be reported <u>without</u> <u>delay</u> and recorded in writing using the form below.
- Records will include:
- a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern
- details of how the concern was followed up and resolved
- a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome
- 5.7 Following receipt of any information raising concern, the DSL will liaise with the commissioning school and they will consider what action to take and seek advice from the Norfolk Children's Advice & Duty Service (CADS) as



required. All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented.

- 5.8 All referrals will be made in line with Norfolk Children's Services procedures as outlined in Appendix 3.
- 5.9 If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to Norfolk CADS immediately. Anybody can make a referral in these circumstances. If the child's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration by raising concerns again with the DSL/and DLS/Headteacher of the commissioning school. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.
- 5.10 Staff and Community Ed's DLS should always follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy in the first instance. However, they may also share information directly with Norfolk CADS, or the police if:
- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their alternate and the Headteacher are all unavailable:
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.
- 5.11 Any member of staff who does not feel that concerns about a child have been responded to appropriately and in accordance with the procedures outlined in this policy should raise their concerns with the Director or the Chair of Governors. If any member of staff does not feel the situation has been addressed appropriately at this point should contact Norfolk CADS directly with their concerns.

#### 6. Specific Safeguarding Issues

#### Contextual safeguarding

6.1 At Community Ed we recognise that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of the school environment and/or can occur between children outside of the school or outside our provision. This is known as contextual safeguarding. It is key that staff understand the definition of contextual safeguarding and consider whether children are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside their families. Through training we will ensure that staff and volunteers are aware that extrafamilial harms take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple harms including (but not limited to) sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, and serious youth violence. When reporting concerns, staff



should include as much information and background detail as possible so the DSL can make a referral with a holistic view of the child. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the full context of any abuse.

- 6.2 We recognise that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges and these are discussed in staff training. These additional barriers can include:
- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- children with SEN and disabilities can be disproportionally impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.
- 6.3 At Community Ed we recognise that a previously looked after child potentially remains vulnerable and all staff should have the skills, knowledge and understanding to keep previously looked after children safe. When dealing with looked after children and previously looked after children, it is important that all agencies work together, and prompt action is taken when necessary to safeguard these children, who are a particularly vulnerable group.

# Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): County Lines and serious violence

- 6.4 At Community Ed we train staff to recognise that both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse and both occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, sexual identity, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online.
- 6.5 At Community Ed we recognise that Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse and this imbalance of power coerces, manipulates or deceives a child or young person into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator. Child sexual exploitation does not always include physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology. We understand that some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they may believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.



- 6.6 At Community Ed we understand that criminal exploitation of children is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines criminal activity. Drug networks or gangs groom and exploit children and young people to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban and rural areas, market and seaside towns. Key to identifying potential involvement in county lines are missing episodes, when the victim may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs.
- 6.7 We understand that children can become trapped by this type of exploitation as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others. We will treat these children as victims understanding that they have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. We recognise the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys and that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.
- 6.8 At Community Ed staff are aware of the indicators and risk factors which may signal a child is vulnerable to or involved with serious violent crime. We make reference to the Home Office's <a href="Preventing youth violence and gang involvement">Preventing youth violence and gang involvement</a> and <a href="Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults:">Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults:</a> county lines guidance for more information.
- 6.9 If a child is suspected to be at risk of or involved in county lines, we would discuss this with the commissioning school or the local authority, if appropriate our DSL will referral to the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) will be made alongside consideration of availability of local services/third sector providers who offer support to victims of county lines exploitation.

# So-called 'honour-based violence (including Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage

- 6.10 At Community Ed we recognise that our staff are well placed to identify concerns and take action to prevent children from becoming victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other forms of so-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) and provide guidance on these issues through our safeguarding training. If staff have a concern regarding a child that might be at risk of HBV, they should inform the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures, using existing national and local protocols for multiagency liaison with police and children's social care.
- 6.11 Where FGM has taken place, since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty placed on teachers. <u>Section 5B of the Female</u>



Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon staff/teachers in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. We will provide guidance and support to our staff on this requirement and further information on when and how to make a report can be found in the following Home Office guidance: Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation- procedural information Home Office (January 2020)

