

## **DWL Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy**

this document is 4 pages long. Policy updated 16.07.2020

Dancing With Louise (DWL) is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation.

DWL will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child that may occur.

DWL's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

There will be a Child Protection Officer (CPO) available at all times while DWL is in session.

The CPO coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (e.g. Social Care, the LSCB and Ofsted).

DWL's designated CPO is Rachel Permutt. Deputy CPO Louise Leach.

### **Child abuse and neglect**

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm.

An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below.

**Emotional** abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Physical** abuse can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.

**Sexual** abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs.

It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

### **Signs of child abuse and neglect**

Signs of possible abuse and neglect may include:

significant changes in a child's behaviour  
deterioration in a child's general well-being  
unexplained bruising or marks  
comments made by a child which give cause for concern

inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member of staff, or any other person. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

### **If abuse is suspected or disclosed**

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out

listen to the child but not question them

give reassurance that the staff member will take action

record the incident as soon as possible (see Logging an incident below).

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the matter straight away using the Logging a concern form.

If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that

DWL is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

### **Peer-on-peer abuse**

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Peer-on-peer abuse is taken seriously by staff and will be subject to the same child protection procedures as other forms of abuse.

Staff are aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.

Staff will not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people. The presence of one or more of the following in relationships between children should always

trigger concern about the possibility of peer-on-peer abuse:

Sexual activity (in primary school-aged children) of any kind, including sexting

One of the children is significantly more dominant than the other (e.g. much older)

One of the children is significantly more vulnerable than the other (e.g. in terms of disability, confidence, physical strength)

There has been some use of threats, bribes or coercion to ensure compliance or secrecy.

If peer-on-peer abuse is suspected or disclosed we will follow the same procedures as set out above for responding to child abuse.

### **Extremism and radicalisation**

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism.

There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, e.g.:

feeling alienated or alone

seeking a sense of identity or individuality

suffering from mental health issues such as depression

desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause

associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

## **Signs of radicalisation**

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive

claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified

viewing violent extremist material online

possessing or sharing violent extremist material

If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a Logging a concern form, and refer the matter to the CPO.

## **Logging a concern**

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure, or concern about radicalisation, will be recorded on the Logging a concern form as soon as possible after the event.

The record should include:

date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern

date and time at which the record was made

name and date of birth of the child involved

a factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words

name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to DWL's CPO who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

For concerns about child abuse, the CPO will contact Social Care. The CPO will follow up all referrals to Social Care in writing within 48 hours.

If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact Social Care directly.

For minor concerns regarding radicalisation, the CPO will contact the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) or LADO Local Authority Designated Officer.

For more serious concerns the CPO will contact the Police on the non-emergency number (101), or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

For urgent concerns the CPO will contact the Police using 999.

## **Allegations against staff**

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

The allegation will be recorded on an Incident record form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.

The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (e.g. police) should be informed, and DWL will act upon their advice. Any telephone reports to the LADO will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.

Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

If appropriate DWL will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

### **Promoting awareness among staff**

DWL promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training. DWL ensures that:

the designated CPO has relevant experience and receives appropriate training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty, and is aware of the Channel Programme and how to access it.

designated person training is refreshed every three years.

safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff.

all staff have a copy of this Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse, neglect or radicalisation.

all staff are aware of their statutory duties with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse, and concerns about radicalisation.

all staff receive basic safeguarding training, and safeguarding is a permanent agenda item at all staff meetings.

staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept in the office.

DWL's procedures are in line with the guidance in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)' and staff are familiar with the guidance in

'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015)'.

### **Use of mobile phones and cameras**

Photographs and videos will be taken of all children regularly for daily parent updates, DWL

promotions and the weekly end of camp video. If you do not wish your child

to be photographed or videos you must let us know in writing at least 48 hours before camp begins.

Only leaders will be allowed to take photographs and will send them

immediately to Louise or Rachel and delete from their phones. All leaders have an up to date DBS check and are trusted members of staff.

Staff under 18 years and children will not be allowed to use their mobile phones during camp hours.