



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY INCLUDING PREVENT POLICY

ADOPTED DATE: JAN 2019

REVIEW DATE: JAN 2020

**Acorn Childcare Centre
Empingham Road
Stamford PE9 2SR**

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Statement of Intent

The Acorn Childcare Centre (the Centre) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, both physical and emotional, of every child both inside and outside of the Centre premises. We implement a preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, across the whole of the Centre, ensuring that the wellbeing of children is at the forefront of all action taken.

This policy sets out a clear and consistent framework for delivering this promise, in line with safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance.

It will be achieved by:

- Creating a culture of safer recruitment by adopting procedures that help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk to children.
- Teaching children, when possible and as their age allows, how to keep safe and recognise behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Identifying and making provision for any child who has been subject to abuse.
- Ensuring that Directors and all staff members understand their responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, are alert to the signs of child abuse and know to refer concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Ensuring that new staff members and volunteers are only appointed when all the appropriate checks have been satisfactorily completed.

Signed by:

T J Revell on behalf of the Acorn Directors

Dated:

1 Definitions [Clarified for 2018] The terms “children” and “child” refer to anyone under the age of 18.

The Safeguarding Team

Designated Director for Safeguarding

Tristan Revell

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

Sarah Horsfall, Childcare Centre Manager, who maintains overall leadership for safeguarding

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL):

Donna Downs, Deputy Childcare Centre Manager

1.1 For the purposes of this policy, “safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children” is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing the impairment of children’s health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

1.2 For the purposes of this policy, the term “harmful sexual behaviour**” includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:**

- Using sexually explicit words and phrases
- Inappropriate touching
- Sexual violence or threats
- Full penetrative sex with other children or adults

1.3 In accordance with the Department for Education’s (DfE) guidance ‘Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges’ (2018), and for the purposes of this policy, the term “sexual harassment**” is used within this policy to describe any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, both online or offline, which violates a child’s dignity and makes them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and can create a hostile, sexualised or offensive environment.**

1.4 For the purpose of this policy, the term “sexual violence**” encompasses the definitions provided in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, including those pertaining to rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault.**

1.5 [Clarified for 2018] The term “teaching role**” is defined as planning and preparing lessons and courses for children; delivering lessons to children; assessing the development, progress and attainment of children; and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of children. These activities are not teaching work if the person carrying out the activity does so (other than for the purposes of induction) subject to the direction and supervision of a qualified**

teacher or other person nominated by the Directors to provide such direction and supervision.

2 Legal framework

This policy has been created with due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Education (Centre Teachers' Appraisal) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- [New for 2018] General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- [New for 2018] [Centres providing education to children under the age of eight only] The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018

Statutory guidance

- HM Government (2013) 'Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage'
- **[Updated for 2018]** DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty'
- **[Updated for 2018]** DfE (2018) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006'

Non-statutory guidance

- DfE (2015) 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- **[Updated for 2018]** DfE (2018) 'Information sharing'
- DfE (2017) 'Child sexual exploitation'
- **[Updated for 2018]** DfE (2018) 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in Centres and colleges'

Other relevant Centre policies including:

- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Procedure
- Behaviour Policy
- Arrivals & Departures Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- General Data Protection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Acceptable Use & E-Safety Policy

3 Roles and responsibilities

The Directors have a duty to:

- Ensure that the Centre complies with its duties under the above child protection and safeguarding legislation.
- Guarantee that the policies, procedures and training opportunities in the Centre are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Guarantee that the Centre contributes to inter-agency working in line with the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018).
- Confirm that the Centre's safeguarding arrangements take into account the procedures and practices of the Local Authority (LA) as part of the inter-agency safeguarding procedures.
- **[Updated September 2018]** Understand the local criteria for action and the local protocol for assessment, and ensure these are reflected in the Centre's policies and procedures.
- Comply with its obligations under section 14B of the Children Act 2004 to supply the local safeguarding arrangements with information to fulfil its functions.
- **[Updated September 2018]** Ensure that staff members have due regard to relevant data protection principles which allow them to share personal information.
- Ensure that one of the Directors is nominated to liaise with the LA and/or partner agencies on issues of child protection and in the event of allegations of abuse made against the Centre Manager or another director.
- Guarantee that there are effective child protection policies and procedures in place together with a staff code of conduct.
- Ensure that there is a senior board level lead responsible for safeguarding arrangements.
- Appoint a senior member of staff at the Centre to the role of DSL as an explicit part of the role-holder's job description.
- **[New for 2018]** Appoint one or more deputy DSLs to provide support to the DSL and ensure that they are trained to the same standard as the DSL and that the role is explicit in their job description(s).
- **[New for 2018]** Ensure all relevant persons are aware of the Centre's local safeguarding arrangements, and the timelines for their Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to transition to the new system including the directors and the DSL.

- Make sure that children are taught age-appropriate lessons about safeguarding, including protection against dangers online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum,
- Adhere to statutory responsibilities by conducting pre-employment checks on staff who work with children, taking proportionate decisions on whether to ask for any checks beyond what is required.
- Ensure that staff members are appropriately trained to support children to be themselves at Centre, e.g. if they are LGBTQ+.
- Guarantee that volunteers are appropriately supervised.
- Make sure that at least one person on any appointment panel has undertaken safer recruitment training.
- Ensure that all staff members receive safeguarding and child protection training updates, such as e-bulletins, emails and staff meetings, as required, but at least annually.
- Certify that there are procedures in place to handle allegations against members of staff or volunteers.
- Confirm that there are procedures in place to make a referral to the DBS and the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), where appropriate, if a person in regulated activity has been dismissed or removed due to safeguarding concerns or would have been had they not resigned.
- Guarantee that there are procedures in place to handle children's allegations against other children.
- Ensure that appropriate disciplinary procedures are in place, as well as policies pertaining to the behaviour of children and staff.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to peer-on-peer abuse.
- Make sure that children's wishes and feelings are taken into account when determining what action to take and what services to provide to protect individual children, as appropriate to their age.
- Guarantee that there are age-appropriate systems in place for children to express their views and give feedback.
- Establish an early help procedure and ensure all staff understand the procedure and their role in it.
- Appoint the Centre Manager to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC) and ensure that this person has undergone appropriate training.
- Ensure that the Centre Manager works with the Virtual Centre Head to discuss how the child premium funding if available can best be used to support LAC.

- Introduce mechanisms to assist staff in understanding and discharging their roles and responsibilities.
- Make sure that staff members have the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to keep LAC safe, particularly with regards to the child's legal status, contact details and care arrangements.
- Put in place appropriate safeguarding responses for children who go missing from the Centre, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify any risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation, and prevent the risk of their disappearance in future.
- Ensure that all directors have been subject to an enhanced DBS check.
- Create a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns.

The Centre Manager has a duty to:

- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the child care profession.
- Ensure that the policies and procedures adopted by the directors, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, are followed by staff members.
- **[Updated for 2018]** Provide staff, upon induction, with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, part one of the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) guidance, Behaviour Management & Exclusions Policy, the Children Missing from Education Policy, online safety training, and the identity of the DSL and any deputies.

The DSL has a duty to:

- **[New for 2018]** Understand, and keep up-to-date with, local plans for their Lincolnshire Safeguarding & Children's Board's (LSCB's) transition to the new multi-agency arrangement of three safeguarding partners.
- **[New for 2018]** Act as the main point of contact with the LSCB, and with the three safeguarding partners following completion of the transition period.
- Refer all cases of suspected abuse to Children's Social Care Services (CSCS), the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for child protection concerns, the DBS, and the police in cases where a crime has been committed.
- Refer cases of radicalisation to the Channel programme.
- Liaise with the directors as necessary, taking into account confidentiality, to inform them of safeguarding issues, especially

ongoing enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 and police investigations.

- Liaise with the deputy DSL to ensure effective safeguarding outcomes.
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff members on matters of safeguarding by liaising with relevant agencies.
- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention.
- Support staff members in liaising with other agencies and setting up inter-agency assessment where early help is deemed appropriate.
- Keep cases of early help under constant review and refer them to the CSCS if the situation does not appear to be improving.
- Have a working knowledge of how Local Authorities (LAs) conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so.
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the Centre's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures which will be discussed during the staff induction process.
- Be alert to the specific requirements of children in need, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and young carers.
- Keep detailed, accurate and secure records of concerns and referrals.
- Secure access to resources and attend any relevant training courses.
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings.
- Work with the directors to ensure the Centre's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and the procedures are updated regularly.
- Ensure the Centre's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available publicly, and parents are aware that the Centre may make referrals for suspected cases of abuse or neglect, as well as the role the Centre plays in these referrals.
- Link with local safeguarding arrangements to make sure that staff members are aware of the training opportunities available and the latest local policies on safeguarding.
- Ensure that a child's child protection file is copied when transferring to a new nursery or to school on first admission.
- Be available at all times during Centre hours to discuss any safeguarding concerns, in person, or via email and telephone, or for this responsibility to have been delegated to deputy officers.

- Robustly draw together information from behaviour concerns, attendance concerns, e-safety concerns and pastoral concerns to build a full picture of potential safeguarding issues to ensure robust, rapid response and high quality early intervention
- **[New for 2018]** Hold the details of the LA personal advisor and liaise with them as necessary.
- **[Updated for 2018]** The Centre Manager has a responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of LAC and previously LAC, and for children who have left care through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders or who were adopted from state care outside England and Wales.
- To conduct frequent welfare checks on children about whom there are concerns
- To monitor attendance of all children and target attendance support for children about whom there are concerns
- To monitor behaviour of all children and target behaviour support for children about whom there are concerns
- To run intervention and therapy programs and support the welfare and emotional wellbeing of all children, and target support for children about whom there are concerns.
- To liaise with agencies and parents to support the children about whom there are concerns.

Other staff members have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard children's wellbeing and maintain public trust in the nursery profession as part of their professional duties.
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- Act in accordance with Centre procedures with the aim of eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, including those in relation to peer-on-peer abuse.
- Maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.
- Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect.
- Be aware of the early help process and understand their role in it.
- Act as the lead professional in undertaking an early help assessment, where necessary.
- Be aware of, and understand, the process for making referrals to CSCS, as well as for making statutory assessments under the Children Act 1989 and their role in these assessments.

- **[Updated September 2018]** Be confident of the processing conditions under relevant data protection legislation, including information which is sensitive and personal, and information that should be treated as special category data.
- Make a referral to CSCS and/or the police immediately, if at any point there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child.
- Be aware of and understand the procedure to follow in the event that a child confides they are being abused or neglected.
- Support social workers in making decisions about individual children, in collaboration with the DSL.
- Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality when dealing with individual cases, and always act in the best interest of the child.
- Follow the Centre's procedure for, and approach to, preventing radicalisation.
- Challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns, where necessary.

4 Inter-agency working

- The Centre contributes to inter-agency working as part of its statutory duty.
- **[New for 2018]** The Centre is aware of the expected timeline for its LSCB to fully transition to new system of three safeguarding partners.
- The Centre will work with CSCS, the police, health services and other services to protect the welfare of its children, through the early help process and by contributing to inter-agency plans to provide additional support.
- **[Updated September 2018]** Where a need for early help is identified, the Centre will allow access for CSCS from the host LA and, where appropriate, a placing LA, for that LA to conduct (or consider whether to conduct) a section 17 or 47 assessment.
- **[Updated September 2018]** The Centre recognises the importance of proactive information sharing between professionals and local agencies in order to effectively meet children's needs and identify any need for early help.
- Staff members are aware that whilst the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 place a duty on nurseries to process personal information fairly and lawfully, they also allow for information to be stored and shared for safeguarding purposes. Data protection regulations do not act as a barrier to sharing information where failure to do so would result in the child being placed at risk of harm.
- Staff members will ensure that fear of sharing information does not stand in the way of their responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of children.

- **[Updated September 2018]** If staff members are in doubt about sharing information, they will speak to the DSL or deputy DSL.
- The Centre also recognises the particular importance of inter-agency working in identifying and preventing child sexual exploitation (CSE).

5 Abuse and neglect

- All members of staff will be aware that abuse, neglect and safeguarding issues are rarely standalone events that can be given a specific label and multiple issues often overlap one another.
- All staff members will be aware of the indicators of abuse and the appropriate action to take following a child being identified as at potential risk of abuse or neglect.
- When identifying children at risk of potential harm, staff members will look out for a number of indicators including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Injuries in unusual places, such as bite marks on the neck, that are also inconsistent with their age
 - Lack of concentration and acting withdrawn
 - Knowledge ahead of their age, e.g. sexual knowledge.
 - Use of explicit language
 - Fear of abandonment
 - Depression and low self-esteem
- All members of staff will be aware of the indicators of peer-on-peer abuse, such as those in relation to bullying, gender-based violence, sexual assaults and sexting.
- All staff will be aware of the necessary procedures to follow to prevent peer-on-peer abuse, as outlined in the Centre's Anti-Bullying Policy.
- All staff will be aware of the behaviours linked to drug taking, alcohol abuse, truancy and sexting, and will understand that these put children in danger.
- Staff members will be aware of the effects of a child witnessing an incident of abuse, such as witnessing domestic violence at home.

6 Types of abuse and neglect

- **Abuse:** A form of maltreatment of a child which involves inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others, e.g. via the internet.
- **Physical abuse:** A form of abuse which may involve actions such as hitting, throwing, burning, drowning and poisoning, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

- **Emotional abuse:** A form of abuse which involves the emotional maltreatment of a child to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. This may involve telling a child they are worthless, unloved, inadequate, not giving them the opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or often making them feel as though they are in danger.
- **Sexual abuse:** A form of abuse which involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, and whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical assault, such as penetrative assault and touching, or non-penetrative actions, such as looking at sexual images or encouraging children to behave in inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect:** A form of abuse which involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of a child's health or development. This may involve providing inadequate food, clothing or shelter, or the inability to protect a child from physical or emotional harm or ensure access to appropriate medical treatment.

7 **FGM (Female Genital Mutilation)**

- For the purpose of this policy, FGM is defined as the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or any other injury to the female genital organs.
- FGM is considered a form of abuse in the UK and is illegal.
- All staff will be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM. If staff members are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or who has been a victim of FGM, they are required to share this information with social care and/or the police.
- **[Emphasised for 2018]** Centre staff are **legally required** to report to the police any discovery, whether through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence, of FGM on a girl under the age of 18. Staff members failing to report such cases will face disciplinary action.

NB. The above does not apply to any suspected or at-risk cases, nor if the individual is over the age of 18. In such cases, local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

- There are a range of potential indicators that a child may be at risk of FGM. While individually they may not indicate risk, if two or more indicators are present, this could signal a risk to the child.
- Victims of FGM are most likely to come from communities that are known to adopt this practice. It is important to note that the child may not yet be aware

of the practice or that it may be conducted on them, so staff will be sensitive when broaching the subject.

- Indicators that may show a heightened risk of FGM include the following:
 - The socio-economic position of the family and their level of integration into UK society
 - Any girl with a mother or sister who has been subjected to FGM
 - Any girl withdrawn from PSHE
- Indicators that may show FGM could take place soon include the following:
 - When a female family elder is visiting from a country of origin
 - A girl may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or a ceremony to 'become a woman'
 - A girl may request help from a Centre staff member if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk
 - A girl, or her family member, may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent
- Staff will be vigilant to the signs that FGM has already taken place so that help can be offered, enquiries can be made to protect others, and criminal investigations can begin.
- Indicators that FGM may have already taken place include the following:
 - Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
 - Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
 - Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems
 - Prolonged or repeated absences from the Centre followed by withdrawal or depression
 - Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
 - Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear
- Staff members will not examine children, and so it is rare that they will see any visual evidence, but they will report to the police where an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the staff member has a good reason not to, they should also consider and discuss any such case with the DSL and involve CSCS as appropriate.
- FGM is also included in the definition of 'honour-based' violence (HBV), which involves crimes that have been committed to defend the honour of the family and/or community, alongside forced marriage and breast ironing.
- All forms of HBV are forms of abuse and will be treated and escalated as such.

- Staff will be alert to the signs of HBV, including concerns that a child is at risk of HBV, or has already suffered from HBV, and will consult with the DSL who will activate local safeguarding procedures if concerns arise.

8 **Forced marriage**

- For the purpose of this policy, a “**forced marriage**” is defined as a marriage that is entered into without the full and free consent of one or both parties, and where violence, threats or any other form of coercion is used to cause a person to enter into the marriage. Forced marriage is classed as a crime in the UK.
- As part of HBV, staff will be alert to the signs of forced marriage including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Becoming anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn with low self-esteem
 - Showing signs of mental health disorders and behaviours such as self-harm or anorexia
 - Displaying a sudden decline in their educational performance, aspirations or motivation
 - Regularly being absent from Centre
 - Displaying a decline in punctuality
 - An obvious family history of older siblings leaving education early and marrying early
- If staff members have any concerns regarding a child who may have undergone, is currently undergoing, or is at risk of, forced marriage, they will speak to the DSL and local safeguarding procedures will be followed – this could include referral to CSCS, the police or the Forced Marriage Unit.

9 **Child sexual exploitation (CSE)**

- For the purpose of this policy, “**child sexual exploitation**” is defined as: a form of sexual abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person into sexual activity, for either, or both, of the following reasons:
 - In exchange for something the victim needs or wants
 - For the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator
- CSE does not always involve physical contact, as it can also occur online. It is also important to note that a child can be sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- The Centre has adopted the following procedure for handling cases of CSE, as outlined by the DfE:

Identifying cases

- Centre staff members are aware of and look for the key indicators of CSE; these are as follows:
 - Going missing for periods of time or regularly going home late
 - Regularly missing sessions
 - Appearing with unexplained gifts and new possessions
 - Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
 - Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
 - Undergoing mood swings or drastic changes in emotional wellbeing
 - Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour
 - Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant
 - Displaying changes in emotional wellbeing
 - Misusing drugs or alcohol

Referring cases

- Where CSE, or the risk of it, is suspected, staff will discuss the case with the DSL. If after discussion a concern still remains, local safeguarding procedures will be triggered, including referral to the LA.

Support

- The LA and all other necessary authorities will then handle the matter to conclusion. The Centre will cooperate as needed.

