

Safeguarding Children and Adults

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NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

What we will be focusing on

- **Roles and responsibilities**
- **NBC's safeguarding policy**
- **What we mean by safeguarding children and vulnerable adults**
- **Child sexual exploitation**
- **Problem solving, multi agency working and safer practice**



Roles and responsibilities

- **NCC has the lead responsibility for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults**
- **NBC has a duty to promote the well-being of children and young people and to co-operate with the County Council in delivering its safeguarding duties**



Roles and responsibilities

- **NBC is also responsible for establishing appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that the Council's activities promote the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults (through safe recruitment policies, safe working practice, etc)**



Roles and responsibilities

- **All Councillors will need to be aware of issues relating to the protection of children and vulnerable adults at a strategic level as well as those relating cases of abuse**



NBC's safeguarding policy

- **Safeguarding is everyone's business (we all have a duty to report concerns)**
- **Promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults**
- **Co-operating with NCC to discharge NCC's safeguarding responsibilities**
- **Guidance, training, recording, monitoring**



NBC's safeguarding policy

- **Clear procedure for recording and reporting allegations / suspicions**
- **Information sharing protocols**
- **Safe recruitment policies**
- **Disclosure & Barring Service checks**
- **Policy reviewed once every 3 years**
- **Annual report published on Intranet**



Roles and responsibilities

- **NBC Lead Officer – Head of Housing and Wellbeing, who attends LSCB**
- **Designated Safeguarding Officers – familiar with the procedure and able to act as a source of advice**
- **Heads of Service – ensure all staff are familiar with the safeguarding policy**



What 'safeguarding' means

- **Taking all reasonable steps to minimise the risks of harm to the welfare of children and vulnerable adults**
- **Where there are concerns about a person's welfare, taking all appropriate actions to address those concerns by working in partnership to agreed local policies and procedures**



Safeguarding children

EVERY CHILD MATTERS – Key Outcomes:

- **Be healthy**
- **Stay safe**
- **Enjoy and achieve**
- **Make a positive contribution**
- **Achieve economic well-being**



Safeguarding children

- **Duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in need**
- **Duty to make enquiries where there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. Duty on other LAs to help with those enquiries.**

Children Act 1989



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Safeguarding children

CHILD ABUSE IS:

- **Caused by somebody inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm**
- **Damaging to a child's health, educational attainment and emotional wellbeing**

It is not the child's fault.



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Safeguarding children

4 CATEGORIES OF CHILD ABUSE:

- **Physical**
- **Emotional**
- **Sexual**
- **Neglect**



Safeguarding children

PHYSICAL ABUSE may involve:

- **Hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to the child**
- **A parent fabricating the symptoms of, or deliberately inducing, illness in a child**



Safeguarding children

EMOTIONAL ABUSE is:

- **The persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development**



Safeguarding children

EMOTIONAL ABUSE may involve:

- **Conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person**
- **Denying the child the opportunity to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say**



Safeguarding children

EMOTIONAL ABUSE may also involve:

- **Age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.**
- **Seeing / hearing the ill-treatment of another**
- **Serious bullying (including cyberbullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children**



Safeguarding children

SEXUAL ABUSE:

- **Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, with or without the child being aware of what is happening.**
- **May involve non-contact activities (including watching sexual activities and grooming a child in preparation for abuse)**



Safeguarding children

NEGLECT:

- **Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.**
- **May occur during pregnancy as a result of material substance misuse.**



Safeguarding children

NEGLECT may involve failure to:

- **Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter**
- **Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger**
- **Ensure adequate supervision**
- **Ensure access to appropriate medical care**
- **Respond to a child's basic emotional needs**



Child sexual exploitation

TYPICAL INDICATORS:

- **Missing from home or care**
- **Physical injuries**
- **Drug or alcohol use**
- **Absent from school**
- **Repeat sexually-transmitted infections, pregnancy / terminations**



Child sexual exploitation

VULNERABILITIES:

- **Living in a dysfunctional household**
- **History of abuse and/or neglect**
- **Recent bereavement or loss**
- **Gang association**
- **School friends being sexually exploited**
- **Learning disabilities**



Targeting Stage



- ▶ Observing the young person
- ▶ Selection of young person
- ▶ Befriending – being nice, giving, caring, taking an interest, giving compliments etc.
- ▶ Gaining and developing trust
- ▶ Sharing information about young people between other abusive adults

Friendship Forming Stage



- ▶ Making young people feel special and spending time with them
- ▶ Giving gifts and rewards
- ▶ Listening and remembering
- ▶ Keeping secrets
- ▶ 'No-one understands you like I do'; being their best friend
- ▶ Testing out physical contact – accidental touching
- ▶ Offering protection and being there for them

Loving Relationship Stage



- ▶ Being their boyfriend / girlfriend
- ▶ Establishing a sexual relationship
- ▶ Lowering their inhibitions – eg showing them pornography
- ▶ Engaging them in forbidden activities – eg going to clubs, drinking, taking drugs
- ▶ Being inconsistent – building up hope and then punishing them

Abusive Relationship Stage



- ▶ Becomes an 'unloving' sexual relationship
- ▶ Withdrawal of love and friendship
- ▶ Reinforcing dependency on them – stating young person is 'damaged goods'
- ▶ Isolation from family and friends
- ▶ Trickery and manipulation – 'you owe me'
- ▶ Threatening behaviour
- ▶ Physical violence and sexual assault
- ▶ Making them have sex with other people
- ▶ Giving them drugs
- ▶ Playing on the young person's feeling of guilt, shame and fear

GROOMING - Child Sexual Exploitation

Safeguarding vulnerable adults

- **People whose circumstances have made them vulnerable**
- **Abused in hospitals, care homes, supported housing and own homes**
- **People with disabilities who have been subjected to domestic violence or targeted as victims of hate crime or sustained ASB**



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

- **Supporting adults whose circumstances might make them vulnerable is complex.**
- **Safeguarding must focus on choice, empowerment and wellbeing, but also cater for people who lack capacity**
- **Safeguarding processes should be service user-led**



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

“A person aged 18 or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of a mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or be unable to protect him or herself, against significant harm or exploitation” ‘No Secrets’ 2000.



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

ABUSE may be:

- **Physical** (hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, etc)
- **Sexual** (rape, sexual assault and sexual acts to which the victim did not, or could not, consent)



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

ABUSE may also be:

- **Psychological (emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, blaming, controlling, coercion, verbal abuse, harassment, isolation or withdrawal from services)**



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

ABUSE may also be:

- **Financial or material (theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in relation to wills / property / inheritance / finance, or misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits)**



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

ABUSE may also be:

- **Neglect and acts of omission (ignoring medical or physical care needs, failing to provide access to appropriate health or social care services or withholding medication, food, water or heating.**



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

ABUSE may also be:

- **Discriminatory (racism, sexism or acts based on a person's disability, age or sexual orientation)**



Effective problem solving

- **National concern about taxi / private hire drivers following high profile cases in Rotherham, Milton Keynes and Oxford**
- **Risk of drivers re-offending**
- **Links between illegal activities, taxis and private hire vehicles and public figures in other areas**



Effective multi agency working

- **Understand (and accept) the scale and nature of the problem**
- **Agree on a plan**
- **Make changes**
- **Raise awareness**
- **Implement the plan**
- **Monitor and review**



Safer working practice

- **Learning and awareness**
- **Accountability**
- **Collaborative and proactive multi agency working**
- **Information sharing**
- **Policies to support safeguarding**
- **Trust, responsiveness and feedback**

