

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE

What is covered in this document:

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Policy Statement](#)
3. [Responsibilities under this Policy](#)
4. [Recognising, Raising Concerns and Recording Safeguarding Issues](#)
 - 4.1 Importance of raising concern
 - 4.2 Raising and reporting Safeguarding issues
 - 4.3 Confidentiality issues and information sharing
 - 4.4 What to do if a young person tells you that he/she has been or is being abused
 - 4.5 Action where a report or suspicion of abuse is made concerning a member of staff or volunteer
 - 4.6 Immediate action to be taken where an incident of abuse has or potentially has taken place under The Youth Adventure Trust supervision
 - 4.7 Action to be taken where allegations/suspicious involve victim and perpetrator are both participants in the Youth Adventure Trust programme
 - 4.8 Record Keeping
5. [Selection and Recruitment of Staff and Volunteer](#)
6. [Safeguarding Awareness Training](#)
7. [Promoting Good Practice and a Protective Culture within The Youth Adventure Trust](#)
 - 7.1 Practice to be encouraged
 - 7.2 Practice to be avoided
 - 7.3 Raising concerns of staff poor practice
 - 7.4 Use of photographic and filming equipment during Youth Adventure Trust activities
 - 7.5 Social Media/Communication Statement
8. [Contact with Local Authorities](#)
9. [Policy Review Statement](#)

[Appendix I Understanding and identifying abuse and neglect](#)

[Appendix II Definitions and signs of child abuse](#)

[Appendix III Action in response to safeguarding concerns flowchart](#)

[Appendix IV Significant Event Form](#)

[Appendix V \(Staff\) Young Person Welfare Concern Form](#)

[Appendix VI \(Volunteer\) Young Person Welfare Concern Form](#)

[Appendix VII Flowchart of when and how to share information](#)

[Appendix VIII Key telephone numbers](#)

1. Introduction

The Youth Adventure Trust is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in its work with young people. It is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people at all times, and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment. The formulation of this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy reflects this commitment.

In our work with young people we recognise that every child has the right to live free from abuse. However, we also recognise that every child and vulnerable young person is potentially at risk from abuse and exploitation.

In order to facilitate the above, the Youth Adventure Trust has developed a policy that details:

- Policy and guidelines to ensure a safe and supportive environment for young people and staff is provided.
- Policy and guidelines to ensure that staff and volunteers are equipped to make clear and consistent responses to disclosure/allegations or suspicions of abuse.
- Management responsibilities and structures that support the policy and the responsibilities of staff and volunteers within their duty of care.
- A code of conduct for staff and volunteers that identifies areas of good practice in working professionally and safely with young people.

2. Policy Statement

Aims

The aim of this safeguarding and child protection policy is to promote good practice by:

- Providing young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care and supervision of the Youth Adventure Trust staff and volunteers.
- Allowing all staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues.

Values and Principles

The Youth Adventure Trust believes children have a right to be safe and should be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them. In all work with young people the Youth Adventure Trust will ensure that the welfare and safety of the young person is paramount and that we constantly strive to provide an environment free from abuse through implementation of appropriate policies and guidelines.

We value and will respond promptly and constructively to all information presented by children, or third parties, regarding the safety and welfare of children.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility; working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare. Children are best supported and protected when there is a coordinated response from all relevant agencies.
- the Youth Adventure Trust is an agent of referral and not of investigation

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
- Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidance
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015
- Information sharing – Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2015
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

Confidentiality

The Youth Adventure Trust will ensure access to confidential information is restricted and only those appropriate workers and relevant external authorities have access, in line with the Youth Adventure Trust Data Protection policy.

3. Responsibilities under this Policy

The implementation of this policy is mandatory across the full scope of the Youth Adventure Trust's work, specific responsibilities are outlined below.

Chief Executive

Responsible for:

The Chief Executive is ultimately responsible for the implementation of the Youth Adventure Trust Safeguarding Policy.

Ensuring that child protection implications are constantly reviewed across the scope of the service the Youth Adventure Trust delivers to young people and are fully considered in the development of all new pieces of work.

Considering and authorising any immediate changes in operational policy required due to a safeguarding incident or near miss.

Ensuring that safeguarding is considered in all appointments of staff.

Director of Programmes & Development

Responsible for:

Supporting staff with advice on safeguarding issues.

Keeping and monitoring central records of all safeguarding cases.

Ensuring that the Youth Adventure Trust Safeguarding Policy is regularly reviewed.

Ensuring appropriate safeguarding training is in place.

Ensuring all safeguarding issues are referred to the relevant external agencies.

Ensuring all staff and volunteers are aware of their roles and responsibilities within this policy.

Ensuring that when working in partnership with other agencies the relevant safeguards, checks and procedures are in place.

Developing an open and responsive management culture where staff and volunteers feel able to discuss safeguarding and abuse issues confidentially, and receive guidance and support on action as situations arise. Volunteers must be confident of the support and guidance they receive in dealing with safeguarding issues, and of receiving personal support for needs that may arise as a result of safeguarding issues and situations.

Programme Manager and Mentoring Manager

Responsible for:

Ensuring they have all necessary information with them while working with young people on the YAT programme, including home contact details, medical information, consent information, referral agency information and contact details of relevant Children's Social Care Teams and Emergency Duty Teams.

In the event of possible, actual or suspected child abuse, the Programme Manager or Mentoring Manager will need to respond immediately, and collate the necessary information i.e. name and address of young people and other people involved, details of actual/suspected abuse, name and place of work of the young people's Social Worker if applicable. They must then contact the relevant Children's Social Care Team, the Emergency Duty Team, or the police depending on the situation, to pass on all information.

Ensuring that any referral is followed up in writing, confirming the information provided and including copies of any recordings made at the time.

Continuing to act as a contact person in liaising with the relevant external agencies as required.

Keeping a record of safeguarding information sharing decisions and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If the decision is to share, then recording what has been shared, with whom and for what purpose. Information shared must be necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure.

Ensuring records of all reports of safeguarding related incidents are accurate and stored in a secure location.

All Staff and Volunteers

Responsible for:

Ensuring their conduct is in line with this Safeguarding Policy and the training that has been provided to them.

Ensuring they are vigilant at all times in respect of young people's welfare and safety, including being aware of the conduct of all other staff and volunteers.

Ensuring they report any concerns, suspicions or issues as soon as possible to the relevant person or authority as outlined in this policy.