10 [New for 2018] Homelessness

- The DSL and deputy(s) will be aware of the contact details and referral routes in to the Local Housing Authority so that concerns over homelessness can be raised as early as possible.
- Indicators that a family may be at risk of homelessness include the following:
 - Household debt
 - Rent arrears
 - Domestic abuse
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Any mention of a family moving home because “they have to”
- Referrals to the Local Housing Authority do not replace referrals to CSCS where a child is being harmed or at risk of harm.
- For 16- and 17-year-olds, homelessness may not be family-based and referrals to CSCS will be made as necessary where concerns are raised.

11 [New for 2018] County lines criminal activity

- For the purpose of this policy, “**County lines criminal activity**” refers to drug networks or gangs grooming and exploiting children to carry drugs and money

from urban areas to suburban areas, rural areas and market and seaside towns.

- Staff will be made aware of children with missing sessions who may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs.
- Staff members who suspect a child may be vulnerable to, or involved in, this activity will immediately report all concerns to the DSL.
- The DSL will consider referral to the National Referral Mechanism on a case-by-case basis.
- Indicators that a child may be involved in county lines active include the following:
 - Persistently going missing or being found out of their usual area
 - Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
 - Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls
 - Relationships with controlling or older individuals or groups
 - Leaving home without explanation
 - Evidence of physical injury or assault that cannot be explained
 - Carrying weapons
 - Sudden decline in Centre results
 - Becoming isolated from peers or social networks
 - Self-harm or significant changes in mental state
 - Parental reports of concern

12 [New for 2018] Children with family members in prison

- Children with a family member in prison will be offered pastoral support as necessary.
- If appropriate, their remaining parent/carer may receive a copy of '[Are you a young person with a family member in prison](#)' from Action for Prisoners' Families where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

13 [New for 2018] Children required to give evidence in court

- Children required to give evidence in criminal courts, either for crimes committed against them or crimes they have witnessed, will be offered appropriate pastoral support.
- Children whose family members are required to attend at court may also be provided with the booklet '[Going to Court](#)' from HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) where appropriate and allowed the opportunity to discuss questions and concerns.

14 [New for 2018] Contextual safeguarding

- Safeguarding incidents can occur outside of the Centre and can be associated with outside factors. Centre staff, particularly the DSL and the deputy, will always consider the context of incidents. This is known as contextual safeguarding.
- Assessment of children's behaviour will consider whether there are wider environmental factors that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare.
- The Centre will provide as much contextual information as possible when making referrals to CSCS.

15 Preventing radicalisation

- For the purpose of this policy, "**radicalisation**" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies.
- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of the Centre's wider safeguarding duties.
- The Centre will actively assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism.
- Staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- Staff will use their professional judgement to identify children who may be at risk of radicalisation and act appropriately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme. The Centre will work with local safeguarding arrangements as appropriate.
- The Centre will ensure that they engage with parents and families, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. In doing so, the Centre will assist and advise family members who raise concerns and provide information for support mechanisms.
- Any concerns over radicalisation will be discussed with a child's parents, unless the Centre has reason to believe that the child would be placed at risk as a result.

Training

- The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training to be able to provide advice and support to other staff on how to protect children against the risk of radicalisation. The DSL will arrange formal training sessions with all members of staff to ensure they are aware of the risk indicators and their duties regarding preventing radicalisation.

Risk indicators of vulnerable children

- Indicators of an identity crisis include the following:

- Distancing themselves from their cultural/religious heritage
- Uncomfortable with their place in society
- Indicators of a personal crisis include the following:
 - Family tensions
 - A sense of isolation
 - Low self-esteem
 - Disassociation from existing friendship groups
 - Searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- Indicators of vulnerability through personal circumstances includes the following:
 - Migration
 - Local community tensions
 - Events affecting their country or region of origin
 - Alienation from UK values
 - A sense of grievance triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination
- Indicators of vulnerability through unmet aspirations include the following:
 - Perceptions of injustice
 - Feelings of failure
 - Rejection of civic life
 - Indicators of vulnerability through criminality:
 - Experiences of dealing with the police
 - Involvement with criminal groups

Making a judgement

- When making a judgement, staff will ask themselves the following questions:
 - Does the child have access to extremist influences?
 - Does the child access the internet for the purposes of extremist activities (e.g. using closed network groups, accessing or distributing extremist material, contacting such groups covertly using Skype)?
 - Is there a reason to believe that the child has been, or is likely to be, involved with extremist organisations?
 - Is the child known to have possessed, or be actively seeking, extremist literature/other media likely to incite racial or religious hatred?
 - Does the child sympathise with or support illegal/illicit groups?
 - Does the child support groups with links to extremist activity?

- Has the child encountered peer, social, family or faith group rejection?
- Is there evidence of extremist ideological, political or religious influence on the child?
- Have international events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a noticeable impact on the child?
- Has there been a significant shift in the child's outward appearance that suggests a new social, political or religious influence?
- Has the child come into conflict with family over religious beliefs, lifestyle or dress choices?
- Does the child vocally support terrorist attacks, either verbally or in their written work?
- Has the child witnessed or been the victim of racial or religious hate crimes?
- Is there a pattern of regular or extended travel within the UK?
- Has the child travelled for extended periods of time to international locations?
- Has the child employed any methods to disguise their identity?
- Does the child have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the child display a lack of affinity or understanding for others?
- Is the child the victim of social isolation?
- Does the child demonstrate a simplistic or flawed understanding of religion or politics?
- Is the child a foreign national or refugee, or awaiting a decision on their/their family's immigration status?
- Does the child have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?
- Has the child experienced any trauma in their lives, particularly trauma associated with war or sectarian conflict?
- Is there evidence that a significant adult or other person in the child's life has extremist views or sympathies?

Critical Indicators

Critical indicators include where the child is:

- In contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing extremist websites.
- Possessing extremist literature.

- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Making significant changes to their appearance and/or behaviour.

Any member of staff who identifies such concerns, because of observed behaviour or reports of conversations, will report these to the DSL.

The DSL will consider whether a situation may be so serious that an emergency response is required. In this situation, a 999 call will be made; however, concerns are most likely to require a police investigation as part of the Channel programme, in the first instance.

Channel programme

- Safeguarding children is a key role for both the Centre and the LA, which is implemented through the use of the Channel programme. This service shall be used where a vulnerable child is at risk of being involved in terrorist activities.
- In cases where the Centre believes a child is potentially at serious risk of being radicalised, the Principal or DSL will contact the Channel programme.
- The DSL will also support any staff making referrals to the Channel programme.
- The Channel programme ensures that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background, receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist-related activity.
- The programme identifies individuals at risk, assesses the extent of that risk, and develops the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned, with multi-agency cooperation and support from the Centre.
- The delivery of the Channel programme may often overlap with the implementation of the LA's or Centre's wider safeguarding duty, especially where vulnerabilities have been identified that require intervention from CSCS, or where the individual is already known to CSCS.

Extremist speakers

- The Centre will vet and prevent speakers who may promote extremist views from using the Centre premises.

Building children's resilience

- The Centre will:
 - Provide a safe environment for debating controversial issues.
 - Promote age-appropriate fundamental British values, alongside spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
 - Allow children time to explore sensitive and controversial issues.

- Provide children with age appropriate knowledge and skills to understand and manage potentially difficult situations, recognise risk, make safe choices and recognise where pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.
- Equip children to explore political and social issues critically, weigh evidence, debate, and make reasoned arguments.
- Teach children in an age-appropriate fashion about how democracy, government and law making/enforcement occur.
- Teach children in an age appropriate fashion about mutual respect and understanding for the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities of the UK.

Resources

- The Centre will utilise the following resources when preventing radicalisation:
 - Local safeguarding arrangements
 - Local police (contacted via 101 for non-emergencies)
 - The DfE's dedicated helpline (020 7340 7264)
 - The Channel awareness programme
 - The Educate Against Hate website

16 A child missing from education (CME)

- A child going missing from Centre is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and, as such, these children are increasingly at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation.
- Staff will monitor children who go missing from the Centre, particularly on repeat occasions, and report them to the DSL following normal safeguarding procedures.
- **[New for 2018]** At least two emergency contact details will be held on the Centre's online Connect system for each child where possible.
- The Centre will maintain up to date contact information on the Centre's online Connect system for each child admitted to the Centre.
- Staff will monitor children who do not attend the Centre on the agreed sessions and will notify the DSL at the earliest opportunity.
- If a parent notifies the Centre that their child will live at a different address, the Centre will record the following information on its online Connect system:
 - The full name of the parent with whom the child will live
 - The new address
 - The date from when the child will live at that address

- If a parent notifies the Centre that their child will be attending a different nursery, or is already registered at a different nursery, the following information will be recorded on the Centre's online Connect system:
 - The name of the new nursery
 - The new address if the child has moved
 - The date of the house move if known
 - The child's leave date
 - The reason for leaving
 - Grounds for removal if appropriate
- Where a child moves to a new nursery, the Centre will securely transfer the child's physical file and a print of information from the online Connect system to the new nursery.
- The Centre will also remove a child from its online Connect system where the Centre has been unable to establish the child's whereabouts after making reasonable enquiries into their attendance.
- The Centre will report a child missing from its Centre to the LSCB when it has been unable to establish a missing child's whereabouts after making reasonable enquiries into their whereabouts, especially if there were any pre-existing child protection concerns relating to the child and/or family.