6.12 At Community Ed we recognise that forcing a person into a marriage is a crime in England and Wales. A forced marriage is one entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into a marriage. Threats can be physical or emotional and psychological. All concerns will be raised with the commissioning school or discussed with the local authority. For further information; The Forced Marriage Unit has <a href="statutory guidance">statutory guidance</a> and <a href="mailto:Multi-agency guidelines">Multi-agency guidelines</a> and can be contacted for advice or more information: Contact 020 7008 0151 or email <a href="mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk">fmu@fco.gov.uk</a>

#### Preventing radicalisation and extremism

6.13 We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. At Community Ed, we will ensure that:

- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors have an understanding
  of what radicalisation and extremism is, why we need to be vigilant and
  how to respond when concerns arise.
- There are systems in place for keeping pupils safe from extremist material when accessing the internet, by using effective filtering and usage policies.
- The DSL has received Prevent training and will act as the point of contact within for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.
- The DSL will discuss all concerns with the commissioning schools' DSL or discussed this with the local authority if required they will make referrals in accordance with Norfolk Channel Procedures

#### Child on child sexual violence and sexual harassment

6.14 At Community Ed all staff are trained so that they are aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via child-on-child abuse. This is most likely to include, but may not be limited to:

- bullying (including cyberbullying);
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm;
- sexual violence and sexual harassment;



- upskirting;
- sexting (also known as youth produced sexual imagery); and
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.
- 6.15 We recognise that children are vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse by other children or siblings. Abuse perpetrated by children can be just as harmful as that perpetrated by an adult, so it is important that all staff and volunteers to remember the impact on both the victim of the abuse as well as to focus on the support for the child or young person exhibiting the harmful behaviour. We understand that abuse can occur in intimate personal relationships between children; and that consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and or videos¹ (also known as sexting or youth produced sexual imagery) is a form of child-on-child abuse.
- 6.16 We understand, that even if there are no reports in our setting it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. We recognise that pupils may not find it easy to tell staff about their abuse and can show signs or act in ways that they hope adults will notice and react to. In some cases, the victim may not make a direct report, and this may come from a friend or a conversation that is overheard. Such abuse will always be taken as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult and the same safeguarding children procedures will apply in respect of any child who is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Staff must never tolerate or dismiss concerns relating to child on child abuse and they will always challenge this. It must never be tolerated or passed off as 'banter', 'just having a laugh' or 'part of growing up'. Doing this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.
- 6.17At Community Ed we regularly review decisions and actions and relevant policies are updated to reflect any lessons learnt. We look out for potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour. Where a pattern is identified, we decide upon an appropriate course of action. All concerns will be raised with the commissioning school or discussed with the local authority.
- 6.18 At Community Ed all staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe. Victims will never be given the impression that they are creating a problem by reporting abuse, sexual violence or sexual harassment. Nor will a victim ever be made to feel ashamed for making a report. We will also offer appropriate support to the perpetrator and any other children involved.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UKCIS guidance: Sharing nudes and semi-nudes advice for education settings



6.19 All staff will understand that they should follow our safeguarding procedures for reporting a concern if they are worried about child on child abuse. The DSL will respond to any concerns related to child on child abuse to child on child abuse. All concerns will be raised with the commissioning school or discussed with the local authority in line with guidance outlined in Part five of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' (2021). We will ensure that all concerns, discussions and decisions reached are clearly recorded and any identified actions are followed up.

6.20 We will work with the commissioning school or the local authority, other agencies including the police and Children's Social Care, as required to respond to concerns about sexual violence and harassment. We will seek consultations where there are concerns or worries about developmentally inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviour from the Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Team as required so that we ensure we are offering the right support to the child(ren).

6.21 Support will depend on the circumstances of each case and the needs of the child and the commissioning arrangements. It may include completion of risk assessments to support children to remain in provision whilst safeguarding other children and the victim, delivery of early intervention in respect of HSB and/or referral to <a href="The Harbour Centre Sexual Assault Referral Centre">The Harbour Centre Sexual Assault Referral Centre</a> (SARC) where a pupil discloses a rape, an attempted rape or a serious sexual assault whether this has happened recently or in the past. The assault does not have to have taken place in Norfolk but the victim must live in Norfolk to access support. The SARC also has a 24/7 helpline 01603 276381 if pupils or staff need to speak to a Crisis Worker for help & advice. Referral forms can be found on <a href="The Harbour Centre website">The Harbour Centre website</a>.

