**Safeguarding Awareness for Committee Members: Understanding Signs and Indicators of Abuse and Neglect**

Welcome to Your Role in Safeguarding.

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, but as a committee member of Frimley Green Pre-School, you play a vital role in creating a safe environment for children. This provides essential information to help you recognise and respond to signs of abuse and neglect, ensuring that children receive the protection they need.

**Understanding Abuse and Neglect**

There are four main types of abuse:

1. **Physical Abuse**: Inflicting physical harm or injury to a child.

* **Signs to look for**: Unexplained bruises, burns, or injuries; flinching when approached.

2. **Emotional Abuse**: Persistent emotional maltreatment affecting a child’s sense of worth and well-being.

* **Signs to look for**: Anxiety, low self-esteem, withdrawal, or severe mood swings.

3. **Sexual Abuse**: Involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend or consent to.

* **Signs to look for**: Inappropriate sexual behaviour or knowledge for their age, unexplained injuries in genital areas.

4. **Neglect**: Failure to provide for a child’s basic physical, emotional, or educational needs.

* **Signs to look for**: Poor hygiene, lack of appropriate clothing, malnutrition, or frequent absences from school.

Beyond the main types of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect), there are other forms of child abuse that are recognised and can have significant impacts on a child’s well-being. Visit the NSPCC website [here](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/) for further information.

**Indicators of Abuse and Neglect**

* **Behavioural Indicators**: Changes in behaviour such as sudden aggression, fearfulness, or regressive behaviours (e.g., bedwetting in a previously trained child).
* **Physical Indicators**: Signs of injury that are inconsistent with explanations given, or frequent visits to healthcare providers for unexplained injuries.
* **Emotional Indicators**: Difficulties in emotional regulation, attachment issues, or fear of adults or certain situations.

**Your Responsibilities as a Committee Member**

1. **Stay Informed**: Regularly participate in safeguarding training sessions to refresh your knowledge of policies and practices. Training can be found [here](https://surreyscp.org.uk/) and by logging in to your Olive account.

2. **Report Concerns**: If you observe any signs of abuse or neglect, report them to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately. Remember, it’s not your responsibility to investigate, but to report your concerns.

3. **Immediate Action:** If a child is in immediate danger, call Emergency Services (999) immediately.

4. **Promote Awareness**: Share this information with other committee members and parents, reinforcing the importance of vigilance in safeguarding practices.

**Reporting Concerns About Staff**

If you have concerns about the behaviour or actions of a staff member that might be related to safeguarding issues, it is crucial to report these concerns immediately.

• **Report to the DSL**: Contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately with your concerns.

• **Maintain Confidentiality**: Share your concerns only with the DSL to protect the integrity of the investigation.

• **Follow Procedures**: The DSL will follow the established procedures for dealing with allegations against staff, which may include involving external agencies if necessary.

**Additional Resources**

• **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024**: A comprehensive guide on safeguarding practices in educational settings. More information can be found [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf#page148).

• **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023**: Guidance on multi-agency working to safeguard children. Find out more [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023.pdf).

• **Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership**: Offers resources and training opportunities for recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns. Visit their website [here](https://surreyscp.org.uk/).

**Conclusion**

Your role in safeguarding is crucial. By understanding the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect, you can help to keep all of our children safe.

If you have ANY concerns over the safety of ANY child, contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Frimley Green Pre-School, or you can contact the Surrey Children’s Single Point of Access (C-SPA).

**Availability**: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

**Phone**: 0300 470 9100

**Out of hours phone**: 01483 517898 to speak to the emergency duty team.

**Email**: Emails are dealt with during normal office hours for concerns for a child or young cspa@surreycc.gov.uk: cspa@surreycc.gov.uk

**In an emergency where you are concerned for the child’s immediate safety, you should call Surrey Police on 999.**

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead at Frimley Green Pre-School.