

## 4NCL Child Protection Policy Statement

The 4NCL runs the foremost chess league in the United Kingdom, as well as the Junior 4NCL and various congresses throughout the year. The 4NCL seeks to promote and develop chess. It acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people aged up to 18 years and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances as enshrined in the Children Act 1989. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or identity, or socioeconomic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of chess in a safe and child centred environment;
- are protected from harm and abuse whilst participating in chess or outside of the activity.

It also aims to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

The 4NCL acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our safeguarding policy the 4NCL will:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;
- Value, listen to and respect children and young people;
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people;
- Make clear who the designated **Lead for Safeguarding** and Safeguarding Officer is/are and their roles;
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored;
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation;
- Share concerns with agencies who need to know, involving parents and children appropriately.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the 4NCL including staff, officers, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of the 4NCL. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

### Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

Children Act 1989;  
United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991;  
Data Protection Act 1998;  
Sexual Offences Act 2003;  
Children Act 2004;

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children including Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

## **Monitoring**

The policy will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance;
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or the 4NCL;
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

**The 4NCL Child Protection Policy is approved by the Management Board of the 4NCL**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Name and Designation of Signatory:**

**Date of last Review:**     /     /

**Signature:**

**(On behalf of the 4NCL Board)**

## **Policy Procedures**

### **1. Safeguarding Children/Child Protection**

Safeguarding in this document means the process of protecting children and young people up to the age of 18 from harm. Harm can include deliberate abuse, neglect (deliberate or not), bullying, exclusion and prejudiced attitudes. Child protection is part of safeguarding and is the process of protecting individual children who are identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This policy concentrates on the latter but acknowledges the principles of the former.

Safeguarding involves assessment of risk to a child/children. One part of this is deciding whether a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check is required or whether other safeguarding measures put in place are sufficient. Not all staff or volunteers require a DBS check, indeed it is illegal to apply for a DBS check if the applicant's role is ineligible. There is a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks Guide attached (Appendix 1) and where a DBS is not required an organisation should consider other measures such as following the code of conduct (Appendix 2). A DBS check can be applied for via the ECF Office. The ECF recommends that those applying for a DBS join the DBS Update Service (this service is free for volunteers) as this will mean that the DBS is transferable between organisations and is automatically updated. This means that future applications for a DBS certificate will not be required.

Each organisation must have a Lead for Safeguarding. Working Together 2015 stipulates that one of the key responsibilities of organisations working with children is “a senior board level lead to take leadership responsibility for the organisation’s safeguarding arrangements”. There must be a clear line of accountability for the provision of services designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In addition, there must be a Safeguarding Officer who has responsibility for providing advice and support to other staff, volunteers and members, and ensuring that safeguarding children remains a priority in all the work that the 4NCL does. A role description is included (Appendix 3). This may be the same person as the Lead for Safeguarding if the Safeguarding Officer is a senior official of the organisation. Organisations are also recommended to appoint a Deputy Safeguarding Officer in case the Safeguarding Officer is unavailable.

**The Lead for Safeguarding for the 4NCL is:**

Name: Mike Truran

Contact: [mike@truranfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@truranfamily.co.uk)

**The Safeguarding Officers for the 4NCL are:**

Name: Jo Wildman

Contact: [safeguarding.officer@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.officer@englishchess.org.uk) Tel : 0758 3337307

Name: Paul Sharratt

Contact: [safeguarding.officer@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.officer@englishchess.org.uk) Tel : 07515 688795

The Safeguarding Officer should undergo/have undergone at least “introductory” and preferably “leading on” safeguarding training or its equivalent so as to be able to undertake their role. Other staff and volunteers may also access appropriate training or non-accredited learning as part of individual safeguarding risk management if deemed appropriate by the Safeguarding Officer.

## **2. Recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse**

Staff and volunteers are required to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse.

There are four main areas of abuse:

- Physical abuse;
- Emotional abuse;
- Sexual abuse;
- Neglect (intentional and unintentional).

These are explained in Appendix 4.

Possible signs of abuse include:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries or the explanation of the cause of the injury is does not seem right;
- You observe or the child discloses abuse, or describes what appears to be an abusive act;
- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child;
- Unexplained change in behaviour such as withdrawal or sudden outbursts of temper;
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour;
- Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected;
- Difficulty in making friends;
- Eating disorders, depression, self-harm or suicide attempts.