17 Children with SEND

- The Centre recognises that children with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges and understands that further barriers may exist when determining abuse and neglect in this group of children.
- Staff will be aware of the following:
 - Certain indicators of abuse, such as behaviour, mood and injury, may relate to the child's disability without further exploration; however, it should never be assumed that a child's indicators relate only to their disability
 - Childs with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying, without outwardly showing any signs
 - Communication barriers may exist, as well as difficulties in overcoming these barriers
- When reporting concerns or making referrals for children with SEND, the above factors will always be taken into consideration.
- When managing a safeguarding issue relating to a child with SEND, the DSL will liaise with the Centre's SENCO, as well as the child's family where appropriate, to ensure that the child's needs are effectively met.

18 [New for 2018] Alternative provision

- The Centre will remain responsible for a child's welfare during their time at an alternative provider.
- When placing a child with an alternative provider, the Centre will obtain written confirmation that the provider has conducted all relevant safeguarding checks on staff.

19 [New for 2018] Work experience

- When a child is sent on work experience, the Centre will ensure that the provider has appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place.
- Where the Centre has children conducting work experience at the Centre, an enhanced DBS check will be obtained if the child is over the age of 16 and not in full time education. If the child is in full time education and under the age of 18 an enhanced DBS check will not be required. References from the child's current head teacher and form tutor will be obtained.

20 [New for 2018] Homestay exchange visits

Centre-arranged homestays in UK

- Where the Centre is arranging for a visiting child to be provided with care and accommodation in the UK in the home of a family to which the child is not related, the responsible adults are considered to be in regulated activity for the period of the stay.
- In such cases, the Centre is the regulated activity provider; therefore, the Centre will obtain all the necessary information required, including a DBS enhanced certificate with barred list information, to inform its assessment of the suitability of the responsible adults.
- Where criminal record information is disclosed, the Centre will consider, alongside all other information, whether the adult is a suitable host.
- In addition to the responsible adults, the Centre will consider whether a DBS enhanced certificate should be obtained for anyone else aged over 16 in the household.

Centre-arranged homestays abroad

- The Centre will not arrange any homestays abroad for any children registered with it.

Privately arranged homestays

- Where a parent or child arranges their own homestay, this is a private arrangement and the Centre is not the regulated activity provider.

21 **[New for 2018] Private fostering**

- Where the Centre becomes aware of a child being privately fostered, they will notify the LA as soon as possible to allow the LA to conduct any necessary checks.

22 **Concerns about a child**

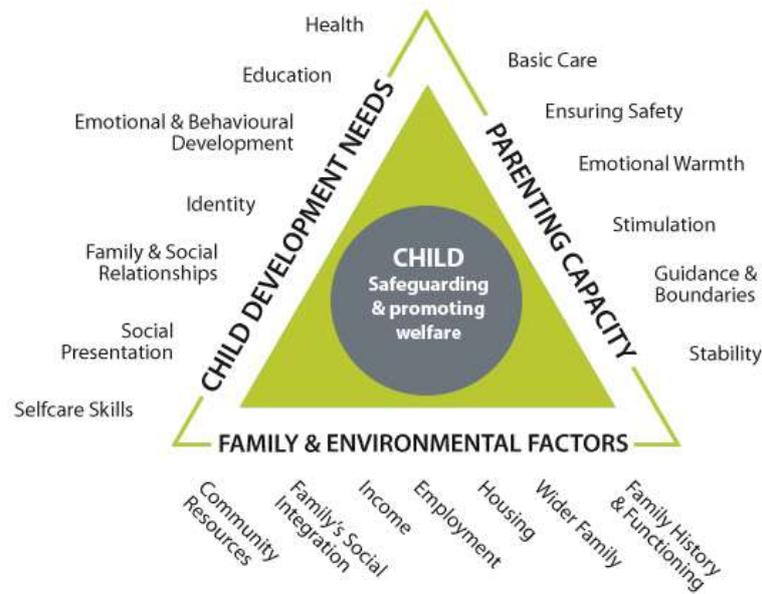
- **[New for 2018]** If a member of staff has any concern about a child's welfare, they will act immediately by completing a Worry Form and/or a Parent Conversation Form and handing it immediately to the DSL.
- All staff members are aware of the procedure for reporting concerns and understand their responsibilities in relation to confidentiality and information sharing, as outlined in section 28 of this policy.
- Where the concern requires immediate action i.e. where the child may be at immediate and/or serious risk of harm, the person reporting the concern will also discuss the concern immediately with the DSL or DDSL.
- If a referral is made about a child by anyone other than the DSL, the DSL will be informed as soon as possible.
- The LA will make a decision regarding what action is required within one working day of the referral being made and will notify the referrer.
- Staff are required to monitor a referral if they do not receive information from the LA regarding what action is necessary for the child.
- If the situation does not improve after a referral, the DSL will ask for reconsideration to ensure that their concerns have been addressed and that the situation improves for the child.
- If early help is appropriate, the case will be kept under constant review. If the child's situation does not improve, a referral will be considered.
- All concerns, discussions and decisions made, as well as the reasons for making those decisions, will be recorded in writing and filed in the child's file by the DSL. All ancillary paperwork including scans, photos, statements etc will also be filed in the child's file by the DSL.
- All children's files are stored in a locked cabinet in the Centre office. Access is restricted to the DSL and the DDSL.
- A summary of all historical records kept on concerns can be found in the Centre's central child protection file which is a paper based system, in a locked cabinet in the Centre office.
- If a child is in immediate danger, a referral will be made to CSCS and/or the police immediately.

- If a child has committed a crime, such as sexual violence, the police will be notified without delay.
- Where there are safeguarding concerns, the Centre will ensure that the child's wishes are always taken into account, and that there are age appropriate systems available for children to provide feedback and express their views.
- When responding to safeguarding concerns, staff members will act calmly and supportively, ensuring that the child feels like they are being listened to and believed.
- An inter-agency assessment will be undertaken where a child and their family could benefit from coordinated support from more than one agency. These assessments will identify what help the child and family require in preventing needs escalating to a point where intervention would be needed.

23 [New for 2018] Early help

- Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life.
- Any child may benefit from early help, but in particular staff will be alert to the potential need for early help for children who:
 - Have SEND (whether or not they have a statutory EHC plan).
 - Are young carers.
 - Show signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups.
 - Are frequently missing/going missing from care or from home.
 - Misuse drugs or alcohol.
 - Are at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation.
 - Are in a family circumstance presenting challenges such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse.
 - Are returned home to their family from care.
 - Show early signs of abuse and/or neglect.
 - Are at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
 - Are privately fostered.
- Early help will also be used to address non-violent harmful sexual behaviour to prevent escalation.
- All staff will be made aware of the local early help process and understand their role in it.
- The DSL will take the lead where early help is appropriate.

- In Lincolnshire an Early Intervention approach to addressing all children's needs has been adopted. There is an expectation that all nurseries use the Early Help Assessment to identify the holistic needs of a child and seek support through the Early Help Consultants or Team Around the Child Coordinators.
- The Centre acknowledges serious case review findings and shares lessons learned with all staff with the aim to ensure no child falls through the gap.
- All staff should understand the 'Meeting the Needs of Children in Lincolnshire' procedures and know how to pass on any concerns no matter how trivial they seem. They are consistent with Lincolnshire's Local Safeguarding Children's (LSCB) child protection procedures.
- All staff understand the difference between a 'concern' about a child and 'immediate danger or at risk of harm' and know the procedures to follow for each.
- Parents are made aware of the importance of keeping children safe; reference to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is made on the Centre's admission form. The policy is also available on request from the Centre's office and can be downloaded from the Centre's website.
- Staff and visitors are made aware of the importance of keeping children safe via posters which are displayed at key points around the Centre site (see Appendices).
- Centre staff members contribute to assessments along the '*Continuum of Need*' (see Appendices) and actively support multi-agency planning for those children. Staff members have an understanding of the *Framework of Assessment of Need* (see below) and make decisions based on a child's development needs, parenting capacity and family and environmental factors.



- Early Help in Lincolnshire includes both the TAC and ESCO process. “Signs of Safety” is embedded throughout. ESCO is similar to the TAC process but specifically supports the care coordination of Children with Disabilities (CWD) Further information can be seen at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ESCO All forms and guidance for Early Help including Signs of Safety, TAC Handbook, TAC Consultants contact details etc. are available at www.lincolnshirechildren.net

What is Team Around the Child (TAC)?

- TAC is a shared assessment and planning framework which is in use by a variety of agencies across the county and is employed in similar format throughout the country. It aims to help with the early identification of additional needs of children and young people and promote a coordinated multi agency response to meet them. A TAC can be used to support children and young people between 0–19 years, including unborn babies and can also be used with consent up to the age of 24 where a young person has a learning difficulty or disability. There are four main stages in setting up a TAC;
 - Early identification of needs
 - Assessing strengths and needs in a consistent and methodical framework
 - Developing and delivering an integrated service
 - Reviewing and refining the support arrangements
- Support and Guidance Available; Please refer also to the LSCB Website and publications (Particularly 'Meeting the Needs of Children in Lincolnshire') at

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lscb. In addition, the following staff members are available to support professionals;

- Early Help Advisors are available to support professionals. These advisors are based within Customer Service Centre (01522 782111). They offer consultations to professionals for new cases where practitioners need some advice or guidance. The Advisors are qualified social workers who will advise on all levels of safeguarding and thresholds.
- Early Help Consultants provide support, advice and guidance to lead professionals on existing TAC Cases. They will use Signs of Safety methodology to map and/or quality assure cases in order to secure improved outcomes for children, young people and their families. Contact via your local TAC Co-ordinator in your locality.
- TAC Administrators provide administrative support, maintain records, monitor processes, and can signpost professionals to local services.
- Further Support for Schools and Academies. In addition to the support outlined above, schools and academies can request case supervision for all TAC cases where the Lead Professional is employed in an educational setting. For these cases administrative support can also be requested in the form of arranging meetings and typing of assessments and plans. This support can be accessed via the Request Forms at www.lincolnshirechildren.net/tac. The Centre will also request such if required.

