



Document control			
Document Name	Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy		
Prepared By	Trustees		
Authorised By	DSL – Verity Bramwell		
Source Location	One Drive	Policy Reference: PIO001	
Other documents referenced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child The Children Act 1989 and 2004 Human Rights Act 1998 Sexual Offences Act 2003 Data Protection Act 2018 Protection of Children Act 1999 		
Related documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Adult Policy Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy Suicide Prevention Policy Code of Conduct Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace (Whistleblower) policy Safeguarding reporting policy Safeguarding complaints policy 		
Acknowledgements			
Approval & Ratification	Approval Date: April 2024	Ratified Date: April 2024	
Review	Last: October 2024	Next: April 2025	
Version Control			
Version Number	Date issued	Author	Update information
V1.0	April 2024	Verity Bramwell	Original
V1.1	October 2024	Verity Bramwell	The policy has been significantly shortened and simplified for clarity.

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The Pioneer's Child Safeguarding Policy

Our Commitment

The Pioneer is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who engage with our services. We firmly believe that everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. We are dedicated to ensuring that all children and young people are treated with the utmost dignity and respect and that their welfare is our paramount concern.

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and young people who receive The Pioneer's services from harm, including the children and young people of adults who use our services.
- Provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of The Pioneer, including:

- Senior managers and the board of trustees

- Paid staff
- Volunteers
- Consultants
- Partner staff
- Agency staff
- Students
- Contractors
- Programme visitors, including journalists, celebrities, and politicians

Key Principles

- **The welfare of the child is paramount.** Every decision and action taken must prioritise the safety and well-being of the child.
- **All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon swiftly.** We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and will respond promptly and effectively to any concerns raised.
- **We will work in partnership with external agencies to ensure effective safeguarding procedures.** We recognise the importance of collaboration and will work closely with local authorities, the police, and other relevant organisations to safeguard children and young people.

Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their health or development, ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
- **Child/Young Person:** In England, Northern Ireland, and Wales, a child is someone under the age of 18.
- **Abuse:** A form of maltreatment of a child, including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, and neglect.

Procedure

Taking Action

If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child or young person, please follow these steps:

1. **Recognise:** Be aware of the signs and indicators of abuse or neglect. These may include physical injuries, changes in behaviour, emotional distress, or disclosures of abuse.
2. **Respond:** Listen carefully to the child or young person and offer reassurance. Do not make promises you cannot keep and avoid asking leading questions.
3. **Report:** Report your concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL. Do not attempt to investigate the matter yourself.

4. **Record:** Keep a clear and accurate record of your concerns, including dates, times, and details of any actions taken.

Key People

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Verity Bramwell
- verity.bramwell@pioneerclub.co.uk
- 07412898959

Deputy DSL

- Sue Frost
- sue.frost@pioneerclub.co.uk
- 07981 256180

Deputy DSL

- Sarah Dyer
- Sarah.dyer@pioneerclub.co.uk
- 07794 489891

In an emergency, always call the Police on 999.

Working Together

The Pioneer will cooperate with local authorities and other agencies in child protection enquiries and assessments following the procedures outlined by Hertfordshire County Council: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/childrens-social-care/child-protection/report-child-protection-concern.aspx>. Personal information about any individual or family that is needed to identify them will be shared, along with factual information regarding any incidents and disclosures, including risk assessments pertaining to the safeguarding concern.

Confidentiality

The Pioneer provides the following confidentiality statement to young people:

Confidentiality means not telling anyone else about what you've said. Whatever you say will be just between you and the Pioneer. You can feel safe talking to us, knowing that we will not tell anyone. But sometimes, if we're worried about your safety, we may need to get you help. We'd only need to get help or say or do something if:

- You ask us to
- We believe your life or someone else's life is in danger
- Someone, like a parent, carer or teacher are hurting you
- You tell us that you're seriously harming another person.

Interactions with Children and Young People

Employees and volunteers must not:

- Invite children or young people to their homes or visit children in their own homes.
- Allow their personal beliefs to exploit a child's vulnerability or incite them to break the law.
- Offer a child or young person a lift in a car.
- Behave in any way, physically or verbally, that could be offensive to a child or young person.
- Make any physical contact with a child or young person that would not be considered appropriate within a professional environment and report any inadvertent contact that could be misconstrued.
- Supply young people with any such tobacco, alcohol or other illegal substances.
- Introduce (virtually or face to face) a child or young person to another adult for advice and guidance, unless they are an employee of Pioneer or a partner provider, and this has been agreed with a manager.

NB: If the Child Safeguarding concern implicates an employee, the incident may also be investigated in accordance with our Disciplinary Policy or any other applicable policy at the discretion of the Child Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy).

Safer Recruitment

The Pioneer is committed to safer recruitment practices and conducts Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all staff and volunteers working with children and young people.

Training

All staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training as part of their induction and are provided with regular refresher training.

Review

This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains in line with current best practices and legislation.

Monitoring

As part of Pioneer induction, staff members are required to be made aware of the importance of policies and procedures and their adherence to them. It is the line manager's responsibility, with the assistance of Trustees, to monitor adherence to the policies and procedures outlined.

Dissemination

The Secretary will arrange for all ratified policies to be added to the relevant platform that Pioneer staff can access, and they will be notified of all relevant policy activity through the Pioneer internal and external communication systems.

Review of Policy

Policies are reviewed as standard either semiannually or on its one-year anniversary by the DSL. The Policy may be reviewed in advance of its scheduled date if any significant internal or external changes affect the policy area.

Approval

Policy approval is conducted via Trustee Meetings. Policy ratification is via the Board of Trustees as required per the Pioneer's Policy Review Schedule.

Further Information

For more information on child safeguarding, please refer to the NSPCC website:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

Remember: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to report them.**

Useful Links:

For more information on child safeguarding, types of abuse, and the responsibilities of institutions and organisations, you can refer directly to the following pieces of statutory guidance.

Working together to safeguard children

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf

Local Authority Finder

<https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

The NSPCC website also provides extensive information and resources on Safeguarding Children

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

For more information on the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks, please refer to The Pioneer's Recruitment Policy and our DBS Policy.

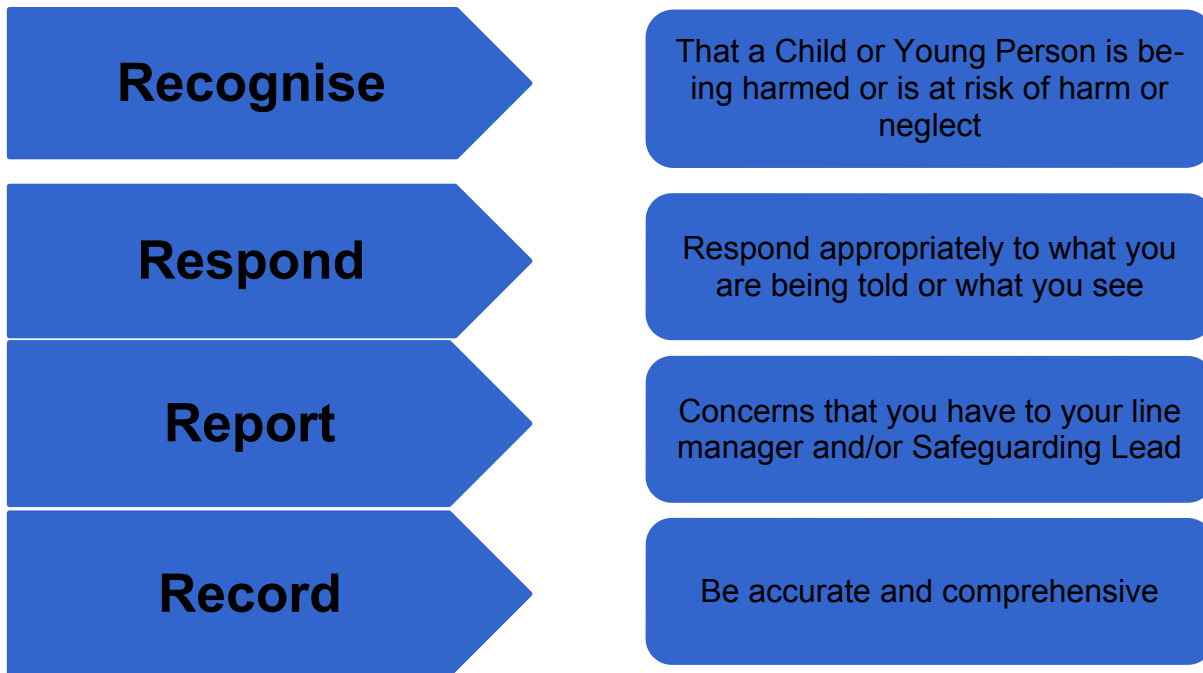
If an employee or volunteer has child safeguarding concerns unrelated to Pioneer activity, they should contact the Local Authority Children's Services or the NSPCC National 24-Hour Help Line on 0808 800 5000 for advice about Safeguarding Children.

Appendix A

Safeguarding Children and Young People Procedure

Procedure where there are concerns that a child is being abused or harmed

By following the four simple safeguarding principles of recognise, respond, report and record, trustees, members of staff, and volunteers can keep children who may be at risk of abuse safe from harm.



Recognise

Signs and indicators of Abuse and Neglect

Indicators that a child may be being abused may include the following:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- The Young Person describes what appears to be an abusive act involving themselves.
- Someone else (a young person or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another
- Unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper), inappropriate sexual awareness
- Engaging in sexually explicit behaviour
- Sudden or unusual distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected
- Having difficulty making friends
- Being prevented from socialising with other young people
- Displaying variations in eating patterns, including overeating, loss of appetite or sudden weight gain
- Becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt

It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is taking place.

Respond

It can be difficult to hear about or witness harm or abuse experienced by a child or young person. The following points will be helpful for both you and the child should they choose to disclose abuse to you:

- Stay calm
- Listen carefully to what is said and try not to interrupt

- Find an appropriate point early on to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared with others – do not promise to keep secrets
- Allow them to continue at their own pace
- Ask questions for clarification only and avoid asking questions that suggest an answer (leading questions)
- Reassure them they are not to blame and have done the right thing in telling you. If the concern is serious, explain that you will need support from other trained people to help keep the child safe. This must be shared even if the child doesn't want you to tell anyone else.
- Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared. If they are adamant that they do not wish the information to be shared, explain that you must tell your Line Manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead and that it will be discussed further with them.
- Be aware of the possibility of forensic evidence if the disclosure relates to a recent incident of physical harm or injury, and try to protect any supporting materials, e.g. bedding or clothing.
- Ask for the full name and address of the child or young person who may be at risk from harm.
- When ending the conversation, either in person, over the phone, via web chat or via email, tell the individual that you are reporting the safeguarding concern and ask if they are happy for you to do so (gain consent). This helps to keep boundaries and processes clear. Refrain from trying to gain consent if you believe doing this will increase the risk, but still take action and report it.
- Report the disclosure to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the earliest opportunity.

If you cannot contact your line manager or Safeguarding Lead, advice should be sought from an alternative manager, statutory agency, or NSPCC Helpline at 0808 800 5000.

Report

Remember, it is not the responsibility of a Pioneer trustee, member of staff or volunteer to decide if child abuse is occurring, but it is their responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting them.

Report concerns to your Line Manager and/or Designated Safeguard Lead. Any trustee, member of staff, or volunteer can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead for advice.

Whenever possible, and where this **will not** increase the risk of harm to a child or young person, parents should be informed before a Child Protection agency is notified. However, this is not a requirement and safeguarding the child overrides contacting the parent.

Safeguarding concerns **MUST** be reported immediately (or where this is not possible at the earliest opportunity) so that the report can be assessed and action taken to protect the person involved. If any person is at immediate risk of harm or requires medical attention, the emergency services should be contacted immediately by telephoning 999.

Where circumstances prevent an immediate referral, trustees, members of staff, and volunteers **MUST** report safeguarding concerns to their Designated Safeguarding Lead, deputy DSL or Line Manager no later than the next working day the concern is raised or received.

The Pioneer's Designated Safeguarding Lead – Verity Bramwell verity.bramwell@pioneerclub.co.uk, 07412898959

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Sue Frost sue.frost@pioneerclub.co.uk, 07981 256180

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Sarah Dyer sarah.dyer@pioneerclub.co.uk,
07794 489891**

Other contacts:

The Pioneer Chair – Matt Bigg matt.bigg@pioneerclub.co.uk

In an emergency where you think that a child/young person(s) may be in immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

If, for any reason, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Line Manager cannot be contacted, the following organisations can be contacted for advice:

Concern about a child - You should contact the Local Authority Children Services. Use the <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council> website to find the Local Authority Services for your area.

Record

Be accurate and comprehensive.

In all situations it is extremely important to record the details of an allegation, disclosure or reported concerns about a Child Protection matter. The following information should be recorded as soon as possible after the event/concern is raised:

- Date and time of the observation/incident/disclosure/allegation.
- Who was involved?
- Names of the person reporting and to whom the observation/incident/disclosure/allegation was reported.
- What was said or done by whom? Does the child have a disability? If so, how does it impact their ability to report, self-protect, etc?
- Does the child communicate in spoken English? If not, how do they communicate, and is an interpreter required?
- What action (if any) was taken and by whom?
- When and to whom in the statutory agencies was the information passed, and if a referral was not made, why this decision was made.
- All records should be dated and signed by the staff involved and the manager/DSL.

The record should be clear and factually accurate, and any difference between fact and professional judgement/opinion should be identified as this distinction may be useful for any subsequent investigation or if it is used as evidence in court proceedings or disciplinary proceedings.

If you have any concerns, even if you don't have full contact details, please ensure they are fully recorded. These concerns will be reviewed regularly by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Referrals to Children Services

If you are concerned that a Child or Young Person may be suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, report your concerns to children's social care. Referrals to Children's Services should be agreed with your line manager or safeguarding lead. They should be completed promptly on the same day the concern was raised. Outside office hours, you should contact the Local Authority Emergency Duty Team.

Local Authority Finder - <https://www.gov.uk/report-child-abuse-to-local-council>

A referral should be made to the Local Authority in which the Child or Young Person resides. Contact details for Local Authority Children’s Services are easily found on the internet. The Pioneer requires that all referrals be initially made by telephone followed by a comprehensive, detailed written referral. A receipt should be obtained to confirm the submission of the referral, and a copy of the referral should be kept securely.

Following Up

It is the responsibility of the DSL to follow up on the outcome of the referral to ascertain what action Children’s Services is taking. A check should be made within 5 working days, either by telephone or email, and this must be recorded.

Outcome

Sometimes, a referral to children’s services results in their assessment stating no need for further action.

The Pioneer will seek clarifying information about the decision to take no further action. This information will assist The Pioneer in determining if they agree with the outcome. When there is a disagreement with the decision and The Pioneer still feels that the need is greater than assessed by Children’s Services, a discussion between the DSL and social worker should be had to obtain a satisfactory agreement.

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Assessment	The process of defining an individual person’s needs, making a judgement about the risk of harm, deciding on the help that they require and determining their eligibility for services.
Bullying	Bullying is - deliberately hurtful (including aggression) - repeated often, over a period of time - difficult for the victim to defend themselves against - a 'systematic abuse of power'.
The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAF-CASS)	CAF-CASS is an independent national organisation. It exists to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children and Young People in court proceedings, to give advice to the court and to provide information, advice and support for children and their families. www.cafcass.gov.uk
Child Abuse	Child abuse happens when a person – adult or child – harms a Child or Young Person. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can also involve a lack of love, care and attention (neglect).
Child in Need Section 17	Defined under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 as: “Those children whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services”. Note: this includes all children who have a disability.
Child Protection	Process of protecting individual Children and young People iden-

	tified as either suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.
Child Protection Conference	A child protection case conference is held if the child is at risk of significant harm, so that all of the relevant professionals can share information, identify risks and outline what needs to be done to protect the child.
Child Protection Enquiry	This is carried out, under section 47 Children Act 1989, when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered, or is at risk of, significant harm. The enquiry is carried out by Children's Social Care although both the Police and the NSPCC have powers to carry out such enquiries.
Child Protection Plan	A detailed inter-agency plan setting out what must be done to protect a child from further harm, to promote the child's health and development and if it is in the best interests of the child, to support the family to promote the child's welfare.
Child protection Register	The child protection register (CPR) is a confidential list of all children in the local area who have been identified as being at risk of significant harm. The register allows authorised individuals in social work, education, health, police and the voluntary sector to check if a child they are working with is known to be at risk.
Children and Young People	Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	The sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive "something" (e.g., food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of their performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.
Confidentiality and Information Sharing	Ensuring that any information about a Child or young People is shared with relevant authorities and partners is done in a confidential, systematic and respectful manner.
Consent	Agreement given by a person who is competent to do so.
Core Group	A core group is responsible for making sure that the child protection plan is supporting the child effectively on an ongoing basis.
County Lines	Also known as Criminal Exploitation and is when gangs and organised crime networks groom and exploit children to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties , and they use dedicated mobile phone ' lines ' to supply drugs.
DBS	A DBS check enables employers to check the criminal records of current and potential employees in order to ascertain whether or not they are suitable to work with vulnerable adults and children.

