

# CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## Introduction

This policy is designed to help protect children, young people aged 18 under and vulnerable people of all ages from any form of unacceptable behaviour including sexual misbehaviour, physical acts, inappropriate remarks, suggestive gestures, pictures or other material, or other forms of abuse such as physical violence or bullying.

## Key Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount;
- Those providing services for young people should have a procedure for handling child protection allegations consistent with current practice;
- All allegations should be taken seriously and treated in accordance with child protection procedures;
- The Social Services and the police are responsible for any investigation.

Where issues are raised with regards to any child, young person or vulnerable adult direct to Certhia these will be referred to the relevant authority. Certhia will assist the Social Services and the police in any investigation taking place.

The following are recognised as forms of abuse for the purposes of safeguarding.

## Physical Abuse

Physical abuse causes harm to a child's or vulnerable adult's person. It may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning or suffocating. It may be done deliberately or recklessly, or be the result of a deliberate failure to prevent injury occurring.

## Neglect

Neglect is the persistent or severe failure to meet a child's or young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs. It will result in serious impairment of the child's or young person's health or development.

## Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves a child or young person being forced or coerced into participating in or watching sexual activity. It is not necessary for the child or young person to be aware that the activity is sexual and the apparent consent of the child or young person is irrelevant.



## **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse occurs where there is persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection. It causes severe and adverse effects on the child's or young person's behaviour and emotional development, resulting in low self worth. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all forms of abuse.

## **Financial**

Financial or material abuse includes theft, fraud, exploitation, and the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

## **Psychological**

Psychological abuse includes verbal or emotional abuse (humiliation, intimidation, being maliciously taunted with phony promises etc).

## **Discriminatory**

Discriminatory abuse includes racism, sexism, homophobia, discrimination against disabled people, and other such forms of prejudice.

Those that deal with children, young people and vulnerable people of all ages must:

- Take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of any child or vulnerable person;
- Ensure that the activities which they direct are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of children participating;
- Consistently display high standards of personal behaviour and appearance. Remember that children regard adults as role models and ensure your behaviour, language, gestures etc. are appropriate and above reproach ;
- Avoid spending time alone with children, including car journeys. Meetings with individual children should take place as openly as possible and always with the full knowledge of another responsible person;
- Not make any unnecessary physical contact with children. If you accidentally hurt a child, or cause distress in any way, report the incident as soon as possible. Parents/carers should also be informed of the occurrence;
- Record any allegations.

To minimise opportunities for children to suffer harm of any kind whilst participating in Lantra Awards courses school/organisation staff and/or parents/carers are given full information about the course programme and the supervision arrangements (including ratio of the number of instructors to children). Written parental consent for the child's participation must be obtained.



Appropriate action should be taken if it becomes apparent that anyone is physically, emotionally or sexually abusing a child. Report any evidence or reasonable suspicion that a child has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused whether by an adult or another child to the people or agencies whose role is to protect them (e.g. parents, police or social services).

A copy of 'A Practical Guide to the Act for all Organisations Working with Children can be found on the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) website ([www.crb.gov.uk](http://www.crb.gov.uk)).

If a course which may be attended by children and/or vulnerable adults is proposed then the instructor will be CRB checked before hand.

