




Child Protection Policy

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Our child protection policy follows that of the North East Local Authorities within whose areas we operate. During any of our provisions, if any member of staff becomes concerned about the health and wellbeing of any child with us, the following protocol will be adhered to:

Member of Staff Has Concerns

If a Member of Staff has a concern about the wellbeing of a child (or unborn baby), then follow the General Procedures provided.

Consultation With Site Leader

Member of staff discusses concerns with the Site Leader, who then contacts the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Area Manager) to decide next steps.

Discussion With Parents

Professional discussion of concerns with parents/carers of the child and explains what steps they will take next (if this does not put the child at further risk or affect a police investigation).

Childrens Helpdesk

Professional seeks advice or makes a request for service through the LADO direct telephone number – LADO's details are held in the Staff Handbook and all staff have access to this via electronic links.

Seeking Advice From Children's Social Care

Professional can discuss concerns in principle with a social worker or social work manager and receive advice about whether a referral is appropriate or whether there are alternative ways of addressing their concern.

Making A Request For Service To Children's Social Care

Basic information is given to the LADO and completion of a Multi Agency Referral Form. This is passed on to a social work team and the caller will be contacted by a social worker within 24 hours (unless there are immediate risks in which case the professional will be put through to a social work team straight away). The social work team will discuss whether the referral is appropriate and what action can/will be take.

Open a Case on MyConcern

The DSL/Professional who leads on the case must ensure that all discussions and reported matters are recorded correctly on MyConcern.

It is the responsibility of the Operations Manager to ensure that all staff have a log-in for the online system and receive training in how to use this system.

All MyConcern cases will be discussed at SLT and Advisory Board meetings.

This procedure will be used in scenarios where there is no direct/immediate concern for the child's wellbeing. However, if the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Area Manager) suspects that there is an immediate threat to the child's safety and/or wellbeing, then the concern will be reported immediately to the police.