	For individuals working in certain positions, a valid DBS disclosure is a legislative requirement.
Disability	Disability is sometimes seen as belonging to the individual, so one definition is ‘an aspect of the functioning of a person’s body that has the effect of limiting their inclusion in society’. However, it can also be seen as belonging to society in which case a definition is ‘a disadvantage or restriction on doing things that is the fault of society and the way it is run’.
Disclosure of Abuse	When a Child or Young Person informs another person that they have been/are being abused or that someone else has been abused.
Domestic Violence /Domestic Abuse	Domestic violence is now commonly defined broadly to include "all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence" that may be committed by a family member or intimate partner.
Duty of care	General duty on all those working with children to share some degree of responsibility for promoting their welfare and acting to protect them.
Early Help	Early help, also known as early intervention, is support given to a family when a problem first emerges. It can be provided at any stage in a child or young person's life.
Emergency Protection Order (EPO)	A court order under Section 44 of the Children Act 1989 giving Children's Social Care the power to protect a child from harm by removing the child to suitable accommodation or preventing a child from being removed (e.g. from hospital).
Family Group Conferences (FGCs)	A forum for using family members to develop the plan for a child's future. FGCs do not replace Child Protection Conferences and are most often used where a child is in need of support and services.
Forced Marriage	A marriage conducted without the full consent of both partners and where duress is a factor.
Grooming	<i>Grooming</i> is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a <i>child</i> or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them. <i>Children</i> and young people who are <i>groomed</i> can be sexually abused, exploited or trafficked.
Harm	“Harm” is the “ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of the child”.
Information Sharing	The sharing of information between agencies and professionals in the best interests of the child.
LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer	Has the responsibility to oversee allegations against members of staff across all organisations.
Lead Professional	Appointing a lead professional is central to the effective front-line delivery of services for Children and Young People. They take the lead to coordinate provision and act as a single point of contact for a child and their family when a range of services are involved, and an integrated response is required.

Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs)	A Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a multi-agency body set up in every local authority. Each LSCB has an independent Chair, that is, someone who doesn't work for social services. However, the Chair will work closely with the Director of Children's Services.
Looked After Children (LAC)	Children or Young People who are cared for by the Local Authority, either through a legal order or voluntary agreement with the parents.
Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)	Local panels which bring together police, probation, social services and other agencies to monitor violent and sex offenders in the community once they are released from prison.
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)	Multi-agency meetings which focus on the victims of domestic violence where there is a high or very high risk. They aim to provide a co-coordinated response to support the victim.
Parents and Carers	Includes anyone with parental responsibility or who undertakes day-to-day care for a Child or Young Person. It may include step-parents, grandparents or other members of the family (including siblings), foster carers, residential staff.
Parental Responsibility	This is a set of legal rights and responsibilities, including making sure a child is kept safe. Parental responsibility gives the right to make important decisions about a child's life.
Perpetrator	A person who carries out a harmful, illegal or immoral act.
Police Protection	The Police have powers under the Children Act 1989 to remove a child, in an emergency, into Police protection.
Risk Assessment	The process of assessing whether or not a person or situation may present a risk to the welfare of a Child or Young Person.
Safer Recruitment	Safer recruitment is a set of practices to help make sure your staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children and young people. It's a vital part of creating a safe and positive environment and making a commitment to keep children safe from harm.
Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children and Young People	The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care which is undertaken so as to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.
Section 47 Enquiry	See Child Protection enquiry
Serious Case Review	When a child dies, or is seriously harmed, as a result of abuse or neglect, a case review is conducted to identify ways that local professionals and organisations can improve the way they work together to safeguard children.
Sexual Exploitation	Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. When a Child or Young Person is exploited, they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities.
Significant harm	Introduced in the Children Act 1989, as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of the child.

Trafficking	The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organ
Vulnerable Children and Young People	Children and Young People who are particularly vulnerable to abuse include: - those living away from home - those who are missing - those living with parents who have addiction - those involved in pornography and the internet - those subject to bullying - those subject to racism
'Working Together to Safeguard Children'	Statutory guidance on how organisations and individuals should interact in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
Youth Offending Service (YOS)	Multi-agency teams responsible for the supervision of Children and Young People who have committed offences or are likely to offend.