#### **Modern Slavery**

6.22 At Community Ed we understand that modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs. We refer to the DfE guidance Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims for concerns of this nature.

#### Safeguarding responses to children who go missing

6.23 At Community Ed all staff should be aware of the safeguarding responsibilities for children who are missing education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual



abuse or exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

6.24 At Community Ed we adhere to the following procedures and processes to ensure there is an appropriate safeguarding response to children who missing:

- An attendance register is taken at the start of each day.
- We contact the commissioning school or discussed with the local authority if a child is absent.
- If the school asks us to, we make every effort to contact parents and carers and follow up with the emergency contacts held;
- We hold a contact number for each of the pupils attending.
- Staff will alert DSLs to any concerns raised regarding children who are absent from our provision;
- The DSLs will talk regularly with the school Attendance Led/DLS, SENCo and other members of the pastoral team to ensure that each response is thorough and takes into account all the relevant information about individual children.

#### **Mental Health**

6.25 At Community Ed all staff are made aware, through training, that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Our staff are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one.

6.26 We understand that where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. Therefore, through training, staff are aware of how children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour and education. All staff are aware that if they have a mental health concern about a child that is *also* a safeguarding concern, they should take immediate action by passing the information on to a Designated Safeguarding led who will work with the commissioning school or it will be discussed with the local authority.

6.27 At Community Ed we have a named Mental Health Lead. There are clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems and work with other agencies as required to respond to these concerns. Designated Safeguarding Leads make reference to the 'Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools' DfE guidance for further support.



#### **Online Safety**

6.28 At Community Ed all staff are aware that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. Children are at risk of abuse online as well as face to face. We understand that in many cases abuse will take place concurrently via online channels and in daily life. We know that children can also abuse other children online, this can take the form of abusive, harassing, and misogynistic messages, the non-consensual sharing of indecent images, especially around chat groups, and the sharing of abusive images and pornography.

6.29 As part of the requirement for staff to undergo regular updated safeguarding training, online safety training is also delivered. We will ensure online safety is a running and interrelated theme throughout the curriculum and is reflected in relevant policies, teacher training, the role and responsibilities of the designated safeguarding lead and any parental engagement.

6.30 At Community Ed we recognise that technology, and risks and harms related to the internet evolve and change rapidly. Therefore, we carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety, we consider and reflect the risks that children face in our setting. We also communication with our commissioning school or discussed with the local authority, parents and carers to reinforce the importance of children being safe online.

#### Cybercrime

6.32 We understand that cybercrime is criminal activity committed using computers and/or the internet. It is broadly categorised as either 'cyberenabled' (crimes that can happen off-line but are enabled at scale and at speed on-line) or 'cyber dependent' (crimes that can be committed only by using a computer).

6.33 If there are concerns about a child in this area, the designated safeguarding lead will consider a referral to the <a href="Cyber Choices programme">Cyber Choices programme</a> which aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests. It aims to intervene where young people are at risk of committing, or being drawn into, low level cyber-dependent offences and divert them to a more positive use of their skills and interests.

#### **Domestic Abuse**

6.34 At Community Ed all staff are aware that domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours and may be a single incident or a pattern of incidents. That abuse can be, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional. We understand that children can be



victims of domestic abuse, and this can have a detrimental and long-term impact on their health, well-being, development, and ability to learn. We are aware of the <u>Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS)</u> and signpost victims to the service.

## Children with special educational needs and disabilities or physical health issues

6.35 At Community Ed we recognise that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges such as

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's condition without further exploration;
- these children being more prone to peer group isolation or bullying (including prejudice-based bullying) than other children;
- the potential for children with SEND or certain medical conditions being disproportionally impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties in managing or reporting these challenges.
- 6.36 We work to address these additional challenges and consider extra pastoral support and attention for all our children, along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.
- 6.37 At Community Ed we also recognise that pupils who attend Alternative Provision will often have complex needs and due to this we are aware of the additional risk of harm these children may be vulnerable to.

#### Children who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans (LGBT)

6.38 The fact that a child or a young person may be LGBT is not in itself an inherent risk factor for harm. However, in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', we recognise that children who are LGBT or those perceived by other children to be LGBT could potentially be more vulnerable and therefore we work to reduce any additional barriers faced. We provide a safe space for these children to speak out or share their concerns with members of staff.

