

## Safeguarding Children Policy

LASK is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse and harm.

The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. The Club's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Club's designated Child Protection Officers (CPO) is Patrick Franks. The CPO coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (eg Social Care, the LSCB and Ofsted).

Forms of child abuse and neglect Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect a child from harm. The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. These types of abuse are more often found in combination than alone.

**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Physical abuse** can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, or non-contact activities such as showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. Neglect can involve a failure to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm
- ensure adequate supervision
- allow access to medical treatment.

### **If abuse is suspected or disclosed**

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

- Reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to talk to them
- Listen to the child but not question them
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action ☑ Record the incident as soon as possible (see below).

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care

directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that the Club is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

### **Logging an incident**

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident causing concern
- Date and time at which the record was made
- Name and date of birth of the child involved
- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, it is essential to use the child's own words.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the Club's CPO who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral. If other staff feel that the incident has not been adequately followed up, they may call Social Care themselves.

**Suitable People:** Designated Safeguarding Officer (Patrick Franks) to be notified within 24 hours.

### **Allegations against staff.**

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:  The allegation will be recorded in the Incident Book. Any witnesses to the incident should also fill out a separate incident form, then sign and date the entry to confirm it.

- Designated Safeguarding Officer (Patrick Franks) to be informed within 24 hours.
- The allegation must be reported to MASH who will then report it to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon the advice.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

### **Promoting awareness among staff**

The Club will promote awareness of child abuse issues throughout its staff training. The Club will ensure that:

- Its designated CPO has relevant experience and receives appropriate training  Safe recruitment practices are followed for all staff (in particular DBS & reference checks prior to any staff joining the team).
- All staff have a copy of the Safeguarding Children policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect.
- All staff are aware of their statutory requirements with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse
- Staff are familiar with the 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' flowchart
- Staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept in the "Office to setting transfer box". DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service), all staff recruited will obtain an Enhanced DBS check.

**Confidentiality**

LASK will comply with the Data protection act in how we use and store information on children and their families, however we have the right to pass on information to third parties if we feel a child is at 'risk'(such as: social services, the police or Local Children's Safeguarding board).

Contact numbers Children's & Young Peoples services Referral Teams: 0300 126 1000

**Out of hours**

If you need to contact children's social care urgently during the evening, at night or at the weekend, phone our out of hours team on 01604 626938.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Child Protection Team

[MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

Tel: 0300 126 1000

**Emergency:**

If a child is in immediate danger, left alone or missing, contact the police and/or ambulance service directly on 999.

If a child is at immediate risk you should call MASH on 0300 126 1000 and make a telephone referral, you will subsequently be required to put this in writing.

**Non Emergency:**

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): Designated Officer Administrator - 01604 364031  
Designated Officer Andy Smith - 01604 367862  
Designated Officer Christine York - 01604 362633

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

Police: 999 /Children Protection Teams 03000 111222 NSPCC: 0808 800 500

This policy was adopted by: LASK

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018

To be reviewed: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2022

Signed.....

Patrick Franks - Safeguarding Designated Person

Written in accordance with the EYFS welfare requirements: Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare