

Royal Naval
Learning



Pre-school
Organisation

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN (Cornwall)

Updated August 2025.

August 2026

Policy and procedures

Jack and Jill's childcare will work with children, parents, and the community to ensure the safety of children and to give them the very best start in life.

'Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.' Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage .

The Safeguarding commitments of the Royal Naval Pre-school Learning Organisation are -

We will endeavour to promote the well being of all children, taking every reasonable step to minimise the risk of harm by working together with them and their families, and in partnership with other agencies, to provide a holistic and shared approach to safeguarding.

The organisation is committed to responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur and to work with the statutory agencies in accordance with procedures that are set down in **Working Together to Safeguard Children January 2024**

We also refer to www.swcpp.org.uk for guidance on procedures.

RNPSLO adheres to The Prevent Duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers June 2015.

Fulfilling the Prevent Duty

To protect children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation the organisation sees this as part of a wider safeguarding duty and is similar in

nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation) whether these come from the within their family or are the product of outside influences.

The document places duties on registered providers to have '*due regard preventing people from being drawn into terrorism*'. *Through registered providers placing an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.*

The General Channel Awareness programme can offer front-line workers and school staff a general awareness-training module as an introduction to what makes people vulnerable to radicalisation and intervention that may be appropriate. RNPSLO staff have undertaken the recommended training.

RNPSLO adheres to the Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). FGM is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act 2003. Section B of the 2003 Act introduces a mandatory reporting duty of FGM in children under 18 years which they identify in the course of their work to the Police.

If information relating to a girl under 18 years of age of FGM has been carried out or an observation of physical signs that an act of FGM has been carried out on a girl under 18 years of age and have no reason to believe that it was necessary for the girls physical or mental health for the purposes connected with labour or birth, then further advice and guidance will be sought through the LADO. If a childcare worker observes whilst undertaking intimate care what appears to be FGM they must report under the duty but do not undertake any examination.

The duty to report is a personal duty, which requires the individual professional who becomes aware of the case to make a report. The responsibility cannot be transferred. A report is made orally by calling 101, the single non - emergency Police number.

Information to have ready when making the call will be.

- Explanation that call is to report FGM
- Your details
- Details of the organisation's designated safeguarding lead
- The girls detail

Any safeguarding actions as required by the Working Together to Safeguard Children.

A reference number will be issued and this needs to be kept safe.

Childcare settings have on site a copy of the Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation – procedural information for staff to have access to for further advice and guidance.

Modern Slavery

RNPSLO takes guidance from the Plymouth Safeguarding Board Child Exploitation Screening tool, which can be downloaded www.plymouthscb.org.uk

Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession.

RNPSLO has taken guidance from Every Child Matters Safeguarding Children linked to a belief in Spirit Possession, the Governments good practice guidance.

Child abuse is not acceptable in any community, any culture or any religion. This will include child abuse that may arise through a belief in spirit possession or other spiritual or religious beliefs.

'belief in spirit possession' is the belief that an evil force has entered the child and is controlling them. The term witch is often used in these cases as it is believed the child is able to use an evil force to harm others.

There is also a range of other language that is connected to such abuse.

Below are some examples

Black magic, kindoki, ndoki, the evil eye, dijiins, voodoo, obeah, demons, and child socerers.

Families and children can be worried by the evil they perceive is threatening them and the abuse often occurs when attempts are made to 'exorcise' them or 'deliver' the child.

The abuse may be carried out by the parents/ carers or other family members as well as faith leaders. Sometimes where such abuse is suspected the child may be removed from the family and placed in another family through 'foster' care.

Forms of abuse

Physical abuse - beating, shaking, burning, cutting, stabbing, strangulation, tying up the child, or rubbing chilli peppers or other substances on the child's genitals or eyes, or placing chilli peppers or other substances in the child's mouth.

Emotional/ psychological abuse - isolating the child, not allowing them to eat or share a room with family members, threats to abandon them or telling them that they are evil or possessed. The child may accept the abuse if they have been coerced into believing they possessed.

Neglect - in the form of failure to ensure appropriate medical care, supervision, regular attendance at school, good hygiene, nourishment, clothing or keep the child warm.

Sexual abuse - children abused in this way are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, feeling that they are powerless and worthless and feel that they will not be believed should they confide that they are suffering abuse.

Staff working or in contact with children have a responsibility to recognise and know how to act on any evidence, signs or concerns that child.

health, development and safety may be at risk of significant harm.

RNPSLO recognises that standard child safeguarding procedures apply and must be followed in all cases where neglect, or abuse is suspected including any related to a belief in spirit possession.

Children suffering or at risk of suffering from such abuse or neglect will be identified and appropriately safeguarded if statutory procedures are implemented.