24 Managing referrals

- The reporting and referral process outlined in Appendix B will be followed accordingly (the Centre's Worry Form and the Centre's Conversation Form).
- All staff members, in particular the DSL, will be aware of the LA's arrangements in place for managing referrals. The DSL will provide staff members with clarity and support where needed.
- When making a referral to CSCS or other external agencies, information will be shared in line with confidentiality requirements and will only be shared where necessary to do so.
- The DSL will work alongside external agencies, maintaining continuous liaison, including multi-agency liaison where appropriate, in order to ensure the wellbeing of the children involved.
- The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the Centre does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.
- Where a child has been harmed or is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, the referrer will be notified of the action that will be taken within one working day of a referral being made. **Where this information is not forthcoming,**

the referrer will contact the assigned social worker for more information.

- The Centre will not wait for the start or outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other children: this applies to criminal investigations as well as those made by CSCS.
- Where CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the Centre will consider referring the incident again if it is believed that the child is at risk of harm.
- Where CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate and the Centre agrees with this decision, the Centre will consider the use of other support mechanisms, such as early help and pastoral support.
- At all stages of the reporting and referral process, the child will be informed of the decisions made, actions taken and reasons for doing so.
- Discussions of concerns with parents will only take place where this would not put the child or others at potential risk of harm.
- The Centre will work closely with parents to ensure that the child, as well as their family, understands that the arrangements in place, such as in-Centre interventions, are effectively supported and know where they can access additional support.

25 Concerns about staff members and safeguarding practices

- If a staff member has concerns about another member of staff, it will be raised with the Centre Manager.
- If the concern is regarding the Centre Manager, it will be referred to the Director's Safeguarding Lead.
- Any concerns regarding the safeguarding practices at the Centre will be raised with the Centre Manager, and the necessary whistleblowing procedures will be followed, as outlined in the Whistleblowing Policy.
- If a staff member feels unable to raise an issue with the Centre Manager, they should access other whistleblowing channels such as the NSPCC whistleblowing helpline (0800 028 0285).
- Any allegations of abuse made against staff members will be dealt with in accordance with the Centre's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Procedure.

26 Dealing with allegations of abuse against staff

- **[Clarified for 2018]** All allegations will be dealt with in line with the Centre's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Procedure, a copy of which will be provided to, and understood by, all staff.

- **[Updated for 2018]** Where an allegation is substantiated, and the individual is dismissed or resigns, the Centre will refer it to the DBS. They will also consider referring the matter to the TRA for consideration for a prohibition order.
- **[New for 2018]** If a case manager is concerned about the welfare of other children in the community following a staff member's suspension, they may report this concern to CSCS.
- **[New for 2018]** The Centre will preserve records which contain information about allegations of sexual abuse for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), for the term of the inquiry in question.

27 **[Updated for 2018] Allegations of abuse against other children (peer-on-peer abuse)**

Sexual harassment

- Sexual harassment refers to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that occurs online or offline. Sexual harassment violates a child's dignity and makes them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated, and can create a hostile, sexualised or offensive environment. If left unchallenged, sexual harassment can create an atmosphere that normalises inappropriate behaviour and may lead to sexual violence.
- Sexual harassment includes:
 - Sexual comments.
 - Sexual "jokes" and taunting.
 - Physical behaviour, such as deliberately brushing against another child.
 - Online sexual harassment, including non-consensual sharing of images and videos and consensual sharing of sexual images and videos (often known as sexting), inappropriate comments on social media, exploitation, coercion and threats – online sexual harassment may be isolated or part of a wider pattern.

Sexual violence

- Sexual violence refers to the three following offences:
 - **Rape:** A person (A) commits an offence of rape if he intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another person (B) with his penis, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
 - **Assault by Penetration:** A person (A) commits an offence if s/he intentionally penetrates the vagina or anus of another person (B) with a part of her/his body or anything else, the penetration is

sexual, B does not consent to the penetration and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.

- **Sexual Assault:** A person (A) commits an offence of sexual assault if s/he intentionally touches another person (B), the touching is sexual, B does not consent to the touching and A does not reasonably believe that B consents.
- Harmful sexual behaviours
- The term “**harmful sexual behaviour**” is used to describe behaviour that is problematic, abusive and violent, and that may cause developmental damage. Harmful sexual behaviour may include:
 - Using sexually explicit words and phrases.
 - Inappropriate touching.
 - Sexual violence or threats.
 - Full penetrative sex with other children or adults.
 - Sexual interest in adults or children of very different ages to their own.
 - Forceful or aggressive sexual behaviour.
 - Compulsive habits.
 - Sexual behaviour affecting progress and achievement.
 - Using sexually explicit words and phrases.
 - Inappropriate touching.
 - Sexual violence or threats.
- Sexual behaviour can also be harmful if one of the children is much older (especially where there is two years or more difference, or where one child is pre-pubescent and the other is not) and where the child may have SEND.

A preventative approach

- In order to prevent peer-on-peer abuse and address the wider societal factors that can influence behaviour, the Centre will educate children in age-appropriate lessons about abuse, its forms and the importance of discussing any concerns and respecting others through the curriculum and PSHE lessons.
- The Centre will also ensure that children are taught age-appropriate lessons about safeguarding, including online safety, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum in PSHE lessons, RSE and group sessions. Such content will be age and stage of development specific, and tackle issues such as the following:
 - Healthy relationships
 - Respectful behaviour
 - Gender roles, stereotyping and equality
 - Body confidence and self-esteem

- Prejudiced behaviour
 - That sexual violence and sexual harassment is always wrong
 - Addressing cultures of sexual harassment
- Children will be allowed an open forum to talk about concerns and sexual behaviour. They are taught how to raise concerns and make a report, including concerns about their friends or peers, and how a report will be handled

Awareness

- All staff will be aware that children of any age and sex are capable of abusing their peers and will never tolerate abuse as “banter” or “part of growing up”.
- All staff will be aware that peer-on-peer abuse can be manifested in many different ways, including sexting and gender issues, such as girls being sexually touched or assaulted, and boys being subjected to hazing/initiation type of violence which aims to cause physical, emotional or psychological harm.
- All staff will be made aware of the heightened vulnerability of children with SEND, who are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Staff will not assume that possible indicators of abuse relate to the child’s SEND and will always explore indicators further.
- LGBTQ+ children can be targeted by their peers. In some cases, children who are perceived to be LGBTQ+, whether they are or not, can be just as vulnerable to abuse as LGBTQ+ children.
- The Centre’s response to boy-on-boy and girl-on-girl sexual violence and sexual harassment will be equally as robust as it is for incidents between children of the opposite sex.
- Children will be made aware of how to raise concerns or make a report and how any reports will be handled. This includes the process for reporting concerns about friends or peers.

Support available if a child has been harmed, is in immediate danger or at risk of harm

- If a child has been harmed, is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral will be made to CSCS.
- Within one working day, a social worker will respond to the referrer to explain the action that will be taken.

Support available if early help, section 17 and/or section 47 statutory assessments are appropriate

- If early help, section 17 and/or section 47 statutory assessments (assessments under the Children Act 1989) are appropriate, Centre staff may

be required to support external agencies. The DSL and DDSL will support staff as required.

Support available if a crime may have been committed

- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes. Where a report includes such an act, the police will be notified, often as a natural progression of making a referral to CSCS. The DSL will be aware of the local process for referrals to both CSCS and the police.
- Whilst the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years of age, if the alleged perpetrator is under 10, the principle of referring to the police remains. In these cases, the police will take a welfare approach rather than a criminal justice approach.
- The Centre has a close relationship with the local police force and the DSL will liaise closely with the local police presence.

Support available if reports include online behaviour

- Online concerns can be especially complicated. The Centre recognises that there is potential for an online incident to extend further than the local community and for a victim, or the alleged perpetrator, to become marginalised and excluded both online and offline. There is also strong potential for repeat victimisation if the content continues to exist.
- If the incident involves sexual images or videos held online, the Internet Watch Foundation will be consulted to have the material removed.
- Staff will not view or forward illegal images of a child. If they are made aware of such an image, they will contact the DSL.

Managing disclosures

- Victims will always be taken seriously, reassured, supported and kept safe. Victims will never be made to feel like they are causing a problem or made to feel ashamed.
- If a friend of a victim makes a report or a member of staff overhears a conversation, staff will take action. They will never assume that someone else will deal with it. The basic principles remain the same as when a victim reports an incident; however, staff will consider why the victim has not chosen to make a report themselves and the discussion will be handled sensitively and with the help of CSCS where necessary. If staff are in any doubt, they will speak to the DSL.
- Where an alleged incident took place away from the Centre or online but involved children from the Centre, the Centre's duty to safeguard children remains the same.