Ensuring they record as soon as possible any disclosures made to them, and pass this recording on to the relevant person as outlined in this policy.

Notifying the police without delay if it is thought that a crime has been committed and/or a child is at immediate risk

4. Recognising, Raising Concern and Reporting Safeguarding Issues

Types of Abuse

To ensure that young people are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect. Further information in relation to these areas can be found in Appendix I and II. This information is provided from HM Government's document 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' 2015, and the NSPCC's 'Definitions and signs of child abuse' factsheet, 2017.

4.1 Importance of raising concerns

Everyone working and volunteering within the Youth Adventure Trust can play an important part in promoting the safety and protection of young people with whom they are working.

There are many reasons why staff/volunteers may consider not reporting the matter e.g.

- They are not sure that their concern is correct
- They have been asked by the young person not to tell anyone
- They believe the consequences of raising the issue may not be in what they believe to be, the best interests of the young person.
- The consequences for the alleged abuser may be very serious even if the case is not proven against them
- They are not sure if the young person's story is credible
- The desire to protect a colleague or friend who is implicated

However, it is not the responsibility of anyone working within the Youth Adventure Trust, in a paid or unpaid capacity, to decide whether or not abuse has taken place. It is therefore vital that staff and volunteers raise all concerns of suspected or alleged abuse; failure to do so may put a young person at risk.

Therefore it is the YAT policy that suspicions and allegations of abuse will be reported to Children's Social Care and/or the police (in line with the 'Actions in response to safeguarding concerns flowchart' Appendix III), whose duty it will be to take further steps to protect the young person and investigate the allegations or suspicions.

4.2 Raising and reporting Safeguarding issues

If you are concerned about the safety of a young person because:

- You see or suspect abuse
- An allegation of abuse is made
- A young person reports abuse

You must discuss your concerns with the Programme Manager or Mentoring Manager. If this is the person who is suspected of abuse, discuss your concerns with the Director of Programmes & Development or the Chief Executive. Also ensure that detailed written records are made of all events and what the young person has said (where this applies) and your subsequent actions including details of passing on the information. They will then decide on the next course of action, including informing the relevant external agencies.

Remember: it is essential to avoid delay – take action. Pass your concerns on as soon as possible. Inaction may place the young person at further risk.

4.3 Confidentiality issues and information sharing

In the event of a young person making a disclosure of abuse, it is important at the earliest opportunity to remind the young person of the issue of confidentiality and explain what this means i.e. do not promise to keep information to yourself. It is essential to explain that all concerns or allegations of abuse have to be passed on to the relevant people as it is your duty to keep young people safe from harm.

Information held internally by the Youth Adventure Trust must be stored in a secure place with limited access by designated people, in line with data protection laws (e.g. that information is necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, timely and secure).

Volunteers and staff are not permitted to discuss identifiable and confidential information concerning young people involved with the Youth Adventure Trust with anybody outside of the organisation, unless it is deemed necessary as part of collaborative working to support that young person's wellbeing.

Information sharing is vital to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Information Sharing should happen in line with the protocols outlined in 'Information Sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers' 2015. A flowchart summarising the key points of this document is included in Appendix VI.

4.4 What to do if a young person tells you that he/she has been or is being abused.

The following are guidelines on immediate action to be taken following report of abuse by a young person.

- React calmly so as not to frighten or deter him/her.

- Reassure him/her that you are glad they have told you, and what has happened is not their fault.
- Don't promise to keep it to yourself; at the earliest opportunity remind the young person about our confidentiality policy and explain what it means i.e. that you need to make sure they will be safe, and have to pass on the information to somebody trusted to deal with it appropriately.
- Listen carefully to what the young person says and take them seriously.
- Allow the young person to speak freely and tell you what happened in their own words.
- It is important to clarify what you have heard, and to establish the basic facts. However do not ask any leading or investigative questions, and do not ask the young person specific questions about details. This is the job of the professional agencies.
- If possible make brief notes during the initial disclosure, explaining to the young person why you are doing this. If not possible to do so at the time, make notes as soon as possible afterwards.

Your information should include:

- The nature of the suspicion or allegation.
- A description of any visible injury.
- The young person's account of what has happened. Where possible try to write down the actual words used by the young person.
- Dates, times, any other factual information, such as witnesses, locations etc.
- Remember it is essential to make the distinction between fact, opinion or hearsay in anything you write

4.5 Action where a report or suspicion of abuse is made concerning a paid member of staff or volunteer

If a concern or allegation of abuse or inappropriate conduct is made against a member of staff/volunteer, or you have a suspicion regarding a member of staff/volunteer's conduct with regard to young people, you must inform the Programme Manager or Mentoring Manager immediately. If the allegation or suspicion concerns them, then the Director of Programmes & Development or Chief Executive must be directly contacted immediately.

Each situation will be considered individually, but the overriding priority will be the immediate safety of the young person. Please refer to the Youth Adventure Trust Managing Allegations Policy for further details.

4.6 Immediate action to be taken where an incident of abuse has or potentially has taken place under the Youth Adventure Trust supervision.

The overriding priority in any situation is the immediate safety of the young person. Consideration must be given to removing the victim from any potential harm to a place where any physical/emotional needs can be cared for.

As well as establishing initial facts, there will be a need to ensure that both the victim and alleged abuser are kept apart.

In a residential setting consideration must be given to returning one or both of the individuals home, if the police are not immediately involved.

4.7 Action to be taken in respect of allegations/suspicions where the victim and perpetrator are both participants in the Youth Adventure Trust programme.

Where allegations are made against a participant by another young person involved in the Youth Adventure Trust programme, the procedures as outlined in section 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6 of this policy must be followed.

4.8 Record Keeping

A member of staff must make an accurate record on a YAT Significant Event Form (Appendix IV) as soon as possible following any allegation or concerns, noting what was said or seen, putting the event into context, and giving the date, time and location. All records must be dated and signed and discussed with the Director of Programmes & Development

The record should include:

- date and time of incident/disclosure
- parties who were involved, including any witnesses to an event
- what was said or done and by whom
- any action taken by the organisation to look into the matter
- any further action taken
- where relevant, the reasons why a decision was taken not to refer those concerns to a statutory agency
- name of person reporting on the concern, name and designation of the person to whom the concern was reported, date and time and their contact details
- any interpretation/inference drawn from what was observed, said or alleged should be clearly recorded as such rather than stated as facts
- The record should be signed

Where concerns do not meet the threshold for a safeguarding referral, a “(Staff) Young Person Welfare Concern Form” (Appendix V) should still be completed, and consideration should be given to the appropriateness of passing the information on to the relevant children’s services.

