

Safeguarding Policy



This policy was first adopted in **July 2024** by the Setting Manager along with the trustees of the charity and will be reviewed as a minimum on an annual basis or when needed accordance with updated safeguarding information from our local partnerships and new laws or that come into effect.

Our Aim

Here at Potterspurry Pre-School we are committed to safeguarding all stake holders including children, young people, vulnerable adults and the community within our setting. We will make sure that this is done by putting their right to be '**strong, resilient and listened to**' at the heart of everything we do.

It is our duty as a setting to make sure that there is always a safeguarding officer available for staff to communicate with if needed, if they are not on site when needed they must be available via the phone at all times. Our safeguard lead will have appropriate safeguard lead training provided by the local authority.

At Potterspurry Pre-School our Safeguarding leads are as follows:

Designated Safeguarding lead is: Claire Bailey

Nominated Safeguarding officer is: Judy Holt

Our Objectivities

Potterspurry Pre-School has four commitments which are broad statements against which policies and procedures across the organisation will be draw upon to provide a consistent and robust strategy for safeguarding for all stake holders including children young people, vulnerable adults and the community within our setting.

The four key commitments are:

1. Potterspurry Pre-School is committed to empowering children, young people, and vulnerable adults, promoting their right to be '**strong, resilient, actively listened to, and heard**'.
2. Potterspurry Pre-School upholds a culture of safety in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of the setting and curriculum we provide.
3. Potterspurry Pre-School is committed to preventing harm and responding promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. Working with the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership** along with the welfare requirements of the **Early Years Statuary Framework** to achieve the best possible outcomes for every child.
4. Potterspurry Pre-School is dedicated to increasing safeguarding confidence, knowledge and good practice throughout its ongoing training and on the spot quizzes, advocating support and representation for those in greatest need.

NB: A 'young person' is defined as 16–19-year-old. In an early years setting, they may be a student, worker, or parent.

A 'vulnerable adult' (see guidance to the Care Act 2014) as: '*a person aged 18 years or over, who is in receipt of or may need community care services by reason of 'mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation*'. In early years, this person may be a service user, parent of a service user, or a volunteer.

Key Commitment 1

- All staff will receive robust training in safeguarding and child protection matters and have access to the setting's policy and procedures for reporting concerns of possible abuse and the safeguarding procedures of the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership** as well as how and when to make a referral to **MASH**
- All staff have adequate information on issues affecting vulnerability in families such as social exclusion, domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and parental learning disability, together with training that takes account of factors that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation, or culture.
- As a setting we are committed to build a 'culture of Safety' and work with children on their emotional and social skills in an age-appropriate way, including increasing their understanding of how to stay safe.
- We adhere to the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare requirements at all times.

Key Commitment 2

- There are procedures in place to prevent known abusers from coming into the organisation as employees or volunteers at any level. This will include making sure that any adult/staff member without a DBS is not left unsupervised with a group of children and will not be allowed to do any personal care.
- All staff will have a full DBS done when starting and be encouraged to be added to the update service.
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of every person undertaking the work of the setting in any capacity.
- There are procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against a member of staff, or any other person undertaking work whether paid or unpaid for the setting, where there is an allegation of abuse or harm of a child. Procedures differentiate clearly between an allegation, a concern about quality of care or practice and complaints.
- There are procedures in place for reporting possible abuse of children or a young person in the setting.
- There are procedures in place for reporting safeguarding concerns where a child may meet the s17 definition of a child in need (Children Act 1989) and/or where a child may be at risk of significant harm, and to enable staff to make decisions about appropriate referrals using the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership Thresholds and partnership** documents to understand the level of need.
- There are procedures in place for reporting possible abuse of a vulnerable adult in the setting.
- There are procedures in place in relation to escalating concerns and professional challenge.
- There are procedures in place for working in partnership with agencies involving a child, or young person or vulnerable adult, for whom there is a protection plan in place. These procedures also take account of working with families with a 'child in need' and with families in need of early help, who are affected by issues of vulnerability such as social exclusion, radicalisation, domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse and parental learning disability.
- These procedures take account of diversity and inclusion issues to promote equal treatment of children and their families and that take account of factors that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation, or culture.
- There are procedures in place for record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing, which are in line with data protection
- We follow government and Local Safeguarding Partners guidance in relation to extremism.
- The procedures for reporting a member of staff to **LADO / DO Designated officer** must be followed for our county
- The procedures of the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership** must be followed.

