

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Child Protection Policy for
Licensed Premises



Camden Safeguarding
Children Board

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1 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1.1 CONTEXT

Safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is a national licensing objective. For the purposes of this policy, 'children' refers to all babies, children and teenagers i.e. from birth until their 18th birthday.

This safeguarding children policy is for all staff (paid or unpaid) involved in premises which have been licensed under The Licensing Act 2003. This policy will give some basic information about what to do if you are concerned about a child and how Camden children's social care services and the Metropolitan Police Team will respond to and deal with reports about children whose welfare is causing concern. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Licensing Act 2003.

1.2 POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

This Policy has been drawn up by the London Child Protection Committee in consultation with Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Responsibility for revising the Policy rests with the Committee – your feedback on policy implementation will be welcomed.

1.3 GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

The Government position is that everyone working in an environment where there may be children present should safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children.

All adults (owner/license holders, staff and the wider community) must follow the Government Guidance "What To Do If You're Worried A Child is Being Abused" (2015). The Guidance describes the national framework within which local agencies and professionals should work and take action where there are concerns about the welfare of a child. The guidance is available at: [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

1.4 TRAINING AND COMPETENCE

All owners/license holders and their staff should have a basic awareness of safeguarding and child protection issues. This includes:

- Being alert to the possibility of child abuse and neglect, i.e. the definition, prevalence, identifying features in a child or adult, legal parameters and social consequences;
- Having enough knowledge to recognise an abusive or potentially abusive event or set of circumstances;
- Knowing who in the organization to raise your concerns with,
- Being competent in taking the appropriate immediate or emergency action, and
- Knowing how to make a referral to Children's social care and/or the Police.

Information about this is included in this Child Protection Policy and in the "What To Do If ..." publication referred to in 1.3 above.

The licensee is responsible for ensuring that they and their staff are familiar with, and competent in following both this Safeguarding Children Policy and the Government Guidance.

1.5 BASIC PRINCIPLES

- 1) If anyone involved with premises which have been licensed has any concerns about a child, then they must discuss these with the local Police Child Abuse Investigation Team and the local Camden's children's social care services at the earliest possible opportunity.
These may include concerns about a member of staff or a suspicion that an activity taking place in the establishment could place children at risk.
- 2) In any situation where there is a suspicion that there may be abuse the welfare needs of the child must come first (see Children Act 1989) even where there may be a conflict in interest e.g. where the suspected perpetrator may be a customer, client or employee/employer.

1.6 PROTECTION FOR ALL

All children must be safeguarded from harm and exploitation whatever their:

- Race, religion, first language or ethnicity;
- Gender or sexuality;
- Age;
- Health, ill-health or disability;
- Location or placement (e.g. living alone in a hostel or residential unit, with their family or a foster family, as a tourist in an hotel etc);
- Criminal or offensive behaviour;
- Wealth or lack of it; and
- Political or immigration status.

Everyone working in an environment where there may be children present has a duty to safeguard and promote their wellbeing. You must follow the Government guidance "What To Do If You're Worried A Child is Being Abused".

All staff working in the public arena should have a basic awareness of child protection issues. You should also be sensitive to the possibility of child abuse and neglect, know who to raise your concerns with, what action to take in an emergency and how to make a referral to Camden's children's social care services. The licensee is responsible for ensuring that staff are familiar with these procedures. Information about this is included in this policy and in the publications referred to above.

If you or a member of your staff have any concerns about a child, then you must discuss these with the Children's Quality Assurance Unit at the earliest possible opportunity.

2 DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

2.1 CONTEXT

All the Local Authorities in London and the Metropolitan Police, use a single set of multi-agency procedures when working to safeguard children, these are the London Child Protection Procedures. The London Child Protection Procedures are also used all the other agencies in London who are in contact with children.

This section closely reflects the London Child Protection Procedures

(See the London Child Protection Committee website: [London Safeguarding Children Board](#))

2.2 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

'Child abuse and neglect' is a generic term encompassing all maltreatment of children. Children may be abused or neglected through the infliction of harm, or through the failure of the adults around them to act to prevent harm. It also covers the harm done to children by seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of others, generally through domestic abuse.

The term 'child abuse and neglect' therefore includes the impact on children from serious physical and sexual assaults through to situations where the standard of care for the child from their parent or carer does not adequately support the child's health or development.

Abuse and neglect can occur in a family or an institutional or community setting. The perpetrator of abuse may or may not be known to the child.

Government statutory guidance "Working together to safeguard children" (2015) defines four broad categories of abuse which are used by professional working in child protection. These are: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. These categories overlap and an abused child usually suffers more than one type of abuse.

2.3 PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse may take many forms, such as, hitting (including, with an object) or punching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child or young person. It may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to, a child or young person.