#### 7. RECORDS AND INFORMATION SHARING

7.1 If staff are concerned about the welfare or safety of any child, they will record their concern either on the agreed reporting form (Appendix 1). Any concerns should be passed to the DSL without delay. The DSL will forward this to the commissioning school or discussed with the local authority.



- 7.2 Any information recorded will be kept in a separate named file, in a secure cabinet. These files will be the responsibility of the DSL. Child protection information will only be shared between the Community Eds DSL and the commissioning schools' DSL or the local authority.
- 7.3 Child protection information will be kept up to date. Each concern logged and all information passed on to the commissioning school or discussed with the local authority, this information will include:
  - a clear and comprehensive summary of the concern;
  - details of how the concern was followed up and resolved;
  - a note of any action taken, decisions reached and the outcome.
- 7.4 When a child leaves our provision, the DSL will make contact with the DSL at the commissioning school and will ensure that the child's file is forwarded back to school or the local authority.
- 7.5 We will retain evidence to demonstrate how the file has been transferred; this may be in the form of a written confirmation of receipt from the receiving school and/or evidence of recorded delivery.

#### 8. WORKING WITH PARENTS & CARERS

- 8.1 Community Ed is the commissioned by a school or directly with the local authority. However, the work we do often involves parent support. We are committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to support them to understand our statutory responsibilities in this area.
- 8.2 When new pupils join our provision, parents and carers will be informed that we have a safeguarding policy. A copy will be provided to parents on request and is available on our website.
- 8.3 We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission, or it is necessary to do so in order to safeguard a child from harm.
- 8.4 We will seek to share with parents any concerns we may have about their child *unless* the commissioning school has requested us not to or to do so may place a child at increased risk of harm. A lack of parental engagement or agreement regarding the concerns the community ed or the school has about



a child, will not prevent the schools DSL making a referral to Norfolk CADS in those circumstances where it is appropriate to do so.

8.5 In order to keep children safe and provide appropriate care for them, Community Ed requires the school to provide accurate and up to date information regarding:

- Full names and contact details of all adults with whom the child normally lives;
- Full names and contact details of all persons with parental responsibility (if different from above);
- Emergency contact details (if different from above);
- Full details of any other adult authorised by the parent to collect the child from school (if different from the above).

Community Ed will retain this information on the pupil file. We will only share information about pupils with the commissioning school, the local authority or the adults who have parental responsibility for a pupil with the school permission.

#### 9. CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

- 9.1 Children's Services will convene a Child Protection conference once a child protection enquiry under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 has been undertaken and the child is judged to be at continuing risk of significant harm. A review conference will take place once a child has been made the subject of a Child Protection Plan in order to monitor the safety of the child and the required reduction in risk.
- 9.2 Community Ed may be asked to attend a child protection conference or core group meetings on behalf of the school in respect of individual children. Usually the person representing the school at these meetings will be the Headteacher or DSL. In any event, the person attending will need to have as much relevant up to date information about the child as possible; any member of staff may be required to contribute to this process.
- 9.3 Clearly child protection conferences can be upsetting for parents. We recognise that we are likely to have more contact with parents than other professionals involved. We will work in an open and honest way with any parent whose child has been referred to Children's Services or whose child is subject to a child protection plan. Our responsibility is to promote the protection and welfare of all children and our aim is to achieve this in partnership with our commissioning schools and our parents.

#### **10. SAFER RECRUITMENT**

10.1 We will ensure that at least one member of the Governing Body have completed appropriate safer recruitment training. At all times the Director and



Governing Body will ensure that safer recruitment practices are followed in accordance with the requirements of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2022). At least one person involved in conducting an interview will have received safer recruitment training.