Early help and intervention

We will take our responsibilities seriously and will play a full and active role in the protection of children: raising the awareness of all our practitioners through training and highlighting their own individual responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, identifying, and reporting concerns. We will provide early help and intervention to families, in the form of identifying children and families that would benefit from early help and assistance. Undertaking assessments of the need for early help and to provide

targeted early help to address the assessed needs of a family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child. RNPSLO have a separate attendance policy for staff to follow if a child has regular nonattendance.

We will monitor the well being of all children, with regard to those who are vulnerable, such as those with Child Protection or Child in need plans, looked after children, those with additional needs or who have English as an additional language using the -

Inter- Agency Threshold Continuum of Need which has four levels of need.

- **Level 1** being Universal (no additional needs, only requiring universal service support)
- **Level 2** Vulnerable (additional needs requiring targeted support)
- **Level 3** Complex (additional needs requiring integrated support or child in need (section 17) or child protection (section 47) finally
- **Level 4** Acute (additional needs requiring specialist or statutory integrated response)

POSSIBLE INDICATORS TO BEGIN EARLY INTERVENTION /HELP

Level 1

Child's health and general development is age appropriate. Child is brought up in stable circumstances where parents can meet their child's needs with the support of universal services.

Service response required -

Child's needs met universally through services such as health care and education and may also be able to access Sure Start programmes, Child Centres and Youth Services.

Level 2

Children's health, behaviour or emotional well being requires support. Identified issues of harassment, bullying or family relationship difficulties and issues.

Extra educational or curriculum support required. Absence from school/educational potential not being met.

Low income/asylum seeking families, Families in poverty. Families in stress. Children witnessing or experiencing domestic violence.

Service response required

A EHAP to be considered where the needs of the child are unclear or broader than one agency can meet.

Level 3

Child is experiencing significant developmental or acquired impairments in their cognition, sensory or physical development.

Has a condition which has high probability of development delay/ whose ability to achieve their potential is impaired.

Children with chronic ill health, physical learning disability, significant behavioural or emotional issues.

Child with significant offending or anti-social behaviour, Children using substances.

Parental drug, alcohol misuse, mental health or learning disability imparting on parenting capacity.

Pattern of family offending.

Service response required

A EHAP Early Health Assessment Plan must be completed as a minimum requirement with multi agency involvement and in put. A lead professional to be appointed.

Level of need may indicate that a statutory threshold has been met and a referral to a specialist service may be required to undertake a specialist assessment.

Level 4

Children experiencing domestic violence where safeguarding intervention is required. Children who are young carers, Homelessness.

Children/pre-birth with concerns in relation to parenting capacity.

Children who are subject to a child protection plan, care proceedings, emergency orders or who are looked after.

Children whose parents are no longer able to care for them.

Unaccompanied minors. Privately Fostered children. Children who are homeless.

Children or infants experiencing severe domestic violence who need protection.

Children living with severe drug and alcohol misuse issues.

Children with a statement of special educational needs.

Children with significant offending behaviour under a court order.

Pre-birth situations where there is a significant risk to the unborn child.

Service response required

Level of need crosses statutory threshold.

Children at the highest level of risk/risk of significant harm.

Specialist services allocate a worker.

Level of need determined via a specialist assessment/risk assessment,

Introducing the Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub (MASSH)



From **3 August 2026**, Cornwall's new Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub (MASSH) will become the integrated point of access for children's support and safeguarding services.

The launch of MASSH brings together the existing Early Help Hub (EHH) and Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) into one integrated service and will be a single point of access for help, support and protection.

The Service remains based at New County Hall, Truro and continues to be co-located with other partners and services: Police, Family Information Service and Parenting, Kernow Education and Advice Line and MARU/MASSH Health staff.

A MASSH telephone line will be available to professionals where both urgent and non-urgent advice can be accessed.

Why is this happening?

The revised arrangements are our next steps towards the implementation of the Families First Reforms. The MASSH will provide a single point of access, enabling earlier, more coordinated support and help ensure families receive the right help at the right time. The MASSH will ensure earlier support, stronger multi-agency decision making and a seamless journey for families across the continuum of need.

The change supports Cornwall's wider Family Help and Early Support approach, recognising that children's needs move across the continuum of need and that support is most effective when provided early and through strong partnership working.

What does this mean for partners?

- The MASSH will be the single front door for requests for help and support and safeguarding concerns about children, replacing the previous MARU and Early Help Hub access points
- A new single online request/referral form will replace previous MARU referrals and Early Help Hub requests
- A telephone advice line will remain available to professionals, and urgent referrals will be accepted
- Requests will be triaged through one coordinated process by experienced MASSH managers.

What stays the same?

- Statutory requirements and responsibilities to keep children safe and respond to need are unchanged
- The service will be the point of contact where there are concerns about the safety of children
- Decisions will continue to be based on risk, need, and professional judgement

Families should notice no difference in the way that they are currently supported.

