

BRIGHTMOVE CARE

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Registered Manager / DSL: David Locke

Responsible Individual: Dave Griffith

Director: Gemma Winn

Organisation: Brightmove Children's Residential Care Homes

Policy Review Cycle: Annual

Next Review Date: March 2027

1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy outlines how Brightmove Care safeguards and promotes the welfare of children living within the home. The organisation is committed to protecting children from harm, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.

All staff working within the home share responsibility for safeguarding. Safeguarding is central to the ethos of the organisation and is embedded within daily practice, policies and procedures.

The home operates in accordance with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the Quality Standards, particularly Regulation 12

– The Protection of Children Standard.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff members including:

- Registered Managers
- Residential Support Workers
- Agency staff

- Volunteers
- Students on placement
- Contractors and visitors

All individuals working within the organisation must understand safeguarding responsibilities and always follow this policy.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Safeguarding practices are informed by the following legislation and guidance: • Children Act 1989

- Children Act 2004
- Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015
- Regulation 12 – Protection of Children Standard
- Regulation 13 – Leadership and Management
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- Ofsted Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF)

4. Safeguarding Principles

The organisation is guided by the following safeguarding principles: • The welfare of the child is paramount

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

- Children have the right to be protected from harm
- Children should be listened to and taken seriously
- Early intervention prevents harm
- Safeguarding concerns must always be reported
- Multi-agency working is essential to protect children

5. Definition of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms and staff must remain vigilant.

Physical Abuse – deliberately causing physical harm to a child.

Emotional Abuse – persistent emotional maltreatment such as humiliation, intimidation, or rejection.

Sexual Abuse – forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities.

Neglect – failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs including food, shelter, supervision and healthcare.

6. Additional Safeguarding Risks

Children in residential care may face additional safeguarding risks including:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- County Lines involvement
- Online exploitation or grooming
- Radicalisation or extremism

- Peer-on-peer abuse
- Bullying or cyberbullying
- Self-harm or suicide risk
- Missing from care incidents

Staff must remain vigilant to these risks and ensure concerns are reported immediately.

7. Indicators of Abuse or Harm

Possible indicators include:

- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden behavioural changes
- Withdrawal or anxiety
- Fear of specific individuals
- Sexualised behaviour
- Frequent missing episodes
- Poor hygiene or neglect
- Unexplained gifts or money

Indicators must always be taken seriously and reported immediately.

8. Professional Curiosity

Staff must demonstrate professional curiosity when working with children. This means exploring concerns further, asking appropriate questions and considering the wider context of a child's behaviour. Patterns of behaviour, relationships, environmental risks and community influences must always be considered.

9. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

If a safeguarding concern arises staff must:

1. Ensure the child is safe
2. Listen carefully to the child
3. Avoid asking leading questions
4. Reassure the child they have done the right thing
5. Record the information accurately
6. Report immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead **10**.

Recording Safeguarding Concerns

All safeguarding concerns must be recorded clearly and accurately.

Records must include:

- Date and time of concern
- Details of what was observed or disclosed
- Exact words used by the child
- Actions taken
- Who the concern was reported to

Records must be stored securely and shared appropriately with safeguarding partners.

11. Information Sharing

Information sharing is essential to safeguarding children. Staff must share safeguarding information with appropriate agencies where there is a risk of harm. Information must be shared in line with data protection legislation while prioritising child safety.

12. Allegations Against Staff

Any allegation against a staff member must be treated seriously.

The Registered Manager must:

- Inform the Responsible Individual
- Contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- Consider suspension if necessary
- Notify Ofsted if required

Investigations must follow safeguarding procedures.

13. Children Missing From Home

When a child goes missing the following actions must occur:

- Staff attempt to locate the child
- Police are notified immediately
- The placing authority is informed
- A missing episode record is completed
- A return home interview is arranged

14. Online Safety

Children must be supported to use the internet safely. Risks include:

- Online grooming
- Exposure to harmful content

- Cyberbullying
- Online exploitation

Staff must supervise internet use and provide education around online safety.

15. Child Exploitation

Child exploitation can involve criminal or sexual activity.

Signs of exploitation include:

- Unexplained gifts or money
- New older associates
- Going missing
- Secrecy around activities

Concerns must be reported immediately and referred to safeguarding agencies.

16. Self Harm and Mental Health

Some children may experience emotional distress or mental health difficulties.

Staff must:

- Respond sensitively
- Provide emotional support
- Seek professional assistance where required
- Ensure safety plans are implemented

17. Safer Recruitment

The organisation follows safer recruitment procedures.

This includes:

- Enhanced DBS checks
- Identity verification
- Employment history checks
- References
- Qualification verification

18. Whistleblowing

Staff must feel confident to report poor practice or safeguarding concerns. Concerns can be reported internally or externally, and staff will not face victimisation for raising genuine concerns.

19. Safeguarding Training

All staff receive safeguarding training as part of induction and regular refresher training. Managers receive advanced safeguarding and leadership training.

20. Multi-Agency Working

Safeguarding requires partnership working between multiple agencies including:

- Local authorities
- Police
- Health services
- Education providers
- Safeguarding partnerships

21. Safeguarding Contacts

Important safeguarding contacts:

Liverpool Children's Services – 0151 233 3700

Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership – <https://liverpoolscp.org.uk> Local

Authority Designated Officer (LADO) – 0151 233 3700

Merseyside Police – 101

Emergency Services – 999

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

Ofsted – 0300 123 1231

22. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if safeguarding legislation or guidance changes.

The organisation is committed to continuous improvement and maintaining the highest safeguarding standards.