Volunteers should complete a “(Volunteer) Young Person Welfare Concern Form” (Appendix VI) and pass on to a YAT member of staff as soon as possible.

All records relating to safeguarding / welfare concerns will be kept in a secure place and will remain confidential, in line with the Youth Adventure Trust Data Protection Policy.

5. Selection and Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers

The Youth Adventure Trust recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse a child in some way, and therefore all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that unsuitable individuals are prevented from working or volunteering within the Youth Adventure Trust.

The following guidelines must be employed:-

- All staff and volunteers must complete an application form. The application form should elicit information about the applicant’s past, and self-disclosures about any criminal record.
- Any gaps identified in employment history will be explored with the individual concerned.
- All prospective staff members and volunteers must be vetted through an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. No member of staff or volunteer will be permitted unsupervised

access to young people on the Youth Adventure Trust programmes until full references and DBS clearance have been received.

Should the vetting process raise any concern about an individual's suitability to work with the Youth Adventure Trust young people, the Director of Programmes & Development must be informed immediately and further assessment take place.

- Two confidential references must be taken up in writing in all cases.
- Evidence of two forms of identity plus proof of address as outlined in the DBS check guidelines must be seen (originals).

6. Safeguarding Awareness Training

The Youth Adventure Trust will ensure that all its staff and volunteers receive safeguarding awareness training, recognising that a proper awareness and understanding of child abuse and safeguarding is crucial for all its staff and volunteers. This will be done through an online training module, at the annual residential training course and on an ongoing basis through other training opportunities. All volunteers and staff will be required to read this policy in advance of any work with young people on the Youth Adventure Trust programmes.

7. Promoting Good Practice and a Protective Culture within The Youth Adventure Trust

All staff and volunteers must demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. The following are common sense examples of how to create a positive and a protective culture within the Youth Adventure Trust:

7.1 Practice to be encouraged

- Always put the welfare of each young person first before achieving goals.
- Treat all young people with respect and dignity.
- Seek opportunity to have conversations with young people about keeping safe at the Youth Adventure Trust and at home.
- Always work in an open environment, avoid private or unobserved situations, and avoid secrets. Any unavoidable contact with young people must be made where other adults can see and preferably hear you.
- Mentors are encouraged to use public venues and locations for their sessions. If this is not possible it should be discussed and agreed with the Mentoring Manager in advance, and details included in the session recording.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate distance with young people. Sometimes it may be necessary to do things of a personal nature for young people e.g. in an emergency. If you must use physical contact, clearly tell the young person what you are doing and why, seek their permission and give choices. Unless absolutely unavoidable, have another member of staff / volunteer present. Ensure that you record your actions and inform the Programme Manager / Mentoring Manager.
- Report all concerns, suspicions or allegations to the Programme Manager/Mentoring Manager or another member of Youth Adventure Trust staff as soon as possible. Always act.
- Involve young people in the decisions that affect them.
- Make the Youth Adventure Trust activities fun, enjoyable and promote fair play.

7.2 Practice to be avoided

NB: Volunteer Mentors are required to work on a 1:1 basis with a young person and should adhere to the Lone Working policy in place for this role.

- Travelling alone with a young person in a car or minibus. Two people are the minimum, but where this is unavoidable, such as in an emergency situation, it must be with the prior permission of the Programme Manager or a Youth Adventure Trust staff member.
- Putting yourself in a position where you are left on your own with a young person. Where this is unavoidable make sure that another adult is aware of the situation and that you are visible to other people wherever possible.
- Making inappropriate, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments to young people - even in jest.
- Doing things of a personal nature that young people can do for themselves - e.g. applying sunscreen, eczema cream etc.
- Allowing or engaging in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games or play.
- Allowing inappropriate, offensive, sexualised or discriminatory language to remain unchallenged.

If any of the following occur you must report this immediately to the Programme Manager, Mentoring Manager, or in their absence the Director of Programmes & Development or Chief Executive, and record the incident.

- if you accidentally hurt a young person.
- if he/she seems distressed in any manner by your actions.
- if a young person appears to be sexually aroused by your actions.
- if a young person misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done.
- if an allegation is made about you or anyone else.

7.3 Raising concerns of staff poor practice

If you are concerned about poor practice and the implications for young people using the Youth Adventure Trust, report the matter to the Programme Manager or Mentoring Manager who will consider the matter and take any further action required, including reporting to the Director of Programmes & Development. In their absence, or if the concern is in relation to them, report the matter directly to the Director of Programmes & Development or Chief Executive. In their absence or if the matter is concerning them, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees, or the appropriate external agency, who will take the necessary further action. Key contact details can be found in Appendix VIII.

7.4 Use of photographic and filming equipment during the Youth Adventure Trust activities

All young people and their parents/carers will be made aware that photographic and/or filming equipment may be used to record activities for the Youth Adventure Trust during the programme and their written consent will be required. Always seek the consent of the young person before taking photographs and/or films. Volunteers, staff and external parties are not permitted to take photographs or film on any part of the Youth Adventure Programme unless requested to do so by a Youth Adventure Trust staff member using a Youth Adventure Trust mobile phone or camera.

Volunteer mentors will be provided with a mobile phone for the sole purpose of the mentoring relationship. Where appropriate mentors are permitted to take photographs of their mentee and

activities that they undertake together using this device only. Any images taken must be submitted with the session recording and then deleted from the device.

7.5 Social Media / Communication Statement

Volunteers and staff are not permitted to have any private communication with young people who have at any time been involved with the Youth Adventure Trust through any form of social media or direct communication (i.e. phone, text, email). Any communication must be agreed by the Youth Adventure Trust and made through the Trust's formal channels.

Volunteer mentors will be provided with mobile phones for any communication with their mentee and their family. All contact (calls/texts) should be noted in session recordings.

8. Contact with Local Authorities

The Department for Education is responsible for child protection in England. It sets out policy, legislation and statutory guidance on how the child protection system should work.

At the local level Local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) co-ordinate, and ensure the effectiveness of services, and work to protect and promote the welfare of children. Each local board includes: local authorities, health bodies, the police and others, including the voluntary and independent sectors. The LSCBs are responsible for local child protection policy, procedure and guidance.