The following services will have separate online forms:

- Children's Community Health (health visiting and school nursing)
- Team Around the Child (TAC)

These will also go **live on 3 August 2026** and we will ensure that these are clearly signposted and linked from our published information. We will ensure that redirects and existing urls and email addresses remain accessible after the new system launches.

In the meantime, please continue to use our existing systems. If you do have any questions, please contact

Rebecca Sargent, Head of Service rebecca.sargent@cornwall.gov.uk

Tracey Abell, Service Manager tracey.abell@cornwall.gov.uk

Safeguarding vulnerable adults

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person who is or may need community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. Everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse and all adults have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation. All adults have the right to independence, which may involve some risks. There may be times when we as childcare workers encounter adults that may be vulnerable either in our dealings with families or through placements/ volunteering/working in our settings.

Procedure for reporting abuse in an adult is the same as for young children in that record what you witness or something someone tells you through writing it down making sure the information is factual and accurate. Use a body map to record any injuries ensuring the date and signatures are present.

There is a single point of access for all safeguarding alerts

The Adult Care and Support Access service screen and triage all Cornwall Adult Care and Support and Cornwall Foundation Trust safeguarding alerts and decide which safeguarding alerts go into the formal safeguarding process.

Vulnerable adult reporting concerns and abuse contact numbers.

Cornwall directorate of adult care and support General line	0300 1234 131
Out Of hours	01208 251 300
Devon & Cornwall Police Emergency	999
Non emergencies	08452 777 444

Information sharing

We will encourage effective information sharing protocols including the seven golden rules of information sharing, to ensure the early identification of children who are at potential risk of significant harm: maintaining confidential, accurate and factual records of any concerns, allegations or disclosures, together with the actions taken in response to these.

Transfer of child protection records

When a child leaves an early year setting (either to move to another setting or to go to school) a copy of their child protection file should be transferred to the new establishment as soon as possible:

- the child protection file should be transferred separately to the child's main file and/or transfer document
- the main file or transfer document should include a discreet symbol to identify that separate child protection records exist (for example, a small red dot inside the back cover)
- consent is not required for sharing child protection information
- where child protection and safeguarding concerns are current (i.e. there are on-going concerns) and/or the case is open to Children, Young People and Families, information should ideally be shared within five working days
- where applicable, the allocated Social Worker should be informed of any move as soon as possible, prior to the move taking place. Details of the allocated Social Worker should be shared with the new establishment
- child protections records, such as minutes of Child Protection Conferences and Reviews can also be shared with the appropriate people. Such records will usually include a statement regarding disclosure and the need to seek authorisation from the Independent Chair before reports are shared. This authorisation is not required where reports are shared between establishments responsible for educating the same child (i.e. between settings or settings and schools)
- in all cases, the receiving establishment must be made aware of any current child protection concerns prior to transfer and before the child starts. Initial contact should be made in person or by phone. Where cases are current and/or complex, a meeting may be preferable. This should be arranged between the designated persons (for safeguarding /child protection) of the originating and receiving establishments. It may also be appropriate to involve the child's key worker or teacher in these meetings
- records should subsequently be shared within five working days. Documents should ideally be delivered by hand and marked 'confidential - for the attention of the addressee only'. Where this is not possible, documents should be sent recorded delivery and a receipt obtained. If documents are to be sent electronically, they must be password protected and sent by secure email only

- if a case/concern is historic, professional judgement should be used as to whether information is shared or not, in line with data protection guidelines and child protection procedures, on a case-by-case basis. A chronology should be shared as a minimum in most cases unless initial concerns were unsubstantiated and there have been no subsequent issues. The receiving establishment should be invited to request further information if needed at a later stage. The decision to share or not share and the reason for such should be recorded
- the responsibility for transfer of child protection records is always that of the originating establishment
- where the receiving establishment is not known, the Early Years Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (EYSWO) should be contacted in the first instance. The EYSWO will endeavour to establish the child's new school or setting to allow for sharing of child protection information
- where a new/receiving setting has concerns that a child has been subject to previous child protection involvement, and information has not been made available, the EYSWO can be asked to undertake a background check. This will involve a check of child protection records held by Children, Young People and Families and/or the identification of any previous setting where applicable. This information will be shared on a need-to-know basis only.
- original or certified copies of all child protection records should be retained for a minimum of 25 years and held securely either hard copy or electronically. Records should be securely disposed of after this time and a record of disposal kept. Paper records should be shredded, and electronic records securely deleted.
- where a child is referred to an early year setting by a Children's Centre, or vice versa, child protection information should be shared, including a chronology as a minimum requirement.

Working with other agencies

We work within the Local Safeguarding Children Boards both in Plymouth and S.E. Cornwall.

We have copies of **Working Together to Safeguard Children March 2015** (page 56) and **What to do if you're worried a child is being abused : Advice**

for Practitioners within the settings for parents and staff to read and take reference from and all staff are familiar with procedures if they have any concerns.

