

Sunderland Carers' Centre



Child Protection Policy

'Child' is used in this policy to include young people up to 18 years of age and 'worker' to include volunteers and students as well as paid staff.

Many posts (paid and voluntary) within Sunderland Carers' Centre include contact with children. All staff and volunteers likely to be in touch with children will be DBS checked and are therefore required to supply evidence of identification and other documentation necessary for this.

No staff or volunteers, in accordance with the Centre's overall employment policy, will be appointed without two satisfactory references being received.

Whenever possible, and particularly for young carer activities, two adults should be present. In the case of group work the adults should reflect the gender balance of the group. Staff and volunteers should not meet children without parental consent and, as far as is consistent with offering support to a young carer, should meet children when on formal premises with others present e.g. Carers' Centre, school or at home with parents in the house.

All staff have responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of children. In situations where child abuse is suspected the aim is to support everyone concerned, although, it may be necessary to encourage the child or a family member to contact Social Services or, in accordance with the Centre's code of confidentiality, for the worker to do this having first discussed the matter with the Responsible Person or the Safeguarding Lead (The CEO), or in their absence the chairperson or the currently designated officer who will act in line with Sunderland Children's Safeguarding Board Guidance. In any situation where abuse is suspected the worker must notify the Responsible Person even if no further referral is appropriate. A record of any incidents will be kept and each entry signed and dated. Workers are also required to note any injuries a child may have when joining in Centre activities even if no abuse is suspected. If, during a discussion, a child seems likely to disclose abuse the worker must warn him or her of the worker's duty to take the matter further in accordance with this policy and their responsibilities to the child. The worker must also inform the child that he or she cannot keep a secret in these circumstances.

Workers should not attempt to question the child about what has happened but remain supportive to him/her.

Sunderland Carers' Centre has additional policies for the young carers' work – the misuse of alcohol and prohibited substances, and a framework for organising visits, outings and activities, including residential trips. These policies are available on request.

Please refer to Sunderland Carers' Centre Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

Agreed by Board 22nd November 2011

Reviewed: February 2015

Eibhlin Inglesby
Partnership and Policy Manager