

Growing Roots



Standing For Personal Growth

## Child Protection and Prevent Duty

Advice to directors, employees and volunteers

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**

### Safeguarding

Children and young people may be harmed by someone they live with, someone they know or a stranger. The harm may be the result of a direct act or by a failure to act to provide proper care or both.

Children, young people and vulnerable adults will talk to people they trust, which could include disclosing abuse. The situation may be very traumatic for both the person involved and the person to whom the disclosure is made. Should abuse be disclosed to you, follow the steps set out below and pass details on to a Designated Officer as soon as possible:

- **Listen** to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- **Enquire** casually about how an injury was sustained or why a child/young person appears upset  
Questions you can ask:
  - Tell me (Tell me what happened)
  - Explain (explain what you meant by.....)
  - Where did this happen/where were you
  - When did this happen
- **Accept** what is being said
- **Act** quickly and tell the young person what you will do next.
- **Confidentiality must not be promised** to children or adults in this situation.
- **Reassure** them that they were right to tell you, and recognise how difficult it might have been to tell.
- **Observe** carefully the demeanour of behaviour of the child/young person
- **Record** in detail what has been seen and heard
- **Never assume** that a Child Protection officer already knows about the abuse.

## How to record

Pass the information on to a Designated Officer, usually Growing Roots' employee, as soon as possible, who will complete a Vulnerable Person's report and send it to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) at Somerset County Council.

- Name of person
- Parents/carer's details
- Their address and any relevant phone numbers
- What is said to have happened or was seen, in the words used by the person making the allegation (using actual language used)
- The date and time it occurred
- Who else, if anyone, was present
- What was said by others present
- Any evidence of abuse, eg bruises, bleeding, unusual behaviour (draw a diagram to show the position of bruises or marks they show you, include the size, shape and colour).

## Remember

- Ensure that you record, as accurately as possible, things that are really said, rather than your interpretations or assumptions.
- Follow this policy and refer any issues to a Designated Officer as soon as possible.
- You may need support yourself: if so, please talk to the Designated Officer or Growing Roots Horticultural Therapist/Project Leader of Growing Roots in the first instance.

## Confidentiality

In the case of suspected abuse, it is important to ensure as much confidentiality as possible. Allegations should not be openly discussed with others - this can be harmful for person who made the allegation as well as the person against whom the allegation was made.

Any written reports must be passed to a Designated Officer and then on to the Local Authority Designated Officer at the first opportunity, ensuring that they are kept in a secure place at all times.

**If you are worried, it is not your responsibility to decide if it is abuse – but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and do something about it. Never assume that someone else has already voiced their concerns.**

## **Indicators of types of abuse:**

### **Physical abuse**

Unexplained bruises, cuts, tears, fractures, bites, burns, scars

### **Emotional abuse**

Lack of trust, low self-esteem and self-confidence, feeling guilty and unworthy as a consequence of constant denigration, a need to receive affection and attention, developmental delay, self-harm, aggression, fear.

### **Sexual abuse**

Suicidal gestures and acts, self-harm, confusion of ordinary affectionate physical contact with abuse, promiscuity, anorexia nervosa, sleep disturbance, withdrawal and depression, sexually explicit language or actions

### **Neglect**

Developmental delay – physical and emotional, sores, poor skin condition, hungry, dry, sparse hair, unresponsiveness, indiscriminate relations with adults, attention seeking, passively acceptance of withdrawal of attention, injuries, disturbed behavior.

## **Prevent Duty**

If you have concerns about any young person you are working with, who may be displaying vulnerability to extremism, please talk to the Designated Officer or Growing Roots Horticultural Therapist/Project Leader of Growing Roots.

Common examples of extremism are:

- White supremacists
- Nazi parties
- Anti-semitism
- Holocaust denial
- Race and religious hatred
- Animal rights extremism
- Far right extremism
- Religious extremis
- Homophobia

Vulnerability to extremism may be shown by any of the following:

- Sharing extremist videos or websites
- Harassing other young people about their religious practices
- Harassing young people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Transgender
- Advocate of hate crimes
- Recent religious conversion
- Possessing literature related to extreme views
- Conflict with family over religious beliefs/lifestyles/politics
- Identity confusion

**Growing Roots promotes individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.**

**Some useful numbers:**

**Refuge (Domestic Abuse National helpline): 0800 2000 24724 (24 hours a day)**

**LADO 0300 123 2224**

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