- 10.2 At Community Ed we will use the recruitment and selection process to deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities.
- 10.3 We require details of a candidate's present (or last) employment and reason for leaving; full employment history, (since leaving school, including education, employment and voluntary work) including reasons for any gaps in employment and evidence of original academic certificates. We do not accept testimonials and insist on taking up references prior to offering a post. We will question the contents of application forms if we are unclear about them, and shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children.
- 10.4 At Community Ed we use a range of selection techniques to identify the most suitable person for the post. Structured questions are agreed by the interview panel and any potential areas of concern are explored to determine the applicant's suitability to work with children.
- 10.5 We will undertake Disclosure and Barring Service checks and other preemployment checks as outlined in *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'* to ensure we are recruiting and selecting the most suitable people to work with our children.
- 10.6 We will maintain a Single Central Record (SCR) of all safer recruitment checks carried. A senior member of staff will check the SCR regularly.
- 10.7 At Community Ed we recognise that safer recruitment is not just about carrying out the right DBS checks and is not limited to recruitment procedures. Therefore, we understand the importance of continuous vigilance, maintaining an environment that deters and prevents abuse and challenges inappropriate behaviour.

#### 11. SAFER WORKING PRACTICE

- 11.1 All adults who come into contact with our children have a duty of care to safeguard and promote their welfare. There is a legal duty placed upon us to ensure that all adults who work with or on behalf of our children are competent, confident and safe to do so.
- 11.2 All staff will be provided with a copy of our code of conduct at induction. They will be expected to know our Code of Conduct and policy for positive handling and carry out their duties in accordance with this advice. There will be occasion when some form of physical contact is inevitable, for example if a child has an accident or is hurt or is in a situation of danger to themselves or



others around them. However, at all times the agreed policy for safe restraint must be adhered to. Please see behaviour policy.

- 11.3 If staff, visitors, volunteers or parent helpers are working with children alone they will, wherever possible, be visible to other members of staff. They will be expected to inform another member of staff of their whereabouts.
- 11.4 Guidance about acceptable conduct and safe practice will be given to all staff and volunteers during induction. These are sensible steps that every adult should take in their daily professional conduct with children. This advice can be found in 'Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings' (February 2022). All staff and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary action.

#### 12. MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

#### Allegations that may meet the harms threshold

- 12.1 Our aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the wellbeing and very best outcomes for the children attending Community Ed. We do recognise that sometimes the behaviour of adults may lead to an allegation of abuse being made.
- 12.2 Allegations sometimes arise from a differing understanding of the same event, but when they occur, they are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that many allegations are genuine and there are some adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children. We work to the thresholds for harm as set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE (2022) below. An allegation may relate to a person who works / volunteers with children who has:
  - behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child and/or;
  - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child and/or;
  - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; and/or
  - behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

The 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point above recognises circumstances where a member of staff (including supply) or volunteer is involved in an incident outside of our setting



which did not involve children but could have an impact on their suitability to work with children; this is known as transferrable risk.

- 12.3 At Community Ed we recognise our responsibility to report / refer allegations or behaviours of concern and / or harm to children by adults in positions of trust who are not employed by Community Ed to the LADO service directly at <a href="mailto:lado@norfolk.gov.uk">lado@norfolk.gov.uk</a> These are adults such as those in the voluntary sector, taxi drivers, escorts, and fosters carers. We would also inform the commissioning school of the incident and the process.
- 12.4 We will take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults in our provision are safe to work with children. When concerns arise, we will always ensure that the procedures outlined in the local protocol Allegations Against Persons who Work with Children and Part 4 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE (2022) are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice. The first point of contact for provisions regarding concerns and/ or allegation issues (including for supply teachers) is via the Local Authority Education Duty Desk on 01603 307797. A Duty Advisor (not a LADO) will give advice and guidance on next steps. If the advice is to make a referral to the LADO service then the LADO referral form should be completed. The completed LADO referral form is then sent via e-mail to: LADO@norfolk.gov.uk. See Appendix 4 for further details.
- 12.5 If an allegation is made or information is received about *any* adult who works/ volunteer in our setting which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work / volunteer with children, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Director immediately. This includes concerns relating to agency and supply staff and volunteers. Should an allegation be made against the Director, this will be reported to the Chair of Governors. In the event that neither the Director nor Chair of Governors is not contactable on that day, the information must be passed to and dealt with by either the member of staff or the DLS of the Headteacher at the commissioning school.
- 12.6 The Director or Chair of Governors will seek advice from the commissioning school or LADO within one working day. No member of staff or the governing body will undertake further investigations before receiving advice from the LADO.
- 12.7 When using a supply agency, we inform the agency of our process for managing allegations against staff and keep them up to date with any policy developments. Where concerns are raised about an individual and Community Ed is not their employer, we recognise that we still have responsibility to ensure allegations are dealt with properly. In order to achieve this, we will liaise with relevant parties including the LADO to determine a suitable outcome. Whilst the supply agency should be fully involved and cooperate with any enquiries from the LADO, police and/or children's services,



we recognise that the commissioning school will usually take the lead in conducting an investigation as we have direct access to any affected children and other staff to collect the facts.