Key Commitment 3

- We have a 'designated safeguard lead person', who is responsible for carrying out child, young person, or adult protection procedures. *Within our setting this is the manager.*
- The designated safeguard lead reports to a 'nominated safeguarding officer' responsible for overseeing all child, young person or adult protection matters. *Within our setting this is a member of our trustees.*
- The 'designated safeguarding lead' will ensure they have links with statutory and voluntary organisations regarding safeguarding children including the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership** and the **EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare requirements**
- The 'designated safeguarding lead' will ensure they have received appropriate training on safeguarding and child protection matters and that all staff are adequately informed and/or trained to recognise possible child abuse in the categories of Sexual, Physical, Emotional, Neglect and Domestic. **SPEND**
- The 'designated safeguarding lead' will ensure all staff are aware of the additional vulnerabilities that affect children that arise from inequalities of race, gender, disability, language, religion, sexual orientation or culture and that these receive full consideration in child, young person or adult protection related matters.
- The 'designated safeguarding lead' will ensure that staff are aware and receive training in social factors affecting children's vulnerability including
 - social exclusion
 - domestic violence and controlling or coercive behaviour
 - mental illness
 - drug and alcohol abuse (substance misuse)
 - parental learning disability
 - radicalisation
- The 'designated safeguarding lead' will ensure that staff are aware and receive training in other ways that children may suffer significant harm and stay up to date with relevant contextual safeguarding matters:
 - abuse of disabled children
 - fabricated or induced illness
 - child abuse linked to spirit possession
 - sexually exploited children
 - children who are trafficked and/or exploited
 - female genital mutilation

- extra-familial abuse and threats
- children involved in violent offending, with gangs and county lines.

The 'designated safeguarding lead' will ensure they are adequately informed in vulnerable adult protection matters.

Key commitment 4

- There are procedures in place to ensure staff recognise children and families who may benefit from early help and can respond using local early help processes. Designated safeguarding leads should ensure all staff understand how to identify and respond to families who may need early help.
- Staff are supported to make the right decisions that enable timely and appropriate action to be taken.
- Designated Safeguarding Leads contribute towards local safeguarding arrangements to ensure that the views of the sector are heard at the highest level by:
 - Finding out how education and childcare are represented at a strategic level within the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership**
 - Sharing their knowledge of the experiences of children in their cohort with LSP local leaders

As part of our duty to safeguard everyone in our setting we have a number of procedures that will be followed at all times in accordance with our Safeguarding policy and will take into account all relevant information needed from the **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership including Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures Manual** which can be found using the following link. [Welcome to the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children... \(trixonline.co.uk\)](https://www.trixonline.co.uk)

1. Responding to safeguarding or child protection concerns
2. Responding to a concern against a staff member
3. Uncollected Child
4. Missing Child
5. Incapacitated parent

This policy was adopted in July 2024 in conjunction with the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare requirements

July 2024

Signed by	Name	Signature	Date
Setting Manager			
Chairperson			

Reviewed

Signed by	Name	Signature	Date
Setting Manager			
Chairperson			

Legal references

Primary legislation	Legal references	Further guidance
<p>Primary legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Act 1989 – s 47 • Protection of Children Act 1999 • Care Act 2014 • Children Act 2004 s11 • Children and Social Work Act 2017 • Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 • Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 • General Data Protection Regulation 2018 • Data Protection Act 2018 • Modern Slavery Act 2015 • Sexual Offences Act 2003 • Serious Crime Act 2015 • Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000) • Human Rights Act (1998) • Equalities Act (2006) • Equalities Act (2010) • Disability Discrimination Act (1995) • Data Protection Act (2018) • Freedom of Information Act (2000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Together to Safeguard Children (HMG 2023) • Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2023 • What to Do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused (HMG 2015) • Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales: guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty of schools and other providers in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' (HMG 2015) • Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 • Education Inspection Framework (Ofsted 2023) • The framework for the assessment of children in need and their families (DoH 2000) • The Common Assessment Framework (2006) • Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (DfE 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners (DfE 2018) • The Team Around the Child (TAC) and the Lead Professional (CWDC 2009) • The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – guide for practitioners (CWDC 2010) • Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (HMG. 2016) • Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) (Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Service and HM Prison Service 2014) • Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (HMG 2010) • Safeguarding Children in whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced (HMG 2007) • Safeguarding Disabled Children: Practice Guidance (DfE 2009) • Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked (DfE and Home Office 2011) • Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners (DfE 2017) • Handling Cases of Forced Marriage: Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines (HMG 2014)