### 3. Becoming aware of a safeguarding issue

The 4NCL recognises that there are many ways that an organisation or individual may become aware about a child or young person's safety.

For example:

- A third party or anonymous allegation is received;
- A child or young person's appearance, behaviour, play, drawing or statements cause suspicion of abuse and/or neglect;
- A child or young person reports an incident(s) of alleged abuse which occurred some time ago;
- A written report is made regarding the serious misconduct of a worker towards a child or young person;
- An incident is witnessed;
- A police charge is made.

No safeguarding issue will be ignored or dismissed by the 4NCL as "minor".

### 4. Acting on a safeguarding issue

It is important that allegations are treated extremely seriously:

#### **Overview of actions if you have concerns about the welfare of a child:**

a) Is the child in immediate danger or are they injured?

If yes - Contact the emergency services 999.

b) Report the concern:

It is important that there should be no delay in contacting either the Social Services or the police if someone thinks a crime may have been committed. Any individual can do this, 24 hours/day; it does not have to be the Safeguarding Officer.

If it is not thought that a crime has been committed but there is concern for a child's welfare then the issue should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours as per below.

1. If the issue arises during a 4NCL event report the concerns to one of the 4NCL designated Safeguarding Officers if they are present (other than in a playing capacity). If no Safeguarding

Officer is present, the concern can be raised in the first instance with the Chief Arbiter for the event who will contact one of the Safeguarding Officers.

2. If the issue arises at any other time or event report the concerns to one of the 4NCL's Safeguarding Officer who will contact the local Children's Social Care Services (Social Services) for advice or to make a referral in the first instance and follow up with a written report within 24 hours.
3. If there is no one else available to help, contact the police on either 999 or 101.

#### Step 1

**If you are worried a child has been abused because:**

- You have seen something
- A child says they have been abused
- Somebody else has told you they are concerned
- There has been an allegation against a member of staff
- There has been an anonymous allegation
- An adult has disclosed they are abusing a child
- An adult has disclosed they were abused as a child

**Important: Any consultation should not delay a referral. In an emergency dial 999**

**Consult  
Monitor & Record  
(Sign/date/time)**

#### Step 2 (within 24 hrs)

Your organisation should have a policy for child protection. Talk to the Lead Person for Child Protection or their Deputy.

#### Step 3

S/he (or anyone else if not available) should refer the concern to Children's Social Care Services and/or the police (in an emergency) and follow up the referral in writing within 24 hours\*\*.

*\*\* In cases of allegations against a person with a "duty of care", the LADO will coordinate the next procedural steps.*

c) Ensure you keep a record of your concern and how you reported it (see Appendix 5 for a form to record it on).

This form is completed by the person raising the concern. All information recorded is confidential. Please note that parents/carers should not be spoken to if the discussions may put the child at risk of harm.

### Stages in acting on the concern

There is further advice on acting on the concern in Appendix 6. This includes advice on talking to the child and this should be used in conjunction with the "Form for recording concerns/allegations of abuse, harm or neglect" (Appendix 5). All information recorded is confidential.

## 5. Safe recruitment

The 4NCL recognises that sometimes there are people who work or seek to work with children and young people who may pose a risk to children and who may harm them. Ensuring that there is a clear

process for recruiting staff and volunteers should help reduce this risk. The following guide will be used by the 4NCL in recruitment of those working with children:

- A clear job description (what tasks the applicant will do) and a role profile (what skills the person will be expected to have) will be used where possible;
- The 4NCL will make it clear that it has a commitment to safeguarding and protecting children;
- Where practical and appropriate, there will be a face-to-face interview with pre-planned and clear questions;
- The applicant will be required to declare whether they have any criminal convictions, cautions, other legal restrictions or pending cases that might affect their suitability to work with children as per the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. This declaration will preferably be part of an application form;
- The candidate's identity will be checked by asking them to bring photographic ID, preferably a passport;
- It will be checked that the candidate actually holds any relevant qualifications they say they have;
- A DBS check will be applied for if the role requires it. This will be considered for all staff who have contact with children or have access to records and this might include any volunteers, trustees, and committee members. (See the guide in Appendix 1);
- References will be sought from reliable sources which can be checked for authenticity. References will always be checked and referees specifically asked about an individual's suitability to work with children;
- All candidates will be provided with a copy of the child protection/safeguarding policy.

On occasions where the 4NCL wishes to appoint a worker from abroad it may not be possible to undertake DBS checks. However a "certificate of good conduct" may be applied for from the country the person is moving from. For UK nationals returning from abroad an International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) may be requested from [www.acro.police.uk](http://www.acro.police.uk). Additional references may need to be undertaken on any worker from abroad.

## **6. Management and supervision of staff and/or volunteers**

Staff and volunteers will know who their safeguarding officer is and how to contact them if they have a concern (see Section 1).

Staff and volunteers should be advised that they must follow the 4NCL's Child Protection Code of Conduct (See Appendix 2).

Staff and volunteers will be advised that they are expected to make themselves aware of the 4NCL's child protection/safeguarding policy. They will be provided with a copy of the policy or given electronic access to it. **A record should be kept that the copy/advice has been given.**

## **7. Allegations against staff and volunteers**

If an allegation of abuse (please see the definitions in Appendix 4) is made against staff or volunteers should be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Officer. If the allegation is about a senior member

of staff in the 4NCL then the incident may be passed to an alternative official; for the 4NCL this will be the Chairman.

In all cases the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be involved in the immediate discussion with the Safeguarding Officer or the alternative official to confirm next steps. The LADO should be made aware of the incident within one working day. Extra considerations following contact with the LADO are included in Appendix 7.

The police and/or Children Social Work Service investigation takes precedence and no internal investigation may take place until the 4NCL has been advised that it may do so by the LADO or police. When an internal investigation is undertaken, consideration should be given to the operation of disciplinary procedures. In most circumstances the options available for the 4NCL are:

- No further action;
- Immediate suspension;
- Dismissal;
- Discontinue the use of the service.

The severity of the allegation, information and evidence available can often determine the next stages taken.

The 4NCL Management Board will agree who will hear an appeal if required.

## **8. Recording and managing confidential information**

A form for recording concerns/allegations of abuse, harm and neglect which is completed by the person raising the concern is included (See Appendix 5).

### **Records relating to child protection may include:**

- Safe recruitment documentation such as employment and engagement applications, references, identity verification, records of DBS or similar statutory disclosure checks;
- The safeguarding/child protection policy and any revisions, records of distribution to or receipt of the policy, records of any protection policy training offered or received;
- Accident records, incident records, records of concerns/allegations of abuse, harm and neglect (including actions taken such as referrals, assessments, plans and support), correspondence related to child protection.

### **Storage of records:**

Some best practice advice for when considering the storage of records:

- Information about concerns, allegations, and referrals should not be kept in one 'concern log'; rather information or items relating to individuals need to be kept in separate files.
- Records of referrals to the Social Services and Police will be kept by those organisations;
- Files containing sensitive or confidential data should be locked away and access to the keys strictly controlled;
- Access to those records needs to be limited to people in named roles who either need to know about the information in those records and/or who manage the records/files;

- If records are stored electronically then password-protect those records, which only limited numbers of staff should have access to;
- Records are kept for an appropriate period from adoption of the policy. This is **30 years** for the purposes of the current ECF insurance policy.

### **Confidentiality:**

Children and young people have a right to confidentiality unless the organisation considers they could be at risk of abuse and/or harm. The legal principle is that the “welfare of the child is paramount”. Privacy and confidentiality should be respected where possible but if doing this leaves a child at risk of harm then the child’s safety has to come first. Legally, it is perfectly acceptable to share information if someone is worried about the safety of a child but only people who **need** to know should be told.

## **9. Distributing and reviewing the policy**

The policy will be freely available to all organisers, participants, captains, managers, parents and guardians in the 4NCL. It will be displayed on the 4NCL website, team captains and managers will be made aware of this, of its location and how to access it so that they can disseminate the information. The 4NCL will keep a record of the distribution of the information. A photocopy of the policy will be available from the 4NCL Chief Arbiter on request during 4NCL events.

The policy will be available electronically during all 4NCL events involving children. This may be the internet version or as a downloaded file.