Early Health Assessment Plan (e-EHAP) and Team around the Child (TAC)

RNPSLO staff when appropriate to do so will initiate a Common Assessment Framework (EHAP) to assist in meeting the needs of the child/family. The EHAP is a national standardised assessment framework tool which enables practitioners from all agencies to work together to assess and meet the needs of the children/families where they require a targeted , multi agency approach. This will be done in partnership with the parent and other outside agencies. Childcare staff will support the families as and when required. If the concerns raised by the group are of a safeguarding nature, then EHAP will be by passed and the appropriate procedure for safeguarding will be followed.

Multi- agency Referral Unit (MARU) provides a multi-disciplinary response to concerns about the safety of a child.

Multi Agency Advice Team (MAAT) is a multi agency advice team within the MARU the MAAT team gathers information and considers those cases that are on the cusp of the threshold criteria for social work.

We will follow the procedures detailed in the practitioners guide to the common assessment framework when completing the e-EHAP [assessment.https://db.cornwall.gov.uk/EHAPservices/submitEHAP.aspx](https://db.cornwall.gov.uk/EHAPservices/submitEHAP.aspx)

If we need additional guidance, then we will contact the EHAP Coordinator David Coleman contact number 01872- 327600 (S.E. Cornwall)

EHAP process appendix A end of policy

Escalation Policy

Occasionally situations arise when childcare workers feel that a decision made by another worker or that the situation involving the child has escalated and the child's safety is at risk. Child care staff will follow the five stages of the escalation policy which are as follows -

Stage 1 .

Professional discusses with their manager or Designated Person for safeguarding to clarify their thinking.

Stage 2.

Initial attempts should be made to resolve the matter through discussion between the professionals involved.

Stage 3.

If the problem cannot be resolved at stage 2 the concerned worker should contact the senior designated person or the named Trustee for safeguarding within RNPSLO who will contact the equivalent manager in the other agency to discuss and seek to resolve the matter.

Stage 4

If the matter is not resolved at stage 3 the two managers involved report to their safeguarding named representative and must attempt to resolve the matter through discussion.

Stage 5.

If the differences cannot be resolved at stage 4 the designated lead from the concerned agency will inform the chair of the LSCB in order that the decision can be reviewed, including the possibility of a review panel. At all stages actions/decisions must be recorded in writing and shared with the relevant persons.

Designated safeguarding Officer for safeguarding

We have a *designated safeguarding officer* (DSO) they are responsible for managing all safeguarding and child protection issues.

The DSO for this group is.....

The names of the DSO and their deputy are displayed in the setting and parents are welcome to contact either practitioner for information, advice, and assistance, or to share any relevant information at any time.

The DSO is a senior member of the team who is responsible for acting as a key point of contact for practitioners and parents, coordinating and managing all responses to disclosures and other child protection issues.

Keeping and maintaining appropriate confidential accurate, up to date records and for ensuring effective information sharing protocols are followed. Keeping their knowledge up to date to enable them to effectively fulfil their role, including attending relevant training provided.

We recognise that sharing personal information or information of a sensitive nature can be difficult; we therefore endeavour to observe confidentiality subject to our information sharing protocols. We have a duty to share any concerns relating to child protection with relevant agencies, including Children's Social Care and the Police, and in all instances the protection of the child will override any issues of maintaining confidentiality.

Parent/carers on joining the organisation agree and sign a parental contract which authorises information to be shared when appropriate to do so between ourselves and other agencies. They also are informed that by signing the contract that should concern regarding a safeguarding issue be raised then we would share the information for the best interest of the child safety.

Useful telephone numbers

We have procedures for contacting the local authority on child protection issues, including maintaining a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of social services, ensuring that it is easy to locate an appropriate number should an emergency arise, for the organisation to work together with any other parties.

From April 2007 the responsibility for the registering and inspecting childminders and day care providers passed to Ofsted (Offices for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) whose office address is:

Ofsted Picadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M21 2WD	0300 12301231
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Robin Heath Principle LADO Justine Hoskings	01872-326536

Multi Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub (MASSH)	0300-1231116 Out of hours 01208-251300
Safeguarding Children Standards Unit. Pendragon House, Gloweth, Truro. TR1 3XQ	01872-254549
NSPCC help@nspcc.org.uk	0808-0800-5000
Childline	08001111
Police Central Referral Unit www.devon-cornwall	0845-6051166

The NSPCC have joined forces as part campaign focusing on child neglect. A localised NSPCC Helpline was launched earlier this year and complements services already provided by the Council, NHS, Devon CCG and Devon and Cornwall Police, but will give all callers an independent alternative to use when deciding who to talk to about a child's welfare concerns.

