



**Broadlands**  
Equine Therapy & RDA

## Safeguarding and Child/ Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Appendix 2: Specific Safeguarding  
Issues and Terminology.

## Contextual Safeguarding

All staff and volunteers, but especially the Designated and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, should be aware that safeguarding incidents and/or behaviours can be associated with factors outside of the Centre and also consider whether children and vulnerable adults are at risk of abuse or exploitation in situations outside of their families.

## Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism

**The Prevent Duty** requires that all staff and volunteers are aware of the signs that a child or vulnerable adult may be vulnerable to radicalisation. **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Prevent is one of four elements of 'CONTEST', the government's counter-terrorism strategy. The four elements are: Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensures they are given appropriate advice and support.

The Prevent Duty incorporates the responsibility to promote **Fundamental British Values** in education settings. These values are defined as: Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. The Prevent Duty covers all forms of radicalisation, including risk from extremist faith groups, far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism.

The risks include, but are not limited to, political, environmental, animal rights or faith-based extremism that may lead to a child or vulnerable adult becoming radicalised.

For more information refer to:

[Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training \(support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.prevent.gov.uk/prevent-duty-training)

Any child or vulnerable adult who is considered vulnerable to radicalisation will be referred by the DSL/ DDSL to Children or Adult's Services ([Prevent | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk / Prevent – referral form - Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership \(surreyscp.org.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/prevent-referral-form)) where the concerns will be considered in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) process and a decision made in relation to a referral on to CHANNEL. If there is an immediate risk of danger or harm, the DSL/ DDSL will contact the Police by phoning 999.

## Gender based violence / Violence against women and girls

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/violence-against-women-and-girls>

The government has a strategy looking at specific issues faced by women and girls. Under this strategy we will respond to violence against girls in the form of:

### Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is illegal in the UK.

For cases where it is believed that a girl may be vulnerable to FGM or there is a concern that she may have been subject to FGM, the member of staff or volunteer will inform the DSL or DDSL immediately. They will report it to Children's Services in line with our safeguarding procedures.

### Forced Marriage

In the case of children and vulnerable adults: 'a forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

If a member of staff or volunteer has concerns about a participant in relation to forced marriage, they will report it to the DSL or DDSL who will contact Children's Services or Adult Services (in the case of the concern being about a vulnerable adult) in line with our safeguarding procedures.

### Honour-Based Abuse

So-called 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators.

All forms of honour-based abuse are abusive (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If staff or volunteers believe that a participant is at risk or has already suffered from honour-based abuse, they will report it to the DSL/ DDSL who will follow the safeguarding referral process; however, if it is clear that a crime has been committed or the participant is at immediate risk, the police will be contacted in the first instance.

### Teenage Relationship Abuse

Relationship abuse can take place at any age and describes unacceptable behaviour between two people who are in a relationship.

Research has shown that teenagers do not always understand what may constitute abusive and controlling behaviours, e.g. checking someone's 'phone, telling them what to wear, who they can/can't see or speak to or coercing them to engage in activities they are not comfortable with. This lack of understanding can lead to these

abusive behaviours feeling 'normal' and therefore left unchallenged, as they are not recognised as being abusive.

If a member of staff or volunteer has concerns about a child or vulnerable adult in respect of relationship abuse, they will report it to the DSL/ DDSL who will follow the safeguarding referral process; however, if it is clear that a crime has been committed or the participant is at immediate risk, the police will be contacted in the first instance.

## **Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Between Children and/ or Vulnerable Adults**

Sexual violence and sexual harassment (SVSH) can occur between two children and vulnerable adults of any age and sex. It can also occur through a group of children/ vulnerable adults sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child/ vulnerable adult or group of children/ vulnerable adults.

This charity has a zero-tolerance approach to SVSH. We are clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up. It cannot be described as 'banter', 'having a laugh' or 'boys being boys'.

We will also take seriously any sharing of sexual images (photos, pictures or drawings) and videos; sexual jokes, comments or taunting either in person or on social media; or on-line sexual harassment that we are made aware of.

If a member of staff or volunteer has concerns about a child or vulnerable adult in respect of sexual violence or sexual harassment, they will report it to the DSL/ DDSL who will follow the safeguarding referral process; however, if it is clear that a crime has been committed or the participant is at immediate risk, the police will be contacted in the first instance.

### Ongoing Response:

- All concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions, should be recorded in writing. Records should be reviewed so that potential patterns of concerning, problematic or inappropriate behaviour can be identified and addressed.
- The DSL will manage each report on a case-by-case basis and will keep a risk assessment under review.
- Where there is a criminal investigation into a rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault, the alleged perpetrator will be removed from any activities they share with the victim during that investigation.
- The DSL will consider how best to keep the victim and perpetrator apart on charity premises.
- The victim, alleged perpetrator and other witnesses (children and adults) will receive appropriate support and safeguards on a case-by-case basis.

## Unsubstantiated, unfounded, false, or malicious reports

If a report is determined to be unsubstantiated, unfounded, false or malicious, the DSL/ DDSL should consider whether the child/ vulnerable adult who has made the allegation is in need of help or may have been abused by someone else, and whether this is a cry for help. In such circumstances, a referral to Children's/ Adult Services may be appropriate.

## Physical Abuse

While a clear focus of child-on-child abuse is linked to sexual abuse and harassment, physical assaults and initiation violence and rituals can also be abusive. These are equally not tolerated and, if it is believed that a crime has been committed, will be reported to the police.

## **Upskirting**

In 2019 the Voyeurism Offences Act came into force and made the practice of upskirting illegal.

Upskirting is defined as someone taking a picture under another person's clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks, with or without underwear. The intent of upskirting is to gain sexual gratification or to cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm. It is a criminal offence. Anyone of any gender, can be a victim.

If staff or volunteers become aware that upskirting has occurred, this will be treated as a sexual offence and reported accordingly to the DSL/ DDSL and onwards to the police.

## **Domestic Abuse**

The Domestic Abuse Act introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognises the impact of domestic abuse on children and vulnerable adults, as victims in their own right, if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse. The statutory definition of domestic abuse ensures that different types of relationships are captured, including ex-partners and family members. The definition captures a range of different abusive behaviours, including physical, emotional and economic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour. Both the person who is carrying out the behaviour and the person to whom the behaviour is directed towards must be aged 16 or over and they must be "personally connected"

Types of domestic abuse include intimate partner violence, abuse by family members, teenage relationship abuse and child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse. Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual identity, age,

ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexuality or background and domestic abuse can take place inside or outside of the home.

All children and vulnerable adults can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members.

If it is believed that a child or vulnerable adult is living with domestic abuse, this should be reported to the DSL/ DDSL for referral in line with our safeguarding procedures.

## **Parental Mental Health**

The term 'mental ill health' is used to cover a wide range of conditions, from eating disorders, mild depression and anxiety to psychotic illnesses such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Parental mental illness does not necessarily have an adverse impact on a child's developmental needs or a vulnerable adult living with them, but it is essential to always assess its implications for each child/ dependent in the family. It is essential that the diagnosis of a parent's/carer's mental health is not seen as defining the level of risk. Similarly, the absence of a diagnosis does not equate to there being little or no risk.

If staff or volunteers become aware a child/ vulnerable adult is suffering due to parental/ carer mental health, the information will be shared with the DSL/ DDSL to consider a referral to Children and/or Adult's Services.

## **Parental Substance Misuse**

Substance misuse applies to the misuse of alcohol as well as 'problem drug use' and is defined by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs as drug use which has: 'serious negative consequences of a physical, psychological, social and interpersonal, financial or legal nature for users and those around them'.

If it is believed that a child/ vulnerable adult is living with parental/ carer substance misuse, this should be reported to the DSL/ DDSL for referral to Children and/or Adult's Services to be considered.

## **Vulnerability of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

### Bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated in any form, whether in-person or cyber-bullying.

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

If it is believed that a child/ vulnerable adult is being subjected to bullying, staff and volunteers will report this to the DSL/ DDSL who will decide on the appropriate action to be taken.

### Young Carers

As many as 1 in 12 children and young people provide care for another person. This could be a parent, a relative or a sibling. It could be for different reasons, such as disability, chronic illness, mental health needs, or adults who are misusing drugs or alcohol. Participants who provide care for another are Young Carers.

As a charity we will refer a young carer to Children's Services for a carers assessment to be carried out if we have safeguarding concerns.

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or nonpenetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or to watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse, including via the internet.

CSE can occur over time or be a one-off occurrence and may happen without the child's immediate knowledge e.g. through others sharing videos or images of them on social media.

CSE can affect any child, who has been coerced into engaging in sexual activities. This includes 16- and 17-year-olds who can legally consent to have sex. Some children may not realise they are being exploited e.g. they believe they are in a genuine romantic relationship.

If it is believed that a child is at risk of CSE, this should be reported to the DSL/DDSL and a referral to Children's Services will be considered.

### Child Criminal Exploitation (including County Lines)

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is defined as:- 'where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or threat of violence. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can occur using technology'.

A trend in criminal exploitation of children and young people is 'county lines' which refers to a 'phone line through which drug deals can be made. An order is placed on the number and typically a young person will deliver the drugs to the specified address and collect the money for the deal. These lines are owned and managed by organised crime gangs, often from larger cities, who are expanding their markets into rural areas. Children are often recruited to move drugs and money between locations.

If it is believed that a child is at risk of CCE it should be reported to the DSL/DDSL and a referral to Children's Services will be considered.

### Serious Violence

Serious violence is becoming a factor for those who are involved in criminal exploitation. It can also be an indication of gang involvement and criminal activity.

Staff and volunteers should be aware of the range of risk factors which increase the likelihood of involvement in serious violence, such as being male, having experienced childhood maltreatment and having been involved in offending, such as theft or robbery.