- All staff will be trained to handle disclosures. Effective safeguarding practice includes:
 - Never promising confidentiality at the initial stage.
 - Only sharing the report with those necessary for its progression.
 - Explaining to the victim what the next steps will be and who the report will be passed to.
 - Recognising that the person the child chose to disclose the information to is in a position of trust.
 - Being clear about boundaries and how the report will be progressed.
 - Not asking leading questions and only prompting the child with open questions.
 - Waiting until the end of the disclosure to immediately write a thorough summary. If notes must be taken during the disclosure, it is important to still remain engaged and not appear distracted.
 - Only recording the facts as the child presents them – not the opinions of the note taker.
 - Where the report includes an online element, being aware of searching, screening and confiscation advice and UKCCIS sexting advice.
 - Wherever possible, managing disclosures with two staff members present (preferably with the DSL or a deputy as one of the staff members).
 - Informing the DSL or deputy as soon as possible after the disclosure if they could not be involved in the disclosure.
- The DSL will be informed of any allegations of abuse against children with SEND. They will record the incident in writing and, working with the SENCO, decide what course of action is necessary, with the best interests of the child in mind at all times.

Confidentiality

- The Centre will only engage staff and agencies required to support the victim and/or be involved in any investigation. If a victim asks the Centre not to tell anyone about the disclosure, the Centre cannot make this promise. Even without the victim's consent, the information may still be lawfully shared if it is in the public interest and protects children from harm.
- The DSL will consider the following when making confidentiality decisions:
 - Parents will be informed unless it will place the victim at greater risk.
 - If a child is at risk of harm, is in immediate danger or has been harmed, a referral will be made to CSCS.
 - Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assaults are crimes. Reports containing any such crimes will be passed to the police.

- The DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others. If a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it will be done so extremely carefully and the reasons for referral will be explained to the victim. Appropriate specialist support will always be offered.

Anonymity

- There are legal requirements for anonymity where a case is progressing through the criminal justice system. The Centre will do all it can to protect the anonymity of children involved in any report of sexual violence or sexual harassment. It will carefully consider, based on the nature of the report, which staff will be informed and what support will be in place for the children involved.
- When deciding on the steps to take, the Centre will consider the role of social media in potentially exposing victims' identities and facilitating the spread of rumours.

Risk assessment

- The DSL or a deputy will make an immediate risk and needs assessment any time there is a report of sexual violence. For reports of sexual harassment, a risk assessment will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Risk assessments are not intended to replace the detailed assessments of experts, and for incidents of sexual violence it is likely that a professional risk assessment by a social worker or sexual violence specialist will be required.
- Risk assessments will consider:
 - The victim.
 - The alleged perpetrator.
 - Other children at the Centre, especially any actions that are appropriate to protect them.
- Risk assessments will be recorded (either on paper or electronically) and kept under review in accordance with the Centre's Data Protection Policy.

Taking action following a disclosure

- The DSL or a deputy will decide the Centre's initial response, taking into consideration:
 - The victim's wishes.
 - The nature of the incident.
 - The ages and developmental stages of the children involved.
 - Any power imbalance between the children.
 - Whether the incident is a one-off or part of a pattern.
 - Any ongoing risks.

- Any related issues and the wider context, such as whether there are wider environmental factors in a child's life that threaten their safety and/or welfare.
 - The best interests of the child.
 - That sexual violence and sexual harassment are always unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Immediate consideration will be given as to how to support the victim, alleged perpetrator and any other children involved.
 - For reports of rape and assault by penetration, whilst the Centre establishes the facts, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from any classes shared with the victim. The Centre will consider how to keep the victim and alleged perpetrator apart on Centre premises, and on transport where applicable. These actions will not be seen as a judgement of guilt on the alleged perpetrator.
 - For reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment, the proximity of the victim and alleged perpetrator and the suitability of shared classes, premises and transport will be considered immediately.
 - In all cases, the initial report will be carefully evaluated and the wishes of the victim, nature of the allegations and requirement to protect all children will be taken into consideration.

Managing the report

- The decision of when to inform the alleged perpetrator of a report will be made on a case-by-case basis. If a report is being referred to CSCS or the police, the Centre will speak to the relevant agency to discuss informing the alleged perpetrator.
- There are four likely outcomes when managing reports of sexual violence or sexual harassment:
 - Managing internally
 - Providing early help
 - Referring to CSCS
 - Reporting to the police
- Whatever outcome is chosen, it will be underpinned by the principle that sexual violence and sexual harassment is never acceptable and will not be tolerated. All concerns, discussion, decisions and reasons behind decisions will be recorded either on paper or electronically.
- The following situations are statutorily clear and do not allow for contrary decisions:
 - A child under the age of 13 can never consent to sexual activity.
 - The age of consent is 16.

- Sexual intercourse without consent is rape.
- Rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault are defined in law.
- Creating and sharing sexual photos and videos of children under 18 is illegal including children making and sending images and videos of themselves.

Managing internally

- In some cases, e.g. one-off incidents, the Centre may decide to handle the incident internally through behaviour and bullying policies and by providing pastoral support.

Providing early help

- The Centre may decide that statutory interventions are not required, but that children may benefit from early help providing support as soon as a problem emerges. This approach can be particularly useful in addressing non-violent harmful sexual behaviour and may prevent escalation of sexual violence.

Referral to CSCS

- If a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger, the Centre will make a referral to CSCS. Parents will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so (if referral will place the victim at risk). This decision will be made in consultation with CSCS.
- The Centre will not wait for the outcome of an investigation before protecting the victim and other children.
- The DSL will work closely with CSCS to ensure that the Centre's actions do not jeopardise any investigation. Any related risk assessment will be used to inform all decisions.
- If CSCS decide that a statutory investigation is not appropriate, the Centre will consider referring the incident again if they believe the child to be in immediate danger or at risk of harm.
- If the Centre agrees with the decision made by CSCS, they will consider the use of other support mechanisms such as early help, pastoral support and specialist support.

Reporting to the police

- Reports of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault will be passed on to the police even if the alleged perpetrator is under 10 years of age. Generally, this will be in parallel with referral to CSCS. The DSL and deputies will follow the local process for referral.
- Parents will be informed unless there is a compelling reason not to do so. Where parents are not informed, it is essential for the Centre to support the

child with any decision they take, in unison with CSCS and any appropriate specialist agencies.

- The DSL and Directors will agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents. They will also discuss the best way to protect the victim and their anonymity.
- The DSL will be aware of local arrangements and specialist units that investigate child abuse.
- In some cases, it may become clear that the police will not take further action, for whatever reason. In these circumstances, the Centre will continue to engage with specialist support for the victim as required.

Bail conditions

- Police bail is only used in exceptional circumstances. It is unlikely that a child will be placed on police bail if alternative measures can be used to mitigate risks.
- The Centre will work with CSCS and the police to support the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children (especially witnesses) during criminal investigations. The Centre will seek advice from the police to ensure they meet their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The term 'released under investigation' (RUI) is used to describe alleged perpetrators released in circumstances that do not warrant the application of bail.
- Where bail is deemed necessary, the Centre will work with CSCS and the police to safeguard children ensuring that the victim can continue in their normal routine and continue to receive a suitable education.
- Managing delays in the criminal justice system
- The Centre will not wait for the outcome (or even the start) of criminal proceedings before protecting the victim, alleged perpetrator and other children. The associated risk assessment will be used to inform any decisions made.
- The DSL will work closely with the police to ensure the Centre does not jeopardise any criminal proceedings, and to obtain help and support as necessary.

The end of the criminal process

- Risk assessments will be updated if the alleged perpetrator receives a caution or is convicted. If the perpetrator remains in the same Centre as the victim, the Centre will set out clear expectations regarding the perpetrator, including their behaviour and any restrictions deemed reasonable and proportionate with regards to the perpetrator's timetable.

- The Centre will ensure that the victim and perpetrator remain protected from bullying and harassment (including online).
- Where an alleged perpetrator is found not guilty or a case is classed as requiring “no further action”, the Centre will offer support to the victim and alleged perpetrator for as long as is necessary. The victim is likely to be traumatised and the fact that an allegation cannot be substantiated does not necessarily mean that it was unfounded. The Centre will discuss decisions with the victim and offer support.
- The alleged perpetrator is also likely to require ongoing support, as they have also been through a difficult and upsetting experience.

Ongoing support for the victim

- Any decisions regarding safeguarding and supporting the victim will be made with the following considerations in mind:
 - The terminology the Centre uses to describe the victim
 - The age and developmental stage of the victim
 - The needs and wishes of the victim
 - Whether the victim wishes to continue in their normal routine
 - The victim will not be made to feel ashamed about making a report
 - What a proportionate response looks like
- Victims may not disclose the whole picture immediately and they may be more comfortable talking about the incident on a piecemeal basis; therefore, a dialogue will be kept open and the victim can choose to appoint a designated trusted adult.
- Victims may struggle in a normal classroom environment. Whilst it is important not to isolate the victim, the victim may wish to be withdrawn from lessons and activities at times. This will only happen when the victim wants it to, not because it makes it easier to manage the situation.
- The Centre will provide a physical space for victims to withdraw to.
- Victims may require support for a long period of time and the Centre will be prepared to offer long-term support in liaison with relevant agencies.
- Everything possible will be done to prevent the victim from bullying and harassment as a result of any report they have made.
- If the victim is unable to remain in the Centre, alternative provision or a move to another Centre will be considered. This will only be considered at the request of the victim and following discussion with their parents.
- If the victim does move to another Centre, the DSL will inform the new nursery of any ongoing support needs and transfer the child protection file.