The helpline team are available 24/7 via phone and online have access to a wealth of local information. Any adult worried about the welfare of a child, or seeking advice on any concern at all, can call the NSPCC's Helpline on 0808 800 5000, email help@nspcc.org.uk, or visit the NSPCC website at www.nspcc.org.uk/neglect.

Child abuse whistleblowing helpline

A new national child abuse whistle blowing helpline has been launched by the Home Office. The helpline will provide advice to employees who feel unable to raise concerns about the way their organisation is dealing with cases of child abuse, or who feel they have exhausted all avenues with their employer directly.

The NSPCC will deliver this service, which includes a helpline and email support.

NSPCC child abuse helpline:

Call: 0800 028 0285 (line is available from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

This helpline is available if you feel all other procedures have been followed and you are concerned about the way these cases have been dealt with.

On January 1st, 2008, the Joint Consultancy Team was replaced by the Safeguarding Children Standards Unit.

It is important to remember to refer to the area office in which the child lives and to follow up any referral in writing. If you are only ringing for advice, make this very clear to the admin officer who will take your initial call and ask to speak to the Access Duty worker or the Access Practice manager.

This is a multi agency group of professional staff experienced in the field of child protection who are available to provide consultation and advice for anyone working with children whatever their profession, position.

SOUTHWEST CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

Available only online

www.swcpp.org.uk

Ofsted contact

The number for contacting Ofsted is a general number, however if you are ringing with a child protection issue they will automatically put you through to the appropriate department.

We will notify the registration authority (Ofsted) of any incident or accident and any changes in our arrangements which may affect the well-being of children attending.

ALLEGATION AGAINST STAFF.

If we receive an allegation against a member of staff or a volunteer.

We understand that a child may make an allegation against any practitioner within a setting. We recognise that dealing with such allegations is difficult, but we will endeavour to take such incidents seriously and deal with them carefully and fairly.

We will instigate an investigation where it is alleged that they have -

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offense against a or related to a child
- Behaved in an appropriate way towards a child which may indicate that they are unsuitable to work with children.

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We may also apply such procedures where -

- There are concerns about a practitioners behaviour towards their own children
- Children unrelated to their employment or voluntary work and where there has been a recommendation from a strategy discussion that consideration should be given to the risk posed to those they work with.
- When an allegation is made about abuse that took place some time ago and the accused practitioner may still be working or having contact with children.

In some cases, we will be clear that we must take immediate referral to advice and assessment, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and/or the Police for investigation. This will apply where a child has appeared to have been hurt or at risk of harm, or where a criminal act appears to have been committed.

In some cases, it may be difficult to make a judgement based on information available and allegations may relate more to inappropriate, unprofessional behaviour rather than abuse.

We do not have a duty to investigate such allegations or the power to assess whether a concern relates to abuse or inappropriate behaviour. We therefore treat all such allegations seriously, dealing with them objectively in a timely manner, and referring to the LADO for further advice. We will always act on the advice of the LADO.

If it is deemed because of an allegation a child has been injured or there is clear evidence of significant harm or risk of significant harm, we will make an immediate referral to advice and assessment or to the Police in line with our child protection procedure.

Suspension

We consider suspension as a neutral act. This means that suspension does not indicate whether an accused practitioner is guilty or not. Suspension is considered a necessary step.

An immediate suspension of a staff member or the staff will happen to allow time for the guidance and instruction from the LADO to prevent any further consequences during the investigation.

We will seek the necessary legal advice and ensure guidelines are followed in line with our settings policies and procedures.

Any staff member suspended following an allegation if proven to be unfounded can be reassured this will have no bearing on their employment and staff record and you will be paid for the duration of the suspension period.

We will consider suspension where -

- There is a cause to suspect, or a child is at risk or has suffered significant harm.
- The allegation warrants a police investigation
- The allegation is so serious that it might be grounds for dismissal.
- The continued presence of the accused practitioner at the setting may hinder or impinge on any investigations carried out by CSC and the Police.

We will evaluate the possible risk to children by the accused practitioner and how the situation can be effectively managed to ensure safety of the individual child involved, and all children within the setting.

We will also consider if suspension is necessary in the best interest of the accused practitioner, to protect them from harassment or any of the undue treatment.

If allegations are substantiated, we will proceed with our disciplinary procedures, only after liaison with the LADO and the Police where appropriate, to avoid any interference with or jeopardy to any on going external investigations. We will report the incident to the safeguarding children's unit as appropriate.

Whistle Blowing

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where practitioners fail to do so, and therefore we have a formal whistle blowing policy.

We encourage practitioners to feel confident in raising concerns and to question and act upon them. There is a separate Whistle blowing policy for staff / volunteers. Copies of the policy are displayed within the settings.

Safer recruitment Vetting

We adopt safer recruitment practices and will not agree or commence on individuals' employment or voluntary work until a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check has been obtained and other checks, such as references have been received. All offers of employment are subject to the satisfactory completion of such checks. U-Check is our chosen agency to undertake DBS checks.