12.8 Any member of staff or volunteer who does not feel confident to raise their concerns with the Director or Chair of Governors should contact the commissioning school or the LADO directly via email to <a href="mailto:lado@norfolk.gov.uk">lado@norfolk.gov.uk</a>

12.9 Further information and guidance documents in relation to the LADO process, forms, leaflets and the Allegations against Persons who Work/Volunteer with Children Procedures are found on the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership website. Further national guidance can be found at: Advice on whistleblowing. The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is also available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday or via e-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk.

#### Concerns that do not meet the harm threshold

12.10 The term 'low-level' concern does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour towards a child does not meet the thresholds as stated above. In Norfolk the 'low level' concern process is to consult with the Local Authority Education Duty Desk on 01603 307797. At Community Ed we recognise a low-level concern to be something which is

- inconsistent with the staff code of conduct, including inappropriate conduct outside of work; and
- does not meet the allegations threshold or is otherwise not considered serious enough to consider a referral to the LADO.

12.12 At Community Ed we promote an open and transparent culture in which all concerns about all adults working on behalf of the commissioning school or college (including supply teachers, volunteers and contractors) are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Through training, staff are made aware of what low level concerns are and understand the importance of reporting and these types of concerns in writing.

12.13At Community Ed staff report all low-level concerns to the DSL\ Headteacher of the commissioning school.



#### 14 RELEVANT POLICIES

14.1 To underpin Community Eds values and ethos and our intent, to ensure that pupils attending our provision are appropriately safeguarded the following policies are also included under our safeguarding umbrella:

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour which includes measures to prevent bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)
- Recruitment & Selection which adheres to Part 3 of <u>Keeping Children</u> Safe in Education'.
- Attendance
- Online Safety
- Health and Safety
- First aid

#### 15. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE (July 2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (2022)
- Working Together to Improve School Attendance, DfE (2022)
- Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures
- Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Protocol: Allegations Against Persons Who Work with Children
- Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings (Feb 2022)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused DfE (March 2015)
- <u>Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding</u> services DfE (July 2018)
- The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers DfE (June 2015)
- Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation- procedural information Home Office (December 2015)
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges DfE (July 2021)
- Child sexual exploitation: guide for practitioners DFE (February 2017)
- Teaching online safety in school DfE (June 2019)
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools DfE (November 2018)
- Data protection: toolkit for schools DfE (September 2018)
- Promoting the education of children with a social worker (June 2021)
- Preventing youth violence and gang involvement
- Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education



### • Appendix 1: Draft Recording Form for Safeguarding Concerns

Staff, volunteers and regular visitors are required to complete this form and pass it to the DSL, if they have a safeguarding concern about a child in our provision.

Full name of child	Date of Birth	Group	Name of commissioning school.
	Nature of cond	ern/disclos	ure
Please include where you there, what did the child s			ure, what you saw, who else was
and the ormal of	ay or do and what you	i odia.	
Time & date of incident:			
Who are you passing this Name:	information to?		
School on roll informed Ye	es/No		
Name of School DLS			