Ongoing support for the alleged perpetrator

- When considering the support required for an alleged perpetrator, the Centre will take into account:
 - The terminology they use to describe the alleged perpetrator or perpetrator.
 - The balance of safeguarding the victim and providing the alleged perpetrator with education and support.
 - The reasons why the alleged perpetrator may have abused the victim and the support necessary.
 - Their age and developmental stage.
 - What a proportionate response looks like.
 - Whether the behaviour is a symptom of their own abuse or exposure to abusive practices and/or materials.
- When making a decision, advice will be taken from CSCS, specialist sexual violence services and the police as appropriate.
- If the alleged perpetrator moves to another nursery (for any reason), the DSL will inform the destination nursery of any ongoing support needs and transfer the child protection file.
- The Centre will work with professionals as required to understand why the abuse took place and provide a high level of support to help the child understand and overcome the reasons for their behaviour and reduce the likelihood of them abusing again.

Disciplining the alleged perpetrator

- Disciplinary action can be taken whilst investigations are ongoing and the fact that investigations are ongoing does not prevent the Centre reaching its own conclusion and imposing an appropriate penalty.
- The Centre will make such decisions on a case-by-case basis, with the DSL taking a leading role. The Centre will take into consideration whether any action would prejudice an investigation and/or subsequent prosecution. The police and CSCS will be consulted where necessary.
- The Centre will also consider whether circumstances make it unreasonable or irrational for the Centre to make a decision about what happened while an investigation is considering the same facts.
- Disciplinary action and support can take place at the same time.
- The Centre will be clear whether action taken is disciplinary, supportive or both.

Shared classes

- Once the DSL has decided to progress a report, they will again consider whether the victim and alleged perpetrator will be separated in classes, on Centre premises and on Centre transport balancing the Centre's duty to educate against its duty to safeguard. The best interests of the child will always come first.
- Where there is a criminal investigation into rape or assault by penetration, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from classes with the victim and potential contact on Centre premises and transport will be prevented.
- Where a criminal investigation into rape or assault by penetration leads to a conviction or caution, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, this will constitute a serious breach of discipline and result in the view that allowing the perpetrator to remain in the Centre would harm the education or welfare of the victim and potentially other children.
- Where a criminal investigation into sexual assault leads to a conviction or caution, the Centre will consider suitable sanctions and permanent exclusion. If the perpetrator will remain at the Centre, the Centre will keep the victim and perpetrator in separate classes and manage potential contact on Centre premises and transport. The nature of the conviction or caution, alongside the wishes of the victim, will inform any discussions made.
- Where a report of sexual assault does not lead to a police investigation, this does not mean that the offence did not happen or that the victim has lied. Both the victim and alleged perpetrator will be affected and appropriate support will be provided. Considerations regarding sharing classes and potential contact will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- In all cases, the Centre will record its decisions and be able to justify them. The needs and wishes of the victim will always be at the heart of the process.

Working with parents and carers

- In most sexual violence cases, the Centre will work with the parents of both the victim and alleged perpetrator. For cases of sexual harassment, these decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- The Centre will meet the victim's parents with the victim present to discuss the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, and to understand their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report.
- Centres will also meet with the parents of the alleged perpetrator to discuss arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving them out of classes with the victim. Reasons behind decisions will be explained and the support

being made available will be discussed. The DSL or a deputy will attend such meetings, with agencies invited as necessary.

- Clear policies regarding how the Centre will handle reports of sexual violence and how victims and alleged perpetrators will be supported will be made available to parents.

Safeguarding other children

- Children who have witnessed sexual violence, especially rape and assault by penetration, will be provided with support.
- It is likely that children will “take sides” following a report, and the Centre will do everything in its power to protect the victim, alleged perpetrator and witnesses from bullying and harassment.
- The Centre will keep in mind that contact may be made between the victim and alleged perpetrator and that harassment from friends of both parties could take place via social media and do everything in its power to prevent such activity.
- As part of the Centre’s risk assessment following a report, transport arrangements will be considered, as it is a potentially vulnerable place for both a victim and alleged perpetrator. The Centre will consider any additional support which can be put in place.

28 Communication and confidentiality

- All child protection and safeguarding concerns will be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with Centre data protection policies.
- Where there is an allegation or incident of sexual abuse or violence, the victim is entitled to anonymity by law; therefore, the Centre will consult its policy and agree what information will be disclosed to staff and others, in particular the alleged perpetrator and their parents.
- Where a report of sexual violence or sexual harassment is progressing through the criminal justice system, the Centre will do all it can to protect the anonymity of the children involved in the case.
- Concerns will only be reported to those necessary for its progression and reports will only be shared amongst staff members and with external agencies on a need-to-know basis.
- During disclosure of a concern by a child, staff members will not promise the child confidentiality and will ensure that they are aware of what information will be shared, with whom and why.
- Where it is in the public interest, and protects children from harm, information can be lawfully shared without the victim’s consent, e.g. if doing so would assist the prevention, detection or prosecution of a serious crime.

- Before doing so, the DSL will weigh the victim's wishes against their duty to protect the victim and others.
- Where a referral is made against the victim's wishes, it is done so carefully with the reasons for the referral explained to the victim and specialist support offered.
- Depending on the nature of a concern, the DSL will discuss the concern with the parents of the children involved.
- Discussions with parents will not take place where they could potentially put a child at risk of harm.
- Discussion with the victim's parents will relate to the arrangements being put in place to safeguard the victim, with the aim of understanding their wishes in terms of support arrangements and the progression of the report.
- Discussion with the alleged perpetrator's parents will have regards to the arrangements that will impact their child, such as moving classes, etc., with the reasons behind decisions being explained and the available support discussed.
- External agencies will be invited to these discussions where necessary.
- Where confidentiality or anonymity has been breached, the Centre will implement the appropriate disciplinary procedures as necessary and will analyse how damage can be minimised and future breaches be prevented.
- **[New for 2018]** Where a child is leaving the Centre, the DSL will consider whether it is appropriate to share any information with the child's new provider, in addition to the child protection file, that will allow the new provider to support the child and arrange appropriate support for their arrival.

29 [New for 2018] Online safety

- As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, all children will be made aware of online risks and taught how to stay safe online, in age appropriate lessons.
- Through training, all staff members will be made aware of the following:
 - Child attitudes and behaviours which may indicate they are at risk of potential harm online
 - The procedure to follow when they have a concern regarding a child's online activity
- The Centre will ensure that suitable filtering systems are in place to prevent children accessing terrorist and extremist material, in accordance with the Centre's E-Safety & Acceptable Use Policy.
- The use of mobile phones by staff and children is closely monitored by the Centre, in accordance with the E-Safety & Acceptable Use Policy.

- The Centre will ensure that the use of filtering and monitoring systems does not cause “over blocking” which may lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught regarding online teaching.

30 [New for 2018] Mobile phone and camera safety

- Staff members will not use personal mobile phones or cameras when children are present.
- Staff may use mobile phones on Centre premises outside of working hours when no children are present.
- Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time.
- Mobile phones will be safely stored and in silent mode whilst children are present.
- Staff will use their professional judgement in emergency situations.
- Personal mobile devices will not be used to take images or videos of children or staff in any circumstances.
- The sending of inappropriate messages or images from mobile devices is strictly prohibited.
- Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action.
- ICT technicians and the Centre Manager will review and authorise any downloadable apps. No apps or programmes will be downloaded without express permission from an ICT technician or the Centre Manager.
- The Centre will adhere to the terms of the E-Safety Policy at all times.
- Photographs and videos of children will be carefully planned before any activity with particular regard to consent and adhering to the Centre’s Data Protection Policy.
- The Data Protection Officer will oversee the planning of any events where photographs and videos will be taken.
- Where photographs and videos will involve LAC children, adopted children, or children for whom there are security concerns, the Centre Manager will review the reasoning behind the photography/videoing request, and make the final decision, in liaison with the parents/carers if appropriate.
- The DSL will, in known cases of a child who is a LAC or who has been adopted, liaise with the child’s social worker, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the child.
- The Centre will adhere to its Photography Policy at all times.

- Staff will report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Procedure.

31 [New for 2018] Sports clubs and extracurricular activities

- Clubs and extracurricular activities hosted by external bodies, e.g. charities or companies, will work in collaboration with the Centre to effectively safeguard children and adhere to local safeguarding arrangements.
- Paid and volunteer staff running sports clubs and extracurricular activities are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and promote the welfare of children.
- Paid and volunteer staff understand how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to CSCS or the police, if necessary.
- All national governing bodies of sport that receive funding from either Sport England or UK Sport, must aim to meet the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport.

32 Safer recruitment

- An enhanced DBS check with barred list information will be undertaken for all staff members engaged in regulated activity. A person will be considered to be in 'regulated activity' if, as a result of their work, they:
 - Are responsible on a daily basis for the care or supervision of children.
 - Regularly work in the Centre at times when children are on the premises.
 - Regularly come into contact with children under 18 years of age.
- **[New for 2018]** The DfE's DBS Workforce Guides will be consulted when determining whether a position fits the child workforce criteria.

Pre-employment checks

- The Directors will assess the suitability of prospective employees by:
 - Verifying the candidate's identity, preferably from the most current photographic ID and proof of address except where, for exceptional reasons, none is available.
 - Obtaining a certificate for an enhanced DBS check with barred list information where the person will be engaged in regulated activity.
 - Obtaining a separate barred list check if an individual will start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available.

- Checking that a candidate to be employed is not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State, using the TRA Teacher Services' System.
 - Verifying the candidate's mental and physical fitness to undertake their working responsibilities, including asking relevant questions about disability and health to establish whether they have the physical and mental capacity for the specific role.
 - Checking the person's right to work in the UK. If there is uncertainty about whether an individual needs permission to work in the UK, the advice set out on the www.gov.uk website will be followed.
 - If the person has lived or worked outside the UK, making any further checks that the Centre considers appropriate; this includes checking for any teacher sanctions or restrictions that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed.
 - Checking professional experience and qualifications as appropriate.
 - **[Clarified for 2018] [Academies, free schools and independent schools only]** Confirming that an individual taking up a management position is not subject to a section 128 direction. The Centre will also make this check against any managers and directors.
- An enhanced DBS certificate will be obtained from candidates before or as soon as practicable after appointment. An online update check may be undertaken through the DBS update service if an applicant has subscribed to it and gives their permission.

Internal candidates

- **[New for 2018]** References from internal candidates will always be scrutinised before appointment.

ITT candidates

- **[New for 2018]** For all ITT applicants, whether salaried or not, the Centre will ensure that enhanced DBS checks with barred list information are carried out. This is not applicable for the Centre unless it employs qualified teachers as staff members.
- **[New for 2018]** Written confirmation will be obtained to ensure that an enhanced DBS certificate and barred list check has been carried out for all fee-funded trainees. This is not applicable for the Centre, unless it employs qualified teachers as staff members.

Directors

- **[Updated for 2018]** The Centre requires enhanced DBS checks on all its Directors. Before an individual becomes a director, the Centre will carry out an enhanced DBS check and confirm their identity. Where a director also

engages in regulated activity, a barred list check will also be requested. An additional check is required for those in management positions, to ensure that they are not prohibited under section 128 provisions. Where a barred list check has been performed, the section 128 direction will also be shown and will not require a separate check. If the individual lives or has lived outside of the UK, consideration will be given as to further checks that may be necessary.

Those who have lived or worked outside of the UK

- For those who have lived or worked outside of the UK, additional checks regarding teacher sanctions or restrictions will be conducted. This includes checking for any teacher sanctions or restrictions that an EEA professional regulating authority has imposed.

Barred list check

- An enhanced DBS check may be requested for anyone working in Centre who is not in regulated activity but does not have a barred list check.
- If there are concerns about an applicant, an enhanced DBS check with barred list information may be requested, even if they have worked in regulated activity in the three months prior to appointment.
- Written information about their previous employment history will be obtained from candidates and the appropriate checks undertaken to ensure information is not contradictory or incomplete.

References

- References will be obtained directly from referees and scrutinised, with all concerns satisfactorily resolved prior to confirmation of employment.
- **[New for 2018]** References will only be accepted from a senior person and not from a colleague.
- References will be sought on all short-listed candidates, including internal ones, before an interview and checked on receipt to ensure that all specific questions were answered satisfactorily.
- **[New for 2018]** References will be obtained prior to interviews taking place and discussed during interviews.
- **[New for 2018]** Open testimonials will not be considered.
- Information about past disciplinary actions or allegations will be considered carefully when assessing an applicant's suitability for a post.
- **[New for 2018]** Information sourced directly from a candidate or online source will be carefully vetted to ensure they originate from a credible source.

Volunteers

- No volunteer will be left unsupervised with a child or allowed to work in regulated activity until the necessary checks have been obtained.
- An enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check will be obtained for all new volunteers in regulated activity who will regularly teach or look after children on an unsupervised basis or provide personal care on a one-off basis.
- **[Clarified for 2018]** Personal care includes helping a child with eating and drinking for reasons of illness, or care in connection with toileting, washing, bathing and dressing for reasons of age, illness or disability.
- **[Clarified for 2018]** A supervised volunteer who regularly teaches or looks after children is not in regulated activity.
- The Centre will obtain an enhanced DBS certificate with barred list check for existing volunteers who provide pastoral care.
- Unless there is cause for concern, the Centre will not request any new DBS certificates with barred list check for existing volunteers who have already been checked.
- A risk assessment will be undertaken for volunteers not engaged in regulated activity when deciding whether to seek an enhanced DBS check.

Contractors

- The Centre will ensure that any contractor or employee of the contractor working on the premises has been subject to the appropriate level of DBS check.
- Checks will be conducted to ensure that the contractor presenting themselves for work is the same person on whom the checks have been made.
- Contractors without a DBS check will be supervised if they will have contact with children. The identity of the contractor will be checked upon their arrival at the Centre.

Data retention

- DBS certificates will be securely destroyed as soon as practicable, but not retained for longer than six months from receipt.
- A copy of the other documents used to verify the successful candidate's identity, right to work and required qualifications will be kept for the personnel file. The personnel file will be held for the duration of the employee's employment plus six years.

Referral to the DBS

- The Centre will refer to the DBS anyone who has harmed a child or poses a risk of harm to a child, or if there is reason to believe the member of staff has

committed an offence and has been removed from working in regulated activity.

Ongoing suitability

- **[New for 2018]** Following appointment, consideration will be given to staff and volunteers' ongoing suitability to prevent the opportunity for harm to children or placing children at risk.

33 Single central record (SCR)

- The Centre keeps an SCR which records all staff, including volunteers and Directors who work at the Centre.
- The following information is recorded on the SCR:
 - An identity check
 - A barred list check
 - An enhanced DBS check
 - A prohibition from teaching check
 - **[Clarified for 2018] [Academies, free Centres and independent Centres only]** A section 128 check
 - A check of professional qualifications
 - A check to determine the individual's right to work in the UK
 - Additional checks for those who have lived or worked outside of the UK
- **[Updated September 2018]** For agency and third-party supply staff, the Centre will also record whether written confirmation from the employment business supplying the member of staff has been received which indicates that all of the necessary checks have been conducted and the date that confirmation was received.
- If any checks have been conducted for volunteers, this will also be recorded on the SCR.
- **[New for 2018]** If risk assessments are conducted to assess whether a volunteer should be subject to an enhanced DBS check, the risk assessment will be recorded.

34 Staff suitability

- The Centre will check that any staff member or volunteer providing care for children under the age of eight are not disqualified from doing so under the Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.
- A person may be disqualified if they:
 - Have certain orders or other restrictions placed upon them.
 - Have committed certain offences.

- All staff members are required to sign the Criminal Convictions & Disqualification Form (see Appendices).
- A disqualified person will not be permitted to continue working at the Centre, unless they apply for and are granted a waiver from Ofsted. The Centre will provide support with this process.

35 Training

- Staff members will undergo safeguarding and child protection training at induction, which will be regularly updated on an annual basis or whenever there is a change in legislation.
- All DSLs and DDSLs follow the LSCB 5-Year Training Pathway (see Appendices) and receive a safeguarding update as part of their induction, to enable them to understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.
- The DSL also follows the LSCB 5-Year Training Pathway and attends the LSCB Inter-Agency Safeguarding training.
- **[New for 2018]** The induction training will cover:
 - The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
 - The Behaviour Management Policy
 - The Staff Code of Conduct
 - The safeguarding response to children who go missing from education
 - The identity of the DSL and DDSL
 - The role of the DSL and DDSL
- All staff members will also receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually.
- **[New for 2018]** Training will cover, at a minimum:
 - The issues surrounding sexual violence and sexual harassment.
 - Contextual safeguarding.
 - How to keep previously LAC safe.
 - Child criminal exploitation and the need to refer cases to the National Referral Mechanism.
- Staff will receive opportunities to contribute towards and inform the safeguarding arrangements in the Centre.
- The DSL and deputy DSL will undergo updated child protection training every two years, as well as additional training to refresh their skills and knowledge at regular intervals (at least annually) to allow them to keep up-to-date with any developments relevant to their role.

- The DSL and deputy DSL will also undergo biennial Prevent awareness training which will enable them to understand and support the Centre with regards to the Prevent duty and equip them with the knowledge needed to advise staff.
- **[New for 2018]** The DSL and their deputy(s) will undergo online safety training to help them recognise the additional risks that children with SEND face online, for example, from online bullying, grooming and radicalisation, to ensure they have the capability to support children with SEND to stay safe online
- Online training may also be conducted for all staff members as part of the overall safeguarding approach.

36 Monitoring and review

- This policy is reviewed, updated and approved annually by the DSL and the Directors.
- Any changes made to this policy by the DSL and the Directors will be communicated to all members of staff.
- All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction programme.
- The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2020.

Appendices

- a) Criminal Convictions Disclosure Form including Disqualification Declaration
- b) Worry Log and Record of Conversation Form
- c) Safeguarding Reporting Process
- d) Contacts and Advice
- e) Lincolnshire Continuum of Need
- f) Safeguarding Posters
- g) Lincolnshire Children's Safeguarding Board Five Year Training Pathway