The Youth Adventure Trust is aware of the relevant guidelines as issued by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), Children's Services and the Department of Education, and co-operates in the development of good practice.

The Programme Manager / Mentoring Manager will hold local contact details, which are kept up to date, of relevant bodies who may need to be contacted when reporting concerns or allegations externally.

9. Reviewing this Policy

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis, and renewed / updated at least annually.

Policy Reviewed / Updated: Jan 2020

Person Undertaking Review / Update: Tessa Woodrow, Director of Programmes and Development, Designated Safeguarding Lead

NB: This policy must be cross referenced with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Summary for Volunteers document.

Appendix I Understanding and Identifying Abuse and Neglect

Information taken from HM Government document "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused, Advice for practitioners" March, 2015

1. Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment – a person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.
2. Child welfare concerns may arise in many different contexts, and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or by a stranger, including, via the internet. In the case of female genital mutilation, children may be taken out of the country to be abused. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. Abuse and neglect can happen over a period of time, but can also be a one-off event. Child abuse and neglect can have major long-term impacts on all aspects of a child's health, development and well-being.
3. The warning signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect can vary from child to child. Disabled children may be especially vulnerable to abuse, including because they may have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse. They may have speech, language and communication needs which may make it difficult to tell others what is happening. Children also develop and mature at different rates so what appears to be worrying for a younger child might be normal behaviour for an older child. Parental behaviours may also indicate child abuse or neglect, so you should also be alert to parent-child interactions which are concerning and other parental behaviours. This could include parents who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or if there is a sudden change in their mental health. By understanding the warning signs, you can respond to problems as early as possible and provide the right support and services for the child and their family. It is important to recognise that a warning sign doesn't automatically mean a child is being abused.
4. There are a number of warning indicators which might suggest that a child may be being abused or neglected.

Some of the following signs might be indicators of abuse or neglect:

- Children whose behaviour changes – they may become aggressive, challenging, disruptive, withdrawn or clingy, or they might have difficulty sleeping or start wetting the bed;
- Children with clothes which are ill-fitting and/or dirty;
- Children with consistently poor hygiene;
- Children who make strong efforts to avoid specific family members or friends, without an obvious reason;
- Children who don't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities;
- Children who are having problems at school, for example, a sudden lack of concentration and learning or they appear to be tired and hungry;
- Children who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers;
- Children who reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason;
- Children who are reluctant to go home;
- Children who are consistently late being picked up;
- Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to practitioners' concerns;
- Parents who collect their children when drunk, or under the influence of drugs;
- Children who drink alcohol regularly from an early age;
- Children who are concerned for younger siblings without explaining why;
- Children who talk about running away;
- Children who shy away from being touched or flinch at sudden movements.

Appendix II NSPCC Definitions and Signs of Child Abuse

Information taken from the NSPCC Knowledge and Information Service, December 2017

What is child abuse?

Child abuse happens when a person – adult or child – harms a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can also involve a lack of love, care and attention. Neglect can be just as damaging to a child as physical or sexual abuse.

Children may be abused by:

- family members
- friends
- people working or volunteering in organisational or community settings
- people they know
- or, much less commonly, by strangers.

Children suffering abuse often experience more than 1 type of abuse. The abuse usually happens over a period time, rather than being a single, isolated incident. Increasingly, abuse can happen online.

General signs of abuse

Children who suffer abuse may be afraid to tell anybody about the abuse. They may struggle with feelings of guilt, shame or confusion – particularly if the abuser is a parent, caregiver or other close family member or friend. Many of the signs that a child is being abused are the same regardless of the type of abuse. Anyone working with children or young people needs to be vigilant to the signs listed below.

- regular flinching in response to sudden but harmless actions, for example someone raising a hand quickly
- showing an inexplicable fear of particular places or making excuses to avoid particular people
- knowledge of 'adult issues' for example alcohol, drugs and/or sexual behaviour which is inappropriate for their age or stage of development
- angry outbursts or behaving aggressively towards other children, adults, animals or toys
- becoming withdrawn or appearing anxious, clingy or depressed
- self-harming or thoughts about suicide
- changes in eating habits or developing eating disorders
- regularly experiencing nightmares or sleep problems
- regularly wetting the bed or soiling their clothes
- in older children, risky behaviour such as substance misuse or criminal activity
- running away or regularly going missing from home or care
- not receiving adequate medical attention after injuries.

These signs do not necessarily mean that a child is being abused. There may well be other reasons for changes in a child's behaviour such as a bereavement or relationship problems between parents/carers. In assessing whether signs are related to abuse or not, they need to be considered in the context of the child's development and situation.

Physical abuse

What is physical abuse?

Physical abuse happens when a child is deliberately hurt, causing injuries such as cuts, bruises, burns and broken bones. It can involve hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or suffocating.

It's also physical abuse if a parent or carer makes up or causes the symptoms of illness in children. For example, they may give them medicine they don't need, making them unwell. This is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

Spotting the signs of physical abuse

All children have trips, falls and accidents which may cause cuts, bumps and bruises. These injuries tend to affect bony areas of their body such as elbows, knees and shins and are not usually a cause for concern.

Injuries that are more likely to indicate physical abuse include:

Bruising

- bruises on babies who are not yet crawling or walking
- bruises on the cheeks, ears, palms, arms and feet
- bruises on the back, buttocks, tummy, hips and backs of legs
- multiple bruises in clusters, usually on the upper arms or outer thighs
- bruising which looks like it has been caused by fingers, a hand or an object, like a belt or shoe
- large oval-shaped bite marks.

Burns or scalds

- any burns which have a clear shape of an object, for example cigarette burns
- burns to the backs of hands, feet, legs, genitals or buttocks.

Other signs of physical abuse include multiple injuries (such as bruising, fractures) inflicted at different times.

If a child is frequently injured, and if the bruises or injuries are unexplained or the explanation doesn't match the injury, this should be investigated. It's also concerning if there is a delay in seeking medical help for a child who has been injured.

Neglect

What is neglect?

Neglect is persistently failing to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs usually resulting in serious damage to their health and development. Neglect may involve a parent's or carer's failure to:

- provide adequate food, clothing or shelter
- supervise a child (including leaving them with unsuitable carers) or keep them safe from harm or danger
- make sure the child receives appropriate health and/or dental care
- make sure the child receives a suitable education
- meet the child's basic emotional needs – parents may ignore their children when they are distressed or even when they are happy or excited. This is known as emotional neglect.