### Trafficked Children/ Vulnerable Adults and Modern Slavery

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and the removal of organs. Any child/ vulnerable adult transported for exploitative reasons is a trafficking victim. There is significant evidence that children and vulnerable adults (both of UK and other citizenship) are being trafficked internally within the UK and this is regarded as a more common form of trafficking in the UK.

If staff or volunteers believe that a child/ vulnerable adult is at risk of trafficking, this will be reported to the DSL/ DDSL and a referral will be made to Children and/or Adult's Services.

### Child abduction

Child abduction is the unauthorised removal or retention of a minor from a parent or anyone with legal responsibility for the child. Child abduction can be committed by parents or other family members; by people known but not related to the victim (such as neighbours, friends and acquaintances); and by strangers. Further information is available at: [www.actionagainstabduction.org](http://www.actionagainstabduction.org)

If we become aware of an abduction, or if we are made aware of a potential risk of abduction, we will seek advice and support from police and Children's Services to confirm that they are aware and seek clarity on what actions we are able to take.

## Information Technology (IT)

Technological hardware and software are developing continuously with an increase in functionality of devices that people use. Most children and vulnerable adults use online tools to communicate with others locally, nationally and internationally. While technology itself is not harmful, it can be used by others to increase a participant's vulnerability and to abuse them, categorised in four areas of risk:

**Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

**Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.

**Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying; and

**Commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing or financial scams.

## Online Safety and Social Media

Staff and volunteers will be vigilant for signs/ mention of unwanted contact, grooming, online bullying including sexting, and accessing and generating inappropriate content.

On-line grooming is the process by which one person with an inappropriate sexual interest in children approaches a child on-line, with the intention of developing a relationship with that child, to be able to meet them in person and intentionally cause harm.

Any concerns will be reported to the DSL/ DDSL and our safeguarding procedures will be followed.

As a charity we will report online sexual abuse or harmful content we are made aware of to the police, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) or any other relevant body. This could include sending abusive, harassing and misogynistic messages; sharing nude and semi-nude images and videos; and coercing others to make and share sexual imagery. We will seek guidance from the NPCC '[when to call the police](#)' document and the internet watch foundations '[report harmful content](#)' website.

## Cyber-bullying

Bullying will not be tolerated in any form, whether in-person or cyber bullying.

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally.

Cyber-bullying is defined as 'an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual using electronic forms of contact repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself/herself.'

Cyber-bullying may be at a level where it is criminal in character. It is unlawful to disseminate defamatory information in any media including internet sites. Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to send, by public means of a public electronic communications network, a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or one of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 makes it an offence to knowingly pursue any course of conduct amounting to harassment.

If we become aware of any potential incidents of cyberbullying, the DSL/ DDSL will consider involvement of the Police.

## **Other Safeguarding issues that may potentially have an impact on participants**

### Prejudice-based Abuse

All members of the Broadlands community are treated equally.

Prejudice-based abuse or hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice-based on a person's real or perceived:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation

Although this sort of crime is collectively known as 'Hate Crime' the offender does not have to go as far as being motivated by 'hate' - they only have to exhibit 'hostility'.

This can be evidenced by:

- threatened or actual physical assault
- derogatory name calling, insults (for example, racist jokes or homophobic language)
- hate graffiti (for example on charity furniture, walls or books)
- provocative behaviour such as wearing of badges or symbols belonging to known right wing or extremist organisations

- distributing literature that may be offensive in relation to a protected characteristic
- verbal abuse
- inciting hatred or bullying against participants who share a protected characteristic
- prejudiced or hostile comments in the course of discussions
- teasing in relation to any protected characteristic, such as sexuality, language, religion or cultural background
- refusal to co-operate with others because of their protected characteristic, whether real or perceived
- expressions of prejudice calculated to offend or influence the behaviour of others
- attempts to recruit other participants to organisations and groups that sanction violence, terrorism or hatred.

We will respond by:

- clearly identifying prejudice-based incidents and hate crimes and monitor the frequency and nature of them within the charity
- taking preventative action to reduce the likelihood of such incidents occurring
- recognising the wider implications of such incidents for the charity and local community
- providing regular reports of these incidents to the Board of Trustees
- ensuring that staff and volunteers know to record prejudice-based incidents and hate crimes to the DSL/ DDSL in line with our safeguarding and whistleblowing procedures so that action can be taken.

## Parenting

All parents will struggle with the behaviour of their child(ren) at some point. This does not make them poor parents or generate safeguarding concerns. Rather it provides them with opportunities to learn and develop new skills and approaches to deal with their child(ren).

Some children and vulnerable adults have medical conditions and/or needs, such as Tourette's Syndrome, Autism or ADHD, that have a direct impact on behaviour and can cause challenges for parents in dealing with behaviours. This does not highlight poor parenting either.

Parenting becomes a safeguarding concern when the repeated lack of supervision, boundaries, basic care, or medical treatment places the child(ren) in situations of risk or harm. Staff and volunteers will be vigilant for such concerns and report to the DSL/ DDSL where potentially identified.