The policy will be reviewed annually by the 4NCL’s designated Safeguarding Officer and signed off by a member of the 4NCL Management Board. In line with best practice a young person may be invited to be involved in the review.

## **10. Responsibilities of the 4NCL Board**

The 4NCL Board is responsible for approving the 4NCL policy and its implementation within the **4NCL**. It is also responsible for approving a review of the policy or delegating this to an appropriate official.

The 4NCL Board is responsible for adding new procedures as required and informing its staff and volunteers of changes, which includes advertising it on its website.

The 4NCL has a responsibility to monitor which staff and volunteers in their organisation have enhanced DBS checks and safeguarding training and advise those who may need either due to their work.

The 4NCL Board has a responsibility to ensure that the Safeguarding Officers undertake periodic monitoring and review to ensure that safeguards are being implemented and are effective in the 4NCL and that risk is being managed appropriately.



## **11. Other Policies that relate to this Policy**

a) Whistleblowing (Appendix 8)

b) Photography and Videos (Appendix 9)

## Appendix 1

### Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks Guide

DBS checks provide information about a person's criminal history. It is only one part of the safeguarding process and only certain activities and posts are eligible for checks. Organisations should assess the risk carefully and determine whether other safeguarding measures are sufficient protection before requesting a DBS check.

An enhanced DBS check discloses information about spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings from the Police National Computer as well as local police forces. If the role involves "Regulated Activity" (see later), it can also involve a check against lists of people barred with working with children and vulnerable adults. The DBS's "A guide to eligibility for DBS checks" gives an overview of determining eligibility. However, you will find a simpler breakdown of this guide below and links to help you to decide if the role of the individual includes regulated activity and requires a DBS check. The ECF recommends that you click on the links as they give valuable advice.

#### Assessing whether a DBS check is required

The person being considered for a DBS check should be **16yrs or older**.

##### Will the role involve any of the following?

Teaching, training, supervising, advising, treating/transporting or caring for children or vulnerable adults?

**AND**

Will this occur once a week or more **OR** 4 or more days in a 30 day period **OR** Overnight between 2am and 6am?

**OR**

##### Will the role occur in any of the following places?

Schools/Pupil Referral Units/Childcare Premises/Residential Children's Care Homes/Children's Hospitals/Children's Detention Centres/Children's Centres in England/Adult Care Homes?

**AND**

Will this occur once a week or more **OR** 4 or more days in a 30 day period **OR** Overnight between 2am and 6am?

**AND**

Will there be opportunity to have contact with children/vulnerable adults in the course of his/her duties at the specified establishment?

## If the answer is NO

You **MUST NOT** request an Enhanced DBS check unless the role qualifies for a DBS Barred List check because it is regulated activity. (See below for regulated activity). *It is illegal to apply for a check unless the role is eligible for one.*

## If the answer is YES

This role is 'work with children/vulnerable adults'. You **MAY** request an Enhanced DBS check. You should also consider whether the role includes undertaking "Regulated Activity" (see below)

## Regulated Activity

"Regulated Activity" is work a person who appears on the DBS barred list is prohibited from doing and includes unsupervised contact with children. For regulated activity "supervised" means regular supervision by someone who themselves is in Regulated Activity. See the Department for Education's guidance on supervision, available via

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingchildren/a00209802/disclosure-barring>

Please click on **this link** for a simple guide to determining if the role is regulated activity. If you need more specific advice please click **on this link**.

The full legal definition of regulated activity is set out in Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. HM Government have produced a factual note on Regulated Activity in relation to Children:

*It is a criminal offence for organisations to employ a person or recruit a volunteer who appears on the child DBS barred list, to undertake "Regulated Activity" with children if they are barred from working with them. It is also a criminal offence for a person to seek or engage in activities from which they are barred.*

## Applying for a DBS

A DBS check can be applied for via the ECF Office if the applicant is eligible. Volunteers are not charged by the DBS but the umbrella group that runs the service makes a modest charge. Those who undertake their role in a paid capacity, such as some coaches, have to pay the DBS for a check to be carried out.

DBS certificates have very limited transferability between organisations and different checks may be required for different roles. Therefore the ECF recommends that those applying for a DBS join the DBS Update Service (this is service is free for volunteers) as this will mean that the DBS is transferable between organisations and is automatically updated. This means that future applications for a DBS certificate will not be required.

## **Posts in the 4NCL that may require an Enhanced DBS Check**

There are a number of posts which are very likely to involve a considerable degree of unsupervised contact with children. In general the type of work will involve regularly caring for, supervising, training, communicating with or being in sole charge of these children and young people. Persons in the following positions will be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance if they meet the eligibility criteria and to provide suitable references –

- Arbiters who perform their duties at junior congresses;
- Safeguarding Officer;
- Other roles which involve contact with children and young people.

## Appendix 2

### 4NCL Child Protection Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers

The 4NCL recognises that its staff (officials, coaches, arbiters) and volunteers involved in chess for children and young people have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence. Staff and volunteers are expected to:

- Ensure the safety of all children by providing effective supervision and proper planning of organised chess activities;
- Consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before engaging in activities such as coaching or organising playing of chess;
- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour;
- Treat all young people fairly and ensure they feel valued and respected, and have no favourites;
- Encourage all children not to discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes or ability;
- Not allow any bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour;
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and encourage sensible participation in chess activities; never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward;
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of the 4NCL at all times;
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind or poor practice go unchallenged or unrecorded. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in the line with 4NCL procedures. Parents will be informed;
- Never use sanctions that humiliate or harm young people;
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged abuse or poor practice to the designated Safeguarding Officer;
- Administer minor first aid (if appropriate) in the presence of others and where required refer more serious incidents to the designated first aider or send for/to medical assistance. Avoid administering first aid involving the removing of children's clothing unless in the presence of others;
- Have access to a telephone for immediate contact with emergency services if required;
- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of children or young people are enforced;
- Establish and address the additional needs of disabled participants or other vulnerable groups;
- Not abuse children or young people physically, emotionally or sexually;
- Not engage in a sexual relationship with a child or young person for whom they are responsible;
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information;
- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people;
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect;
- Be a role model, displaying consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance (disciplined/committed/time keeping). Remember that children learn by example;

- Refrain from smoking and consumption of alcohol during direct coaching;
- Avoid taking photos without permission, especially of individuals;
- Not accept or give individual gifts to children and young people without permission from parents/guardians;
- Not add minors to their social media accounts or have telephone numbers unless parents have given permission;
- Not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children except in exceptional circumstances;
- Never take children to their home, hotel bedroom or similar (e.g. for coaching) without the additional presence of a person who is, or is authorised by, their parent/guardian, or without explicit parental/guardian consent;
- Plan activities which involve more than one other person being present or at least are within sight or hearing of others where possible. This applies to such activities as one-to-one training and travelling to or from chess events;
- Not have any inappropriate verbal or physical contact (including suggestive gestures) with/in front of children or young people;
- For activities such as coaching chess, hold appropriate valid qualifications/accreditation and/or have appropriate experience in playing chess or engaging in chess activities with children and young people.

### **Emergency action and first aid**

Chess Organisers, coaches and leaders should be prepared with an action plan in the event of an emergency. This will include as a minimum:

- Access to first aid equipment and a first aid book and/or other similar resource;
- Plan for actions if no qualified first aider is available;
- An emergency evacuation plan;
- Telephone contact if the participant is a minor for consent and information purposes (although prior consent for minor first aid may also be gained in addition to this);
- Telephone contact to the emergency services.

## Appendix 3

### Safeguarding Officer - Role Description

**Organisation:** 4NCL

**Reports to:** Lead for Safeguarding/ 4NCL Management Board

**Grade:** Voluntary Position

**Requirement:** Appointment is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check if eligible and references. Legal background or safeguarding experience is highly desirable.

**Purpose:** To ensure that the 4NCL has appropriate arrangements for keeping children and young people safe. To promote the safety and welfare of children and young people.

**Responsibilities:**

- Ensure that all issues concerning safety and welfare of children and young people who attend 4NCL events are properly dealt with through policies, procedures and administrative systems;
- Ensure that everyone involved with the 4NCL has access to the Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures and is aware of what they should do if they have concerns about a child;
- Receive, record and report information from anyone who has concerns about a child who attends a 4NCL event;
- Advise and support staff and volunteers on safeguarding/child protection;
- Undertake annual monitoring and review of the policy;
- Assist with updating the policy in consultation with the Lead for Safeguarding;
- Take the lead on dealing with information that may constitute a child protection concern or an allegation about a member of staff or volunteer. This includes assessing and clarifying the information, and taking decisions where in consultation with colleagues, the Lead for Safeguarding, Chair of the 4NCL Board and statutory child protection agencies as required. Handle all information sensitively and confidentially;
- Consult with, pass on information to and receive information from statutory child protection agencies such as the local social care department and police. This includes making formal referrals to those agencies if required;
- Undertake "Duty to Refer" to the DBS if required;
- Report to each 4NCL Board meeting as required, but at least once per year, on the level of risk management being achieved;
- Be familiar with how the local safeguarding board works and how to contact them;
- Be familiar with issues relating to child protection and keep up to date with developments;
- Attend training in issues relevant to child protection from time to time and share knowledge from that with other members of the 4NCL.

## Appendix 4

### Recognising Abuse

**PHYSICAL ABUSE:** May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent/carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE:** Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, (including cyber-bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**SEXUAL ABUSE:** Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other 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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015)



## Appendix 5

### Form for recording concerns/allegations of abuse, harm or neglect

To be completed by the person with the concern

Only fill in details that you know - do NOT investigate

Date and time of incident/disclosure	Name of your organisation/club/group		
Name of child	Date of birth	Age	Gender
Name of parent/guardian of child	Contact details (if known)		
Are you a) reporting your own concerns or b) responding to concerns raised by someone else? (delete as appropriate)	Name & role of person raising the concern:  Contact details		
Names and details of anyone alleged to have caused the incident or to be the source of any concerns	Names and details of anyone who has witnessed the incident or who shares the concerns		
Please provide details of the incident or concerns you have, including times, dates, description of any injuries			

Have you spoken to the child's parents/carers? If so, please provide details of what was said. If not, please state the reason for this.

*Please note: concerns should be discussed with the family **unless**:*

- the view is that a family member might be responsible for abusing the child*
- someone may be put in danger by the parents being informed*
- informing the family might interfere with a criminal investigation.*

*(If any of these circumstances apply, consult with the local authority children's social care services to decide)*

Has the situation been discussed with the safeguarding officer? Yes/No (delete as appropriate) If so, please summarise the discussion

After discussion with the safeguarding officer, do you still have child protection concerns?  
If in doubt you or the safeguarding officer should ring Children's Social Care Services for advice.

Have you informed the statutory child protection authorities?

Police: Yes/No Date and time:

Name and phone number of person spoken to:

Local authority children's social care services: Yes/No

Date and time:

Name and phone number of person spoken to:

LADO: Yes/No Date and time:

Name and phone number of person spoken to:

Any action agreed with child protection authorities?

Where relevant, the reasons why a decision was taken not to refer those concerns to a statutory agency

Where relevant, what has happened since referring to statutory agency/agencies? Include the date and nature of feedback from referral.

Any further actions undertaken by you or the organisation e.g. support to the child or family.

Name of the person completing the report

Signature of the person completing the report

Designation of the person completing the report

Date

Time

## Appendix 6

### Advice- Stages of Acting on a Concern

#### Stage 1

- Initially talk to a child/young person about what you are observing. It is in order to ask questions, for example: *"I've noticed that you don't appear yourself today, is everything okay?"*. However, never use leading questions;
- Listen carefully to what the young person has to say and take it seriously. Act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying;
- It is not the responsibility of groups to investigate incidences of suspected child abuse but to gather information and refer only. Since you are not investigating, do not take photographs of injuries or video the child;
- Always explain to children and young people that any information they have given will have to be shared with others, if this indicates they and or other children are at risk of harm;
- Notify the 4NCL's Safeguarding Officer;
- Record what was said as soon as possible after any disclosure; the person who receives the allegation or has the concern should complete a proforma and ensure it is signed and dated;
- Respect confidentiality and file documents securely.

#### Stage 2

- The Safeguarding Officer should take immediate action if there is a suspicion that a child has been abused or is likely to be abused. In this situation the Safeguarding Officer should contact the children and young people's services or the police;
- Once you have contacted the children and young people's services they should within 24 hours of receiving your referral:
  - Discuss reasons for the concern with the referrer;
  - Involve and discuss with appropriate professionals/agencies;
  - Establish if a criminal offence has been committed and involve the police;
  - Take into consideration, based on available information, whether there are concerns about the child's health or development;
  - Look at a further enquiry, assessment or take immediate action if necessary;
  - Consider timescales and how best to achieve them.

NB Parents / carers will need to be informed about any referral to the children and young people's services unless to do so would place the child at an increased risk of harm.

Sometimes concerns about a child may not be about abuse. You may be concerned that a child or family need some help in making sure all the child's needs are met to address a particular problem. Examples of this might be where a child is suffering because of poverty or has a disability and needs extra help. In these instances you can get them help from the children and young people's services who can use Common Assessment Framework (CAF) as a means of support.

## **Appendix 7**

### **Considerations in allegations against volunteers and staff**

#### **Following an allegation:**

The LADO will pursue the allegation firstly with the organisation to obtain further details of the incident and circumstances. The liaison with the organisation should determine whether the allegation is unsubstantiated.

If the allegation is a definite possibility and there is cause for concern that a child is suffering, at risk or likely to suffer significant harm, then the LADO should initiate a strategy discussion with Children's Social Services. The LADO and organisation should be involved in the loop of activity and outcomes.

If a criminal offence has occurred then the LADO should immediately involve the police and decide whether an investigation is needed. The organisation should be involved in any discussion. If relevant, the LADO or police will advise the organisation that they have a "duty to refer" an individual to the DBS.

## Appendix 8

### **‘WHISTLEBLOWING’ AND HANDLING ALLEGATIONS WITHIN THE ORGANISATION**

It is the duty of everyone in the organisation to pass on any concerns or allegations of child abuse without delay:

- There should be a Safeguarding Lead or Officer to whom all concerns are referred. That person would then refer to Children’s Social Care Services.
- It is important to share **any** child protection concerns with Children’s Social Care Services and to make a joint and open decision as to how to proceed.
- In the rare situations that the concerns are about the child protection person, it is important to refer to the deputy person. This may not be appropriate, in which case any member may personally refer direct to Children’s Social Care Services.

For an academy or similar, in the case that the Safeguarding Lead or Officer is implicated, the head/director/principal should be informed. In the case of a head/director/principal being implicated then the supervising board should be informed. In extremely exceptional circumstances it is the duty of the person with the concern to refer under “Whistle Blowing” and contact the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer, or the police if a crime may have committed.

- In an emergency, dialling 999 may be the only sensible course of action.
- The LADO, Children’s Social Care Services and/or the police will advise, assist and support you in any future actions you would need to take e.g. informing parents
- Ensure that all everyone understands that:

**Any whistleblower disclosing information in good faith will be protected if he/she has a reasonable suspicion of child abuse.**

## Appendix 9

### Photography and Videos

Recording the event with photos or videos can be really important to celebrate children's achievements. Unfortunately, photos and videos, including the use of camera phones, can be misused by child abusers, especially via the Internet.

It is therefore important to be clear about:

- Explaining to parents and carers why caution is necessary;
- The purpose of photos, e.g. parent's own record, media and publicity etc;
- The content required when using a professional photographer;
- Informing parents and seeking their consent for any publication or media use;
- Publishing only limited children/young people's details alongside their photos in newspapers etc;
- Any club/group photos being taken only during the activity or on the premises;
- All those taking photos signing a registration form.

#### **Guidance:**

Make sure parents understand that you will be taking photos or video footage and be clear how you will use them.

If the images will be reproduced in the media it is vital to seek parental permission and give a general description to the press instead of names or other identifying information of children are used.

If the public wish to photograph or video the activity ensure they register their name and address with you beforehand, put up a sign near the area, suggested wording "Anyone wishing to use photographic/film/video equipment should register their intent with the promoter of the event".

Be wary of adults who take photos who do not appear to be with any children as parents or carers. Exercise extra caution if you post any images on a website; it is safer to use large group shots or blurred images for this.

If you have concerns about the welfare of a child contact your local Children's Social Care Services Office or out of hours / emergency duty officer.

Useful Contacts:

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES POLICE: 101

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

CHILDLINE: 0800 1111

In an emergency Dial 999 for the Police –REMEMBER DO NOT DELAY