Disqualification

[The Childcare \(Disqualification\) Regulations 2007](#) require registered providers to inform Ofsted of any court order, determination or conviction or any other grounds for disqualification from registration applying to them or any other person living or working in their household. There are several reasons that a person may be disqualified from working with children under the Childcare Act 2006. These may be grouped under the following, general headings:

- grounds in relation to the care of children
- offences against children
- offences against adults
- inclusion on the list held by the Disclosure and Barring Service
- living on or working in premises where a disqualified person lives or where a disqualified person is employed. This includes a provider or a nursery worker living in a household with a person that is disqualified
- having registration refused or cancelled (does not apply for registrations cancelled for non-payment of fee)
- offences include those committed overseas that, had the offence been committed in the UK, would disqualify that person from registration, regardless of how the offence is described in the law of the country.

Disqualification by Association (guidance from DfE)

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) makes it clear that 'providers must ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles. It is a requirement in paragraph 3.11 of the EYFS that providers 'must tell staff that they are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings that may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at the setting). Providers must not allow people, whose suitability has not been checked, including through a criminal records check, to have unsupervised contact with children being cared for.'. Providers do not have a duty to monitor the 'suitability' of persons living in staff households, but they do need to check with staff that they are not living with a person that is disqualified from working with children. If a member of staff is living in a household with someone who is disqualified, then they too are disqualified from working with children by association. However, there are two points to bear in mind: First the person is not guilty of an offence if they do not know a person, they are living with is disqualified. For example, a member of staff may live in shared housing and may not have any knowledge about the people they live with including whether those people are disqualified. Second the law is clear that this is about 'knowingly employing' someone who is disqualified. RNPSLO annually send out a safeguarding declaration to staff requiring them to sign that their own and home circumstances have not changed since the last safeguarding declaration, along with the staff handbook informing them that it is their responsibility to inform the organisation if they become aware of a disqualified person living with them. RNPSLO would then act accordingly.

We inform prospective employees and employ staff that they are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children. If through undertaking the vetting process disqualification of a registered person, a person living in the same household or a person employed in that household, then that person must not continue as an early years provider nor be directly concerned in the management of such provision.

Ofsted would be informed of the following information as soon as reasonably practicable but at least within 14 days of the date the

provider became aware of the information or ought reasonably to have become aware of it if they had made reasonable enquiries.

- Details of any order, determination, conviction, or other ground for disqualification from registration under regulations made under section 75 of the Childcare Act 2006.
- The date of the order, determination or conviction, or the date when the other ground for disqualification arose
- The body or court which made the order, determination or conviction and the sentence (if any) imposed.
- A certified copy of the relevant order (in relation to an order or conviction).

Where applications are rejected because of information that has been disclosed. Applicants have the right to know and to challenge incorrect information.

We as an organisation abide by Ofsted requirements in respect of references and DBS checks for staff and volunteers, to ensure that no disqualified person or unsuitable person works at the setting or has access to the children.

RNPSLO use the DBS update service to undertake termly checks on all staff to ensure that they remain suitable to work with children along with the staff handbook informing them that it is their responsibility to inform the organisation if they become aware of a disqualified person living with them. RNPSLO would then act accordingly.

Volunteers/ visitors will not work unsupervised with the children. Staff/volunteers will not work with children unsupervised until all DBS security checks have been returned and deemed suitable to do so.

The organisation will abide by the Protection of Children Act in respect of any person who is dismissed from our employment or resigns in circumstances that would otherwise have led to dismissal for reasons of child protection concern.

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Visitors

The organisation has procedures for recording the details of visitors to the setting. This is through contractors/visitors' logs.

The organisation takes security steps to ensure that we have control over who comes into the setting; so that no unauthorised persons have unsupervised access.

Mobile phones / smart watches

Use of mobile phones/ smart watches are not allowed **during** the staff's working hours. Staff found to be using mobile phones/ smart watches **during** the working session will be disciplined.

There is a separate policy for use of mobile phones/ smart watches whilst in the setting for visitors and contractors. Parents are asked not to use their phones/ smart watches whilst in the setting or within the grounds of the settings either dropping off or collecting their children. There are clear and understandable signs in every setting alerting all visitors to a no use of mobile request.

Camera and taking images

RNPSLO has a separate policy for the use of camera's and taking images within settings. See separate policy.

Social networking

RNPSLO has a separate policy for the staff's use of social networking sites such as Face book. See separate policy.