Appendix E: Types of Abuse Chart

Type of abuse	Example	Signs of abuse
Physical abuse	Deliberate physical harm, eg hitting, shaking, burning, poisoning, objects being thrown.	Physical abuse symptoms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruises • Broken or fractured bones • Burns or scalds • Bite marks. It can also include other injuries and health problems, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scarring • The effects of poisoning, such as vomiting, drowsiness or seizures • Breathing problems from drowning, suffocation or poisoning. Head injuries in babies and toddlers can be signs of abuse. Visible signs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling • Bruising • Fractures • Being extremely sleepy or unconscious • Breathing problems • Seizures

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting • Unusual behaviour, such as being irritable or not feeding properly.
Emotional / psychological abuse	<p>Ignoring a child, bullying (in person or online), belittling them, lowering their self-esteem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seem unconfident or lack self-assurance • Struggle to control their emotions • Have difficulty making or maintaining relationships • Act in a way that's inappropriate for their age.
Neglect	<p>Basic needs not being met, eg lack of food, water, clothes, hygiene.</p> <p><u>Neglect can be split in to 4 categories.</u></p> <p>Physical neglect A child's basic needs, such as food, clothing or shelter, are not met or they aren't properly supervised or kept safe.</p> <p>Educational neglect A parent doesn't ensure their child is given an education.</p> <p>Emotional neglect A child doesn't get the nurture and stimulation they need. This could be through ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them.</p> <p>Medical neglect A child isn't</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being smelly or dirty • Being hungry or not given money for food • Having unwashed clothes • Having the wrong clothing, such as no warm clothes in winter • Having frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants. <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body issues, such as poor muscle tone or prominent joints • Medical or dental issues • Missed medical appointments, such as for vaccinations • Not given the correct medicines • Poor language or social skills • Regular illness or infections • Repeated accidental injuries, often caused by lack of supervision • Skin issues, such as sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm • Thin or swollen tummy • Tiredness • Untreated injuries • Weight or growth issues.

	given proper health care. This includes dental care and refusing or ignoring medical recommendations.	
Child sexual exploitation	Exposure to a coercive relationship involving sexual activities. Often children are offered gifts or money in return for sexual acts being masked as a relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Unhealthy or inappropriate sexual behaviour.</u> • Being frightened of some people, places or situations. • Bring secretive. • Sharp changes in mood or character. • Having money or things they can't or won't explain. • Physical signs of abuse, like bruises or bleeding in their genital or anal area. • <u>Alcohol or drug misuse.</u> • Sexually transmitted infections. • Pregnancy.
Child criminal exploitation	Cocersion in to illegal activities ie drug running. (County Lines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them. • Being angry, aggressive or violent. • Being isolated or withdrawn. • Having unexplained money and buying new things. • Wearing clothes or accessories in gang colours or getting tattoos. • Using new slang words. • Spending more time on social media and being secretive about time online. • Making more calls or sending more texts, possibly on a new phone or phones. • <u>Self-harming</u> and feeling emotionally unwell. • <u>Taking drugs</u> and abusing alcohol. • Committing petty crimes like shop lifting or vandalism. • Unexplained injuries and refusing to seek medical help. • Carrying weapons or having a dangerous breed of dog.
Online abuse	Any abusive act carried out over the internet. Ie social media, blogs, gaming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend a lot more or a lot less time than usual online, texting, gaming or using social media • Seem distant, upset or angry after using the internet or texting • Be secretive about who they're talking to and what they're doing online or on their

		<p>mobile phone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have lots of new phone numbers, texts or email addresses on their mobile phone, laptop or tablet.
Grooming	<p>Relationship or friendship with a child to gain their trust with the aim of exploitation. Can happen in person, or online, often the child knows the person in real life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being very secretive about how they're spending their time, including when online • Having an older boyfriend or girlfriend • Having money or new things like clothes and mobile phones that they can't or won't explain • Underage drinking or drug taking • spending more or less time online or on their devices • Being upset, withdrawn or distressed • <u>Sexualised behaviour</u>, language or an understanding of sex that's not appropriate for their age • Spending more time away from home or going missing for periods of time.
Trafficking	<p>Transport of children from one place to another for exploitation i.e., sexual slavery, illegal activity. Can happen between countries or within the UK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend a lot of time doing household chores • Rarely leave their house or have no time for playing • Be orphaned or living apart from their family • Live in low-standard accommodation • Be unsure which country, city or town they're in • Can't or are reluctant to share personal information or where they live • Not be registered with a school or a GP practice • Have no access to their parents or guardians • Be seen in inappropriate places like brothels or factories • Have money or things you wouldn't expect them to • Have injuries from workplace accidents • Give a prepared story which is very similar to stories given by other children.
Female genital mutilation	<p>Reasons include religion and culture. No health benefits make FGM considered to be abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having difficulty walking, standing or sitting. • Spending longer in the bathroom or toilet. • Appearing quiet, anxious or depressed. • Acting differently after an absence from school or college. • Reluctance to go to the doctors or have routine medical examinations.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asking for help – though they might not be explicit about the problem because they're scared or embarrassed.
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