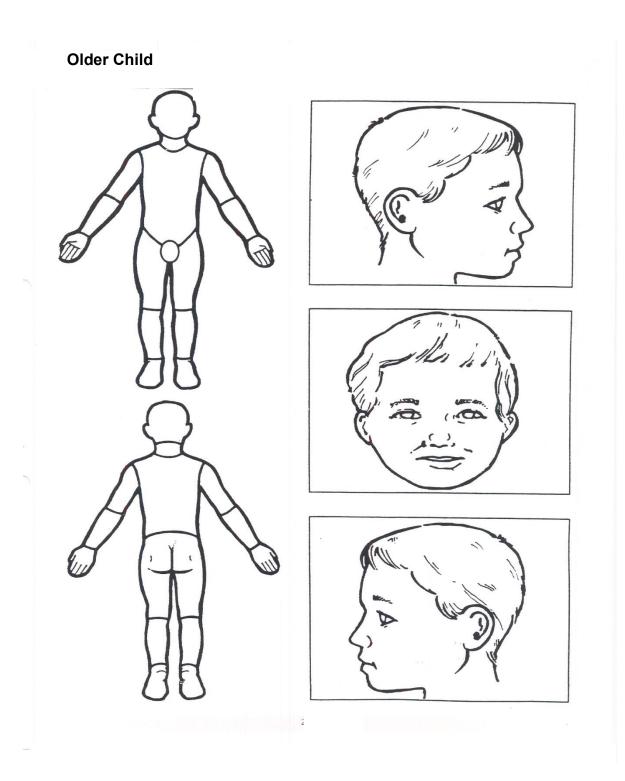


[Ensure that if there is an injury this is recorded (size and shape) and a body map is completed]					
[Make it clear if you have a raised a concern about a similar issue previously]					
Your signature:					
Time form completed:					
Date:					
Time form received by DSL	_:				
Action taken by Community	y Ed DSL:				
Referred to ?					
School DLS Police J	lust One	CADS	PSA	Community &	Other
	Norfolk			Partnerships	
Date:	Time:				



**Body Map** 





Indicate clearly where the injury was seen and attach this to the Recording Form



## Appendix 2: Safeguarding Induction Sheet for new or supply staff and regular visitors or volunteers.

We all have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and at Community Ed we take this responsibility seriously.

If you have any concerns about a child or young person attending our provision, you must share this information immediately with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Do not think that your worry is insignificant if it is about hygiene, appearance or behaviour – we would rather you told us as we would rather know about something that appears small than miss a worrying situation.

If you think the matter is very serious and may be related to child protection, for example, physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, you must find one of the designated professionals detailed below and provide them with a written record of your concern. A copy of the form to complete is attached to this and others can be obtained from the office. Please ensure you complete all sections as described.

If you are unable to locate them ask a member of the office staff to find them and to ask them to speak with you immediately about a confidential and urgent matter.

Any allegation or low-level concern about a member of staff, a child's foster carer or a volunteer should be reported immediately to the DLS/Director. If an allegation is made about the Director you should pass this information to the Chair of the Governing Body. Alternatively, you can contact the Local Authority Duty Desk on 01603 307797. <a href="NSPCC whistleblowing helpline">NSPCC whistleblowing helpline</a> is also available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday or via e-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk.

The people you should talk at Community Ed are:
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/ Andrew McGovern
Andrew@community-ed.co.uk
Location of office: Community Ed
Contact Number: 07917160105

Chair of Governing Body Contact: David Harvey <a href="mailto:David@community-ed.co.com">David@community-ed.co.com</a>

At Community Ed we strive to safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our children. Appendix 3: Local Safeguarding Procedures Children's Advice and Duty Service- CADS



Before contacting CADS, please answer the following questions and follow the advice provided:

Can you evidence that the child is experiencing or likely to suffer significant harm?

YES

Do you have the consent of the parents/young person to make contact with CADS or have you informed them of your intention to do so?

Inform the parents and/or gain their consent for you to make this contact unless doing so would put the child at risk

Gather all the family's details including dates of birth, current address, current and working contact details and family composition, along with the history and current worries.

Call CADS on the professionals only
phone line. This number can be found in
the staffroom. Have a discussion with a
Consultant Social Worker. Make a record
of the discussion held. Follow the advice
given by the Consultant social worker.
Keep a record for your own agency's
safeguarding recording process

NB: The contact number for parents, carers and members of the public is 0344 800 8020.

NO

Have you discussed the child's needs with your agency safeguarding lead or your line manager?

Discuss the child with your agency safeguarding lead or line manager if available and follow their advice when providing support to the family

Have you carried out an Early Help
Assessment Plan with the child and their
family?

Speak to the parents and the child about your worries and discuss with them how your agency can help and support the children and family. You could carry out an Early Help Assessment Plan or seek support to the Communities and Partnerships Team to support you in this process.

Where you have carried out an Early Help Assessment Plan which has been reviewed and amended as required - and the child's needs are not being met or in fact have increased, gather the information requested in this form and then contact CADS.





# Guidance for Schools, Colleges & Alternative Education Providers

Education Quality Assurance & Intervention Service

Duty Desk