2.4 EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the maltreatment of a child which has a severe and negative effect on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child or young person that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve:

- Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or making fun of what they say or how they communicate
- Imposing expectations on a child or young person which are not appropriate for their age and/or development;
- Serious bullying or cyberbullying causing children or young people to frequently feel frightened or in danger e.g. witnessing domestic or other violence
- Exploitation or corruption of children or young people.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of children, though emotional abuse may occur alone.

2.5 SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (i.e. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing or touching outside of clothing.

Sexual abuse also includes non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not perpetrated solely by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse as can other children.

Sexual abuse also includes sexual exploitation, where a young person is forced or coerced into engaging in sexual acts in exchange for alcohol, drugs, money, food, gifts or a place to stay.

The fact that it is abusive to children to allow or coerce them into witnessing acts of a sexual nature between adults, may be particularly relevant where children are exposed to adult focused activities such as premises where sexual themes are prevalent.

2.6 NEGLECT

Neglect involves the persistent failure to meet a child or young person's basic physical and /or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child or young person's health and development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once the child is born, neglect may involve:

- Failure to provide a child or young person with adequate food, clothing or shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- Failure to protect them from physical or emotional harm or danger
- Failure to provide adequate supervision (including use of inadequate care givers)
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of a child's basic emotional needs. This includes children or young people being present– with or without their parents, at venues unsuitable for their age e.g. venues with 'adult only' activities such as;

- Events of a sexual nature;
- Where there are convictions of current members of staff for serving alcohol to minors;
- Premises where gambling is the main activity; and/or
- Premises where the supply of alcohol is the main activity.

Children need to be protected even when it appears that they are not aware that the physical abuse, sexual activity they are involved in or witness, or the neglect they experience, is harmful to them.

3 CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY OWNER /LICENSE HOLDERS AND THEIR STAFF

3.1 ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Local Authority Children's Social Services, the Police (and the children's charity NSPCC) are the only agencies which have a legal obligation to investigate child abuse.

If you suspect that a child under the age of eighteen years or an unborn baby is being harmed by:

- Experiencing (or already has, experienced) abuse or neglect; and/or
- Likely to suffer significant harm in the future;

You must talk to your nominated safeguarding children person and make a referral to Camden's children's social care service and your local Police.

3.2 WHO TO CONTACT

(a) In Office Hours

Camden Children and Family Contact Service
0207 974 3317

Police Child Abuse Investigation Team
0208 733 6495

(b) Out of Office Hours

Safeguarding & Social Care Emergency Duty Team
020 7974 4444

3.3 WHAT CHILDREN SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORK AND THE POLICE WILL WANT TO KNOW

When you contact the Children and Families Contact Service or the EDT social worker you should provide the following details:

- Your name;
- Your address and a telephone number at which you can be contacted in case they require other information or to follow up;
- The child or young person's name, and any other details, if known (parent's name, address, school etc);
- Relevant information about the circumstances of your concerns – what you see, hear or suspect to be happening about an individual child and young person;
- Also concerns relating to activities you see, hear or suspect to be happening about the premise or linked to the premises e.g. if you suspect that a member of staff is selling alcohol to young people who are underage or you believe that children are at risk of sexual exploitation. You may not have all the details about a child or young person, or the activity but you should still refer.

You will be expected to put in writing within 48 hours the information which you have given verbally (telephone or face-to- face).

Children Services & Social Work and the Police should tell you how to respond to the situation in a way that supports their plan of action.

You may be in breach of your license if you do not disclose information where child abuse is suspected.

4 NOMINATED SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PERSON

Recommended best practice is for the owner/license holder to nominate themselves or a senior staff member to have the following responsibilities* in relation to safeguarding children for the licensed premises – to:

- Arrange safeguarding children training for all staff;
- Monitor and report on whether all staff have received the minimum (initial and refresher) safeguarding children training;
- Ensure that all staff have read and know where to find this policy and the Government Guidance: “What To Do If You’re Worried a Child is Being Abused” (See 1.3 on page 3)
- Ensure that an up-to-date Safeguarding Children Procedures Poster is displayed for all staff at all times (See last page of this Policy);
- Provide advice and support to staff when they have a concern about safeguarding a child;
- Record all concerns raised by staff;
and
- Be the contact person for Children Services and Social Work and the Police in relation to all incidents or concerns related to the safeguarding of children on or linked to the premises.

* This list is not exhaustive

All staff should know that they can call Children Services & Social Work and the Police if the person they suspect is senior to them in the licensed premises staff hierarchy.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

These premises are licensed in accordance with Licensing Act 2003 and as such are in accordance with the national objective of safeguarding children.

Your establishment has a Child Protection Policy which each member of staff should consult and familiarise themselves with.

If you are concerned about the welfare of any child or suspect that a child/ children are being abused in connection with your establishment, please contact:

Camden's Children and Families Contact Service (9am-5pm) - 0207 974 3317

Emergency Duty Team (5pm-9am) - 0207 974 4444

Police and Child Abuse Investigation Team- 0208 733 6495

DO NOT KEEP CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS TO YOURSELF



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