Neglect is the most common type of child abuse. It often happens at the same time as other types of abuse.

Spotting the signs of neglect

Neglect can be difficult to identify. Isolated signs may not mean that a child is suffering neglect, but multiple and persistent signs over time could indicate a serious problem.

Some of these signs include:

- children who appear hungry - they may come to school without lunch money or even try to steal food
- children who appear dirty or smelly and whose clothes are unwashed or inadequate for the weather conditions
- children who are left alone or unsupervised
- children who fail to thrive or who have untreated injuries, health or dental problems
- children with poor language, communication or social skills for their stage of development
- children who live in an unsuitable home environment, for example the house is very dirty and unsafe, perhaps with evidence of substance misuse or violence
- children who have taken on the role of carer for other family members.

Sexual abuse

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. It doesn't necessarily involve violence and the child may not be aware that what is happening is abuse.

Child sexual abuse can involve contact abuse and/or non-contact abuse. Contact abuse happens when the abuser makes physical contact with the child.

It includes:

- sexual touching of any part of the body whether the child is wearing clothes or not
- rape or penetration by putting an object or body part inside a child's mouth, vagina or anus
- forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activity
- making a child take their clothes off, touch someone else's genitals or masturbate.

Non-contact abuse involves non-touching activities. It can happen online or in person and includes:

- encouraging a child to watch or hear sexual acts
- not taking proper measures to prevent a child being exposed to sexual activities by others
- showing pornography to a child
- making, viewing or distributing child abuse images
- allowing someone else to make, view or distribute child abuse images.

Online sexual abuse includes:

- persuading or forcing a child to send or post sexually explicit images of themselves, this is sometimes referred to as sexting
- persuading or forcing a child to take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone
- having sexual conversations with a child by text or online
- meeting a child following online sexual grooming with the intent of abusing them.

Abusers may threaten to send sexually explicit images, video or copies of sexual conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity. Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the abuse has stopped.

Abusers will often try to build an emotional connection with a child in order to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse. This is known as grooming.

Spotting the signs of sexual abuse

There may be physical signs that a child has suffered sexual abuse.

These include:

- anal or vaginal soreness or itching
- bruising or bleeding near the genital area
- discomfort when walking or sitting down
- an unusual discharge
- sexually transmitted infections (STI)
- pregnancy.

Changes in the child's mood or behaviour may also cause concern. They may want to avoid spending time with specific people. In particular, the child may show sexual behaviour that is inappropriate for their age.

For example:

- they could use sexual language or know things about sex that you wouldn't expect them to
- a child might become sexually active at a young age
- they might be promiscuous.

Child sexual exploitation

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Young people in exploitative situations and relationships receive things such as gifts, money, drugs, alcohol, status or affection in exchange for taking part in sexual activities.

Young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They often trust their abuser and don't understand that they're being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what's happening. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol before being sexually exploited. They can also be groomed and exploited online.

Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs (Berelowitz et al, 2013).

Child sexual exploitation can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults and involve multiple perpetrators.

Spotting the signs of child sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation can be very difficult to identify. Warning signs can easily be mistaken for 'normal' teenage behaviour.

Young people who are being sexually exploited may:

- go missing from home, care or education
- be involved in abusive relationships, appearing intimidated and fearful of certain people or situations

- hang out with groups of older people, or anti-social groups, or with other vulnerable peers
- get involved in gangs, gang fights, gang membership
- have older boyfriends or girlfriends
- spend time at places of concern, such as hotels or known brothels
- not know where they are, because they have been moved around the country
- be involved in petty crime such as shoplifting
- have access to drugs and alcohol
- have new things such as clothes and mobile phones which they can't or won't explain
- have unexplained physical injuries.

Harmful sexual behaviour

What is harmful sexual behaviour?

Children and young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) harm themselves and others.

HSB can include:

- using sexually explicit words and phrases
- inappropriate touching
- using sexual violence or threats
- full penetrative sex with other children or adults.

Sexual behaviour between children is also considered harmful if 1 of the children is much older – particularly if there is more than 2 years' difference in age or if 1 of the children is pre-pubescent and the other isn't (Davies, 2012). However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled (Rich, 2011).

Spotting the signs of harmful sexual behaviour

It's normal for children to show signs of sexual behaviour at each stage in their development. Children also develop at different rates and some may be slightly more or less advanced than other children in their age group. Behaviours which might be concerning depend on the child's age and the situation.

If you're unsure whether a child's sexual behaviour is healthy, Brook provide a helpful, easy-to-use traffic light tool. The traffic light system is used to describe healthy (green) sexual behaviours, potentially unhealthy (amber) sexual behaviours and unhealthy (red) sexual behaviours.

Emotional abuse

What is emotional abuse?

Emotional abuse is persistent and, over time, it severely damages a child's emotional health and development.

It involves:

- humiliating, putting down or constantly criticising a child
- shouting at or threatening a child or calling them names
- mocking a child or making them perform degrading acts
- constantly blaming or scapegoating a child for things which are not their fault
- trying to control a child's life and not recognising their individuality
- not allowing them to have friends or develop socially

- pushing a child too hard or not recognising their limitations
- manipulating a child
- exposing a child to distressing events or interactions such as drug taking, heavy drinking or domestic abuse
- persistently ignoring them
- being cold and emotionally unavailable during interactions with a child
- never saying anything kind, positive or encouraging to a child and failing to praise their achievements and successes.

Spotting the signs of emotional abuse

There aren't usually any obvious physical signs of emotional abuse but you may spot signs in a child's actions or emotions.

It's important to remember that some children are naturally quiet and self-contained whilst others are more open and affectionate. Mood swings and challenging behaviour are also a normal part of growing up for teenagers and children going through puberty. Be alert to behaviours which appear to be out of character for the individual child or are particularly unusual for their stage of development.

Babies and pre-school children who are being emotionally abused may:

- be overly-affectionate towards strangers or people they haven't known for very long
- not appear to have a close relationship with their parent, for example when being taken to or collected from nursery
- lack confidence or become wary or anxious
- be unable to play
- be aggressive or nasty towards other children and animals.

Older children may:

- use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect for their age
- struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts
- seem isolated from their parents
- lack social skills or have few, if any, friends
- fear making mistakes
- fear their parent being approached regarding their behaviour
- self-harm.

Domestic abuse

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people who are or were in an intimate relationship. There are many different types of abusive behaviours that can occur within intimate relationships, including emotional, sexual, financial, psychological and physical abuse. Domestic abuse can be underpinned by an on-going pattern of psychologically abusive behaviour (coercive control) that is used by 1 partner to control or intimidate the other partner.

In situations of domestic abuse, both males and females can be abused or be abusers. Domestic abuse can happen in any relationship regardless of age, sexuality, gender identity, race or religious identity. Research by the NSPCC has indicated that many young people experience domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships (Barter, 2009). The UK's cross-government definition of domestic abuse also covers relationships between young people aged 16 and 17 (Home Office, 2013).

Children's exposure to domestic abuse between parents and carers is child abuse. Children can be directly involved in incidents of domestic abuse or they may be harmed by seeing or hearing abuse happening. The developmental and behavioural impact of witnessing domestic abuse is similar to experiencing direct abuse. Children in homes where there is domestic abuse are also at risk of other types of abuse or neglect.

Spotting the signs of domestic abuse

It can be difficult to tell if domestic abuse is happening, because it usually takes place in the family home and abusers can act very differently when other people are around.

Children who witness domestic abuse may:

- become aggressive
- display anti-social behaviour
- suffer from depression or anxiety
- not do as well at school - due to difficulties at home or disruption of moving to and from refuges.

Bullying and cyberbullying

What are bullying and cyberbullying?

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else. It usually happens over a lengthy period of time and can harm a child both physically and emotionally.

Bullying includes:

- verbal abuse, such as name calling
- non-verbal abuse, such as hand signs or glaring
- emotional abuse, such as threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- exclusion, such as ignoring or isolating someone
- undermining, by constant criticism or spreading rumours
- controlling or manipulating someone
- racial, sexual or homophobic bullying
- physical assaults, such as hitting and pushing
- making silent, hoax or abusive calls.

Bullying can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. When bullying happens online it can involve social networks, games and mobile devices. Online bullying can also be known as cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying includes:

- sending threatening or abusive text messages
- creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos
- 'trolling' - sending menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chatrooms or online games
- excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- encouraging young people to self-harm
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.

Spotting the signs of bullying and cyberbullying

It can be hard to know whether or not a child is being bullied. They might not tell anyone because they're scared the bullying will get worse. They might also think that the bullying is their fault.

No one sign indicates for certain that a child's being bullied, but you should look out for:

- belongings getting 'lost' or damaged
- physical injuries such as unexplained bruises
- being afraid to go to school, being mysteriously 'ill' each morning, or skipping school
- not doing as well at school
- asking for, or stealing, money (to give to a bully)
- being nervous, losing confidence or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- problems with eating or sleeping
- bullying others.

Child trafficking

What is child trafficking?

Child trafficking is child abuse. It involves recruiting and moving children who are then exploited. Many children are trafficked into the UK from overseas, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another.

Children are trafficked for:

- child sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal exploitation such as cannabis cultivation, pickpocketing, begging, transporting, drugs, selling pirated DVDs and bag theft.

Children who are trafficked experience many forms of abuse and neglect. Physical, sexual and emotional abuse is often used to control them and they're also likely to suffer physical and emotional neglect.

Child trafficking can require a network of organised criminals who recruit, transport and exploit children and young people. Some people in the network might not be directly involved in trafficking a child but play a part in other ways, such as falsifying documents, bribery, owning or renting premises or money laundering (Europol, 2011). Child trafficking can also be organised by individuals and the children's own families.

Traffickers trick, force or persuade children to leave their homes. They use grooming techniques to gain the trust of a child, family or community. Although these are methods used by traffickers, coercion, violence or threats don't need to be proven in cases of child trafficking - a child cannot legally consent to their exploitation so child trafficking only requires evidence of movement and exploitation.

Modern slavery is another term which may be used in relation to child trafficking. Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking (HM Government, 2014). The Modern Slavery Act passed in 2015

in England and Wales categorises offences of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking (NCA, 2017).

Spotting the signs of child trafficking

Signs that a child has been trafficked may not be obvious but you might notice unusual behaviour or events.

These include a child who:

- spends a lot of time doing household chores
- rarely leaves their house, has no freedom of movement and no time for playing
- is orphaned or living apart from their family, often in unregulated private foster care
- lives in substandard accommodation
- isn't sure which country, city or town they're in
- is unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or personal details
- might not be registered with a school or a GP practice
- has no documents or has falsified documents
- has no access to their parents or guardians
- is seen in inappropriate places such as brothels or factories
- possesses unaccounted for money or goods
- is permanently deprived of a large part of their earnings, required to earn a minimum amount of money every day or pay off an exorbitant debt
- has injuries from workplace accidents
- gives a prepared story which is very similar to stories given by other children.

There are also signs that an adult is involved in child trafficking, such as:

- making multiple visa applications for different children
- acting as a guarantor for multiple visa applications for children
- travelling with different children who they're not related to or responsible for
- insisting on remaining with and speaking for the child
- living with unrelated or newly arrived children
- abandoning a child or claiming not to know a child they were previously with.

Female genital mutilation

What is female genital mutilation?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting. The age at which FGM is carried out varies. It may be carried out when a girl is newborn, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy (Home Office et al, 2016).

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence.

There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It's used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

Spotting the signs of female genital mutilation

A girl at immediate risk of FGM may not know what's going to happen. But she might talk about or you may become aware of:

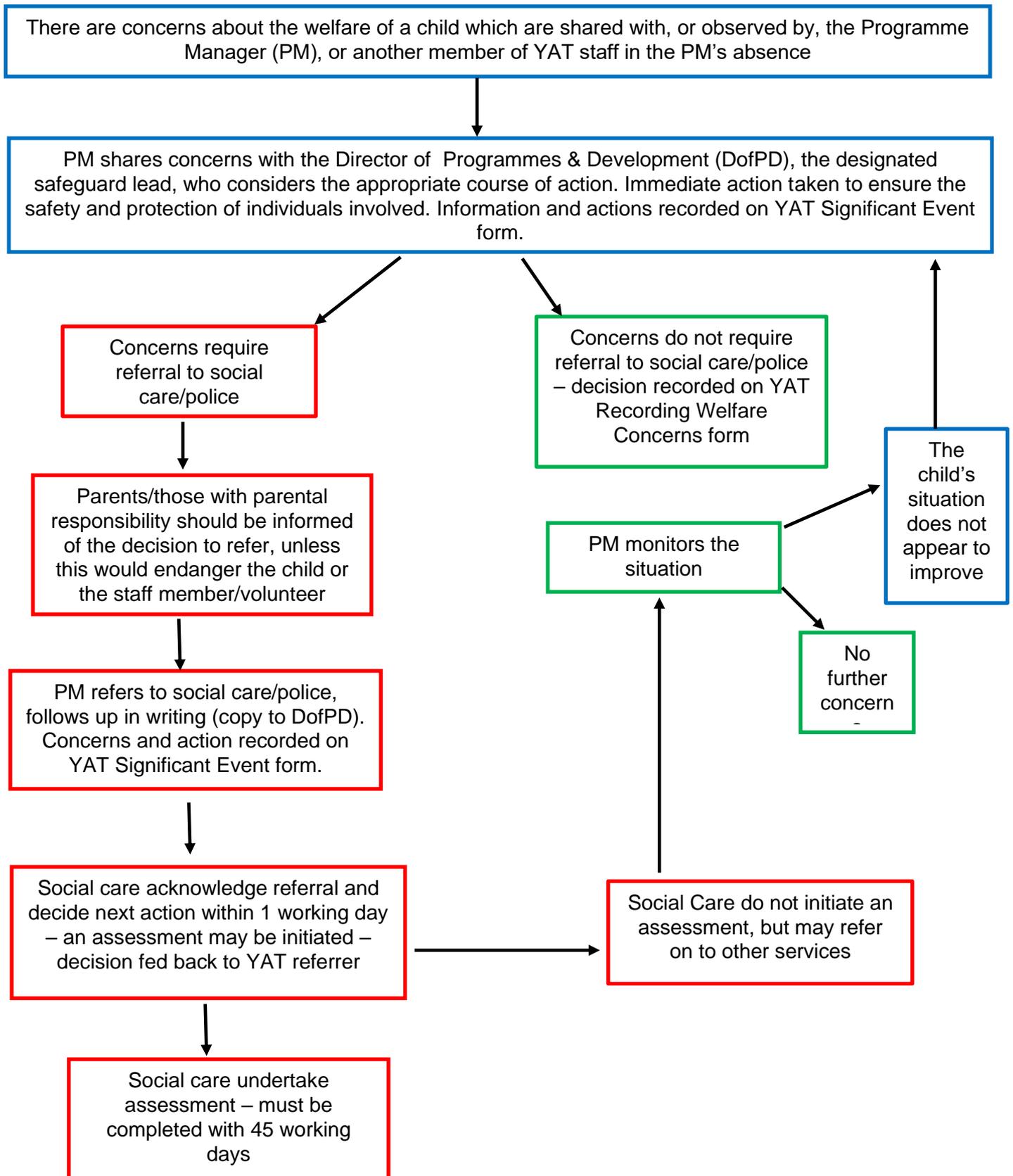
- a long holiday abroad or going 'home' to visit family
- relative or cutter visiting from abroad
- a special occasion or ceremony to 'become a woman' or get ready for marriage
- a female relative being cut – a sister, cousin or an older female relative such as a mother or aunt
- missing school repeatedly or running away from home.

A girl who has had FGM may:

- have difficulty walking, standing or sitting
- spend longer in the bathroom or toilet
- appear withdrawn, anxious or depressed
- have unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college
- be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations
- ask for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

Appendix III Action in Response to Safeguarding Concerns Flowchart

NB If at any point there is risk of immediate serious harm to a young person, the police and children’s social care should be immediately informed. Anyone can make a referral.





Significant Event Form

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

This form should be used to keep a log of actions taken in response to a significant event during the YAT programme including;

- A medical emergency
- A missing person (where police become involved)
- An allegation of abuse, inappropriate or dangerous behaviour relating to a volunteer, staff member, instructor or other associated adult, another young person or a parent
- Any safeguarding issues or disclosures which are passed on to an external agency (where a decision is made not to pass a concern on, a Welfare Concern Form should be completed instead)
- An emergency as the result of a natural phenomenon such as lighting strike, flooding
- The death of a young person, volunteer, YAT staff member or other associated adult during the YAT programme

When complete, this report should be sent to the Director of Programmes & Development who will share it with the Chief Executive. Please attach any other relevant reports.

Date and time of the initial event:
Location of the initial event:
Camp or Day Activity where the Significant Event has occurred?
Full name, DOB and address of any Young People involved, and description of their involvement i.e. alleged victim, witness, named by others as involved etc:

Details (including full name, home address or employer address, position) **of any other people involved including volunteers, staff members, instructors, alleged perpetrator, other witnesses** (witness statements should be attached to this form):

Details (including full name, home address, relationship to those involved) **of anyone else contacted about this significant event:**

DATE / TIME	<u>DETAILED LOG OF THE SIGNIFICANT EVENT, ACTION TAKEN & ANY FOLLOW UP / OUTCOMES</u> (including names of any other people involved at that time)

--	--

Name and signature of person completing form:
Job title:
Date:

Name & signature of Director of Programmes & Development:
Date:

Name & signature of Chief Executive:
Date:



(Staff) Young Person Welfare Concern Form

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

This form should be used to keep a log of any welfare concerns regarding a young person during the YAT programme, when the decision is made NOT to refer the concerns onto Social Care at that time.

When complete, this report should be sent to the Director of Programmes & Development.

NB: If you suspect a young person may be suffering abuse, you have received a disclosure of abuse or you have heard about an allegation of abuse, you must complete a YAT Significant Event form instead, and follow safeguarding procedures as a matter of urgency.

Young Person's name:	DOB:	M/F:
Young Person's address:		
Date and time of initial welfare concern:	Date and time of writing this report:	
Details of welfare concern (do not interpret information – use the same language that was used by the young person where applicable):		
Details (including where known full name, home address or employer address, position) of any other people involved including volunteers, staff members, instructors, alleged perpetrator, other witnesses (witness statements should be attached to this form):		

Details of any action taken, including discussion with the young person concerned, parents and other agencies/involved parties:

Are any other young people potentially at risk? If so, record their names where known, and action taken in relation to them:

Any other relevant information (distinguish between fact and opinion):

Details of decision not to refer information to Social Care at this stage:

Name and signature of person completing form:

Job Title:

Date:

Name & signature of Director of Programmes & Development:

Date:

Appendix VI (Volunteer) Young Person Welfare Concern Form



(Volunteer) Young Person Welfare Concern Form

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

This form should be used to keep a log of any welfare concerns a volunteer has regarding a young person during the YAT programme, including any disclosures, conversations that create concern, observations or incidents.

When complete, this report should be sent to the Director of Programmes & Development.

Young Person's name:	DOB:	M/F:
Young Person's address:		
Date and time of initial welfare concern:	Date and time of writing this report:	
Details of welfare concern (do not interpret information – use the same language that was used by the young person where applicable):		
Details (including where known full name, home address or employer address, position) of any other people involved including volunteers, staff members, instructors, alleged perpetrator, other witnesses (witness statements should be attached to this form):		
Are any other young people potentially at risk? If so, record their names where known.		

Any other relevant information (distinguish between fact and opinion):
Who did you report the welfare concern to, including that person's role? When and how did you report it?
Details of any action taken in relation to the welfare concern:

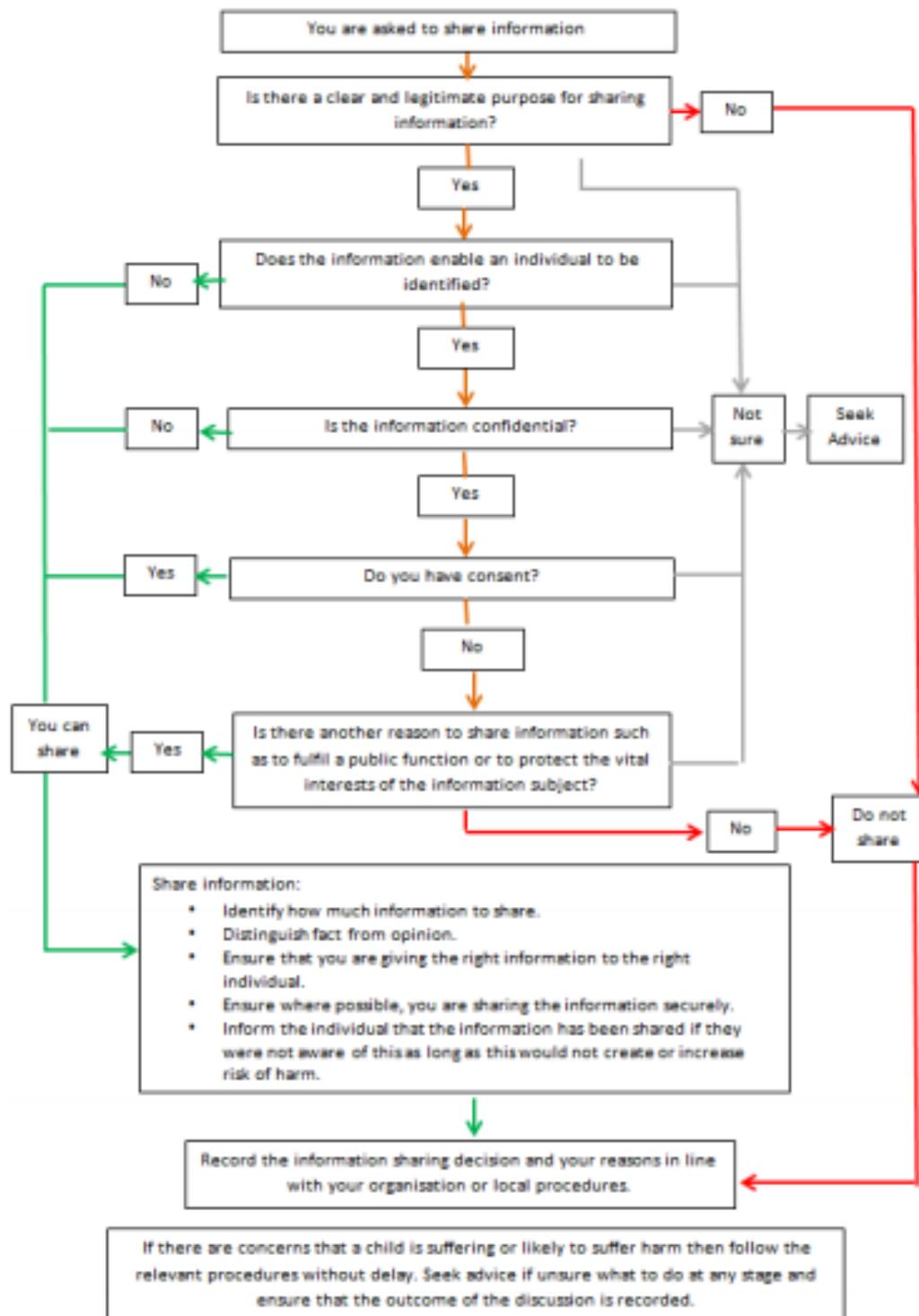
Name and signature of person completing form:
Role:
Date:

Name & signature of Director of Programmes & Development:
Date:

Appendix VII Flowchart of When and How to Share Information

Information taken from HM Government document "Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners" March, 2015

Flowchart of when and how to share information



Appendix VIII Key Telephone Numbers

Youth Adventure Trust Key Contacts:

Chief Executive – Mark Davey: 07811 261516

Director of Programmes & Development – Tessa Woodrow: 07813 771551

Senior Programme Manager – Rob Warren: 07551 464449

Programme Manager – Kerrie Lee: 07393 215835

Programme Manager - Scott Stevenson: 07799 687559

Mentoring Manager – Becky Brown: 07592 664679

Volunteer Manager – Jon Rich: 07469 886523

Volunteer Manager – Dom Lattimer: 07833 182190

Chairman of Trustees – Pete Redfern: 07771 842378

Board of Trustees – Suzanne McGladdery: 07425 162855

If you have concerns for a young person's welfare that you cannot raise with the Youth Adventure Trust team, please contact either the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, or the relevant local Child Protection team, details below.

Local Child Protection Contacts:

SWINDON

During office hours - call 01793 466903 (normal office hours are 8.30am to 4.40pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.00pm Friday)

Out of hours - contact Emergency Duty Service on 01793 436699

WILTSHIRE

During office hours – call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0300 456 0108 (normal office hours are 8.30am to 4.40pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.00pm Friday)

Out of hours - contact Emergency Duty Team on 0845 6070 888