

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Designated Safeguarding Officer	Mr. Roger Chadwick (Registered Manager)
Deputy Safeguarding Officer	Mr. Robert Newcombe (Assistant Manager)
Deputy Safeguarding Officer	Miss. Elizabeth Williams (Assistant Manager)
Date Last Reviewed	August 2019

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1** The organisation fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding young people. This policy is written in line with the “All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008”, which set out common standards for **all of Wales** to guide work in child protection and safeguarding, to make clear how agencies should work together, and to make sure that practice is consistent and of high quality. We are committed to the safety of the young people we have in our care and to full co-operation with other agencies in the interests of safeguarding children.

The *Children Act 1989 & 2004* and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, to which the UK is a signatory, lay out the following key principles:-

- 1.2** All young people deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They should be enabled to:
- be as physically and mentally healthy as possible;
  - gain the maximum benefit possible from good quality life opportunities;
  - live in a safe environment and be protected from harm;
  - experience emotional wellbeing;
  - feel loved and valued, and be supported by a network of reliable and affectionate relationships;
  - become competent in looking after themselves and coping with everyday living;
  - have a positive image of themselves and a secure sense of identity, including cultural and racial identity;
  - Develop good inter-personal skills and confidence in social situations.

## 1.3 There are three main elements to our policy:-

- **Prevention** through the teaching and pastoral support offered to the young people;
- **Procedures** for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.  
Because of our day to day contact with the young people staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse; and
- **Support** to young people who may have been abused.

## 1.4 Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the home including, but not limited to, care staff, cleaners, administrative staff as well as, teachers all of whom could be the first point of disclosure for a child.

## 2. Prevention

### 2.1 We recognise that high self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and good lines of communication with a trusted adult helps to safeguard young people. The home will therefore:-

- Establish and maintain an ethos where young people feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to;
- Ensure young people know that there are adults in the home whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty;
- Include in the home, activities and opportunities which equip young people with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and to know to whom to turn for help; and include material which will help young people develop realistic attitudes to the responsibilities of adult life, particularly with regard to childcare and parenting skills.

## 3. Procedures

### Responding to Allegations or Suspicions of Abuse

*All staff should be aware of the Procedure for responding to allegations of abuse against staff.*

**3.1** In the event of concerns being brought to the attention of the designated safeguarding officer they will, in the first instance, assess the information and decide on a further course of action. If further action is required, the latter will be referred within 24 hours to the relevant child protection agencies - See page 9 of this policy document for the procedure on dealing with an allegation relating to safeguarding.

In all instances, any concern should be reported straight to the **most senior staff on duty** in the building who will notify a designated safeguarding officer within 24 hours.

- 3.2** Clearly, if concerns are raised about a member of staff working within the home, then such a concern may provoke intense feelings for the staff team. Such situations are explored within the mandatory safeguarding training at Bryn Tirion Hall.
- 3.3** Staff are also reminded to refer to the organisations whistleblowing policy when dealing with such situations.
- 3.4** Within the context of actual concerns being raised, the need to deal with the situation in a young person focused and professional manner is the responsibility of all staff. At the same time, however, staff may need confidential support from another professional not directly involved, but aware of the issues. If necessary, outside professional counselling help will be sought.
- 3.5** The member of staff against whom the concern relates to, will be supported and kept informed throughout the course of the investigation. It is the responsibility of the designated safeguarding officer dealing with the concern to ensure that this happens. If the concern has been made against the Registered Manager, then the responsibility would rest with the Responsible Individual and Care Services Director of the organisation (Natalie Fletcher).
- 3.6** Where an allegation has been made against a member of staff which has subsequently resulted in 'suspension' to allow for an investigation to ensue, we will allocate a Manager to act as the point of contact. This process will take the form of weekly contact with said member of staff which will be based upon a welfare principle and in order to update/share information. The details around the type of contact will initially be phone call based, but may then take the route of face to face visits. This will be assessed by the allocated manager on a case by case basis.
- 3.7** It is important to remember that Safeguarding Investigations are not witch hunts but are a genuine attempt to gain a clear picture about what has happened and act to prevent such instances happening again. It is just as important to discover that a concern is unfounded, as it is to uncover any abuse that has occurred. Both situations require attention to the issues involved. Overall, however, the welfare of the young person remains paramount.
- 3.8** On the conclusion of the investigation, or where a member of staff may be subject to internal procedures ongoing welfare support should generally be regarded as appropriate.
- 3.9** It is imperative that in the first Section 4 meeting a common description is agreed between all members representing, which can then be shared with the person under suspension. This will avoid uncertainty and ensure (within the realms of an ongoing investigation and confidentiality) that the individual is subject to a Section 4 and on what grounds. This is conditional on issues noted above.
- 3.10** Concerns raised about someone from outside

If a concern is raised about someone from outside of the home, guidance will be sought from Social Services. It is important that staff do not attempt to make contact with the individual about whom the concerns relate, to discuss the matter.

### **3.11** Raising awareness of safeguarding issues

This will be achieved by ensuring that all staff:-

- are aware of the definitions of child abuse
- know how to respond if someone tells you that they or another young person is being abused;
- know how to respond if the behaviour of any adult towards young people causes them concern;
- are alert to potential indicators of abuse and neglect;
- are alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to young people;
- be aware of the effects of abuse and neglect on young people:
- contribute as required to whatever actions are needed to safeguard the young person and promote his or her welfare:
- contribute as necessary at all stages of the safeguarding process;
- are familiar with principles contained in the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008.
- are familiar with principles contained in the Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014
- Comply with The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016

### **3.12** The Regulated Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2017 see below) - Requirements on service providers – safeguarding (Part 8)

**Part 8 of the Regulations** is to ensure that service providers have in place the mechanisms to safeguard vulnerable individuals to whom they provide care and support. This includes arrangements that:

- support vulnerable individuals using the service;
- support and underpin staff knowledge, understanding and skill in identifying risks and action to take where abuse, neglect or improper treatment is suspected; and
- collaboratively work with partners to prevent and take action where abuse, neglect or improper treatment is suspected.

#### **Regulation 26 - Safeguarding** - overarching requirement

The service provider must provide the service in a way which ensures that individuals are safe and are protected from abuse, neglect and improper treatment.

**3.13** The following guidelines, as recommended by “All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008” will be given to staff should a young person disclose information of concern:

- Show that you have heard what they are saying, and that you take their disclosure seriously.
- Encourage the young person to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions. Do not interrupt when the young person is recalling significant events. Do not make the young person repeat their account.
- Explain what actions you must take, in a way which is appropriate to the age and understanding of the young person.
- Do not promise to keep what you have been told secret, as you have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know. Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust.
- Write down what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.
- Report your concerns to the most senior member of staff on duty.
- Do not confront the alleged abuser.
- Do not worry that you may be mistaken. The home will always take your concerns seriously and these will be followed up with the home’s child protection procedures. The welfare and safety of the young person is paramount.

**3.14** Procedure for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse

All staff will know their responsibilities as above and the name of the designated Safeguarding Officers.

**3.15** The designated Safeguarding Officers will know:-

- What services are available locally and how to gain access to them.
- What source of advice or expertise are available, who to contact, and how.
- What is in the child protection procedures and their own internal agency procedures?
- When and how to make a referral to the Social Services Department.
- Be able to contribute to a strategy discussion, assist with section 47 enquiries, write a report for and attend the Child Protection Strategy Meeting.
- Contribute towards the preparation of the Child Protection Plan and its ongoing implementation and review.

**The implementation of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 will always take precedence over a residential home's disciplinary process.**

**3.16** Supporting young people who have been abused in accordance with his/her agreed child protection plan.

We recognise that young people who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and some sense of blame. The home may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of a young person at risk. When at school, their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The home will endeavor to support the young person through:

- The Home's ethos
- The school's ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives young people a sense of being valued.
- The young person's placement plan which is aimed at supporting vulnerable young people in the home.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the young person such as Social Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, CIW & Youth Justice Service.
- Ensuring that, where a young person on the child protection register leaves, their information is transferred to the new placement immediately and that the young persons' social