Parental contracts

Parents are requested to complete a parental contract on joining the group which has permission and authorisation signatures for various activities, events and procedures that may, could or do happen whilst their child is using RNPSLO settings, within this document is a notice to parents that if relevant to do so, information will be shared and a signature is required to do so along with if the occasion arises information will be shared without

their consent. This would be a safeguarding issue only. RNPSLO staff work within the seven golden rules for information sharing these being

1. Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information.
2. Be open and honest
3. Seek advice
4. Share with consent where appropriate
5. Consider safety and well being
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant. Accurate, timely and secure
7. Keep a record.

Responding to a concern about a child's welfare.

If we have concerns about a child's welfare (we will)-

- the key person will discuss the concern with the DSO, following this conversation the concern will remain the same or be alleviated
- If after step one the concern remains the same the DSO will determine whether the child/family would benefit from other services. The DSO will determine whether the child is at significant risk or is a child in need.
- If the DSO considers the child is at risk or significant harm a referral will be made immediately. If the DSO considers a child to be in immediate danger, they will also notify the Police.
- Where possible the DSO will notify the parents before making the referral to advice and assessment, however if the child would be placed in increased danger/ risk the parents will not be notified. Advice and assessment will advice before making this decision.
- If the DSO considers the child is a child in need, they will consider whether targeted services could be provided through a Common Assessment Form (EHAP) with full consent from the parents.

- If consent is refused then the DSO will consider whether such a response constitutes risk to the child or whether without the support of additional services the child is at risk of being separated from their family, if such a risk is considered then a referral to advice and assessment will be made.
- The DSO will contact advice and assessment if the parents have not yet been informed by this stage, the DSO will agree with advice and assessment what the child and the parent will be told ,by whom and when.
- A referral will be followed up in writing within 48 hours and will forward any relevant documentation as appropriate for example EHAP form and copies of any records. Advice and assessment should acknowledge the referral within one working day. If this acknowledgement is not received within three days, the DSO will follow up the referral again.
- The DSO may without identifying the child discuss the concerns with senior colleagues including advice and assessment to develop a further understanding of the child's needs. If unable to make this judgement the DSO will seek guidance from advice and assessment.

The organisation acknowledges that abuse of children can take different forms - physical, emotional, and sexual as well as neglect.

The organisation will respond when children are suffering from physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or may be experiencing neglect, this may be demonstrated through the things they say (direct or indirect disclosure) Or through changes in their appearance, their behaviour, or their play. Training attended by staff will give staff the knowledge and confidence to recognise any possible indicators or signs.

Physical

physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocation or otherwise causing a child physical harm may also be caused when a parent/carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. For example, telling the child that they are worthless or unloved. It may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as over protection and limitation of exploration and learning. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children to feel frightened or in danger. Some levels of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child although it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (for example rape, buggery or oral sex) or non penetrative acts. They may include noncontact activities such as involving children looking at or in the production of sexual online images, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy because of maternal substance abuse.

Once born the parent may fail to provide adequate food, clothing. And shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment.

Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; fail to ensure adequate supervision (including the adequate care givers).

Domestic violence can have a serious impact on a child's development and emotional well being, we will therefore take appropriate action if we believe any child is directly or indirectly a recipient of this type of abuse. We will also act if a child presents with a significant unexplained injury which may have occurred either at home or in the setting.

Disclosure

If a child discloses information, we will communicate with them in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference. The nature of how we respond will also depend on the substance and seriousness of the concerns and we may seek advice from advice and assessment or the Police to ensure that neither the safety of the child nor any subsequent investigation is jeopardised. Where concerns are raised from information given by a child, we recognise the importance of offering reassurance, but we cannot give confidentiality.

We will be mindful in all communications with a child may lead to a criminal investigation and will not ask leading questions or attempt to investigate the allegation of abuse. If a child discloses, we will -

- Offer reassurance
- Believe them
- Listen
- Allow them to talk at their own pace
- Keep responses short, simple, slow, quiet and gentle and not interrogate.
- Tell them they have done the right thing and not to blame
- Remain calm and not make judgements
- Not promise to keep a secret
- Not examine them
- Be observant for any nonverbal communications
- Say what we are going to do next, who we are going to contact and when
- Record any visible marks/injuries on a skin map displayed on the safeguarding log.

How we record

RNPSLO settings have Logs to record accidents, incidents, and existing injuries. Children are observed during the day and any accident that happens whilst in our care is recorded. The parent is given notification of what has happened regarding any injury they may have sustained, the child's date of birth, what time it occurred, who dealt with it, where it happened within the setting and two members of staff sign the written account along with the parent. Entries in the logs would involve situations, or incidents that happen within the setting during the child's time spent with us, the staff would note child's date of birth, the time of the incident, where it happened, what happened, and two staff to sign the account along with the parent. The existing injury log records any injury that the child has had prior to attending the setting. Two staff and the parent sign the record.

RNPSLO use Safe-guarding logs to record concerns, marks, and incidents of a safeguarding nature.

Records are kept under lock and key and only those with a need to know would have access. Confidentiality policy and practices are adopted to deal with any safeguarding issues; staff have regular reminders about confidentiality through termly policy reviews.

Allegations against a staff member

RNPSLO 'S procedure to follow if an allegation should be made is -

To consider the safety of the child, other children, and practitioners, including the member of staff involved.

Do not automatically suspend the staff member without consulting with the Local Authority Designated Officer, before making such a decision. (Except in an emergency where the decision to be made is clear)

If suspension is deemed appropriate, consult, and agree the decision with the registered person Ofsted and the Trustees and follow guidelines set out in the disciplinary procedure. Legal advice should be sought

If suspension is deemed not appropriate, it may still be advisable to recommend the staff member takes some time off whilst the allegation is being addressed.

RNPSLO will under no circumstances investigate the allegation themselves. The duties to investigate are the responsibility of Children's Social Care and where appropriate the police.

The Local Authority Designated officer should be contacted in the first instance should any allegations be made. Ofsted should also be made aware of the situation. Information should be shared on a need-to-know basis only.

The local Authority Officer will advise on the next steps to take. In many circumstances a strategy meeting will be held with several senior professionals to determine whether a child protection investigation is required and whether any further actions are required.

RNPSLO will follow advice given by the Local Authority Designated Officer and undertake any actions recommended through the strategy meeting.

The organisation will ensure that all parents know how to complain about staff or volunteer actions whilst in the setting, which may include an allegation of abuse. RNPSLO has a separate whistle blowing policy and a separate complaints policy.

Ofsted telephone number 0300 123 1231

David Coleman is the contact on 01872-327600 for the setting.

The organisation will follow guidelines of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards when responding to any complaint that a member of staff or volunteer has abused a child.

The organisation will respond to any disclosure by children or staff that abuse by a member of staff may have taken, or is taking place, by first recording the details of any such alleged incident.

We refer any such complaint immediately to the local authority's social service department to investigate to Ofsted and to Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare Service (RNRM) if appropriate to do so.

The organisation will co-operate entirely with any investigation carried out by social services in conjunction with the Police.

The organisations policy to suspend the staff member for the duration of the investigation, this is not an indication of admission that the alleged incident has taken place but is to protect the staff as well as the children and families throughout the process.

Disciplinary action.

Where a staff member or volunteer is dismissed from the setting or internally disciplined because of misconduct relating to a child, we will notify the Department of Health administrators so that the name may be included on the list for the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Training

The organisation will seek out training opportunities for all adults involved in the setting to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs and symptoms of possible abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. This would include being vigilant whilst at work and outside of setting .

These may include

- Significant changes in children's behaviour
- Deterioration in children's general well being
- Unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect
- Children's comments which may give cause for concern
- Any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside of the setting
- Inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff or any other person working with children. Eg inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities, or inappropriate sharing of images.

Staff are aware of the local authority guidelines for making referrals and how to respond to a child who discloses information and the procedures to be followed.

We ensure all external training we access meets the requirements of regional Safeguarding Children's Boards. All practitioners are updating their training at least once every three years.

We ensure all external training we access meets the requirements of the local authority safeguarding board. Safeguarding training is part of the

staff's initial induction and supervision. The administration office oversees the booking of courses for staff. A regular review of the dates for each staff's training ensures that courses are booked within the time frame. DSL and setting managers will ensure that safeguarding is discussed at staff supervision and regular staff meetings.

Planning/delegation of staff

The Organisation will ensure the lay out of the rooms allows for constant supervision. No child is left alone with staff or volunteers in a one-to-one situation without being visible to others. Staff deployment is organised to maintain legal ratios, children under two years 1:3. children aged 2 years 1:4 , children aged 3 and above 1: 8 there are occasions when RNPSLO will work 1:6 in this age range. RNPSLO make every effort to ensure that staff and children are not put in compromising situations.

Curriculum

The organisation will introduce key elements of child protection into our planning to promote the personal, social, and emotional development of all children, so that they may grow to be strong, resilient, and listened to' and so that they develop understanding of why and how to keep safe.

The organisation will create within our settings a culture of value and respect for the individual, having positive regard for children's heritage arising from their colour, ethnicity, languages spoken at home, cultural and social background, and any additional needs they may have.

We will ensure that this is carried out in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the children.

Support to families.

The organisation believes in building trusting and supportive relationships with families, staff, and volunteers in the group. RN FPS team are informed where a service family are involved and offered support and guidance through their team of trained workers.

The organisation makes it clear to parents its role and responsibilities in relation to Child protection from the point of joining the organisation.

The organisation when advertising posts uses a safeguarding statement alerting any candidates that we take safeguarding the children in our care of the up most importance.

The organisation is committed to staff undertaking safeguarding training and being aware of procedures to follow regarding safeguarding.

This policy has been amended 31/08/2023

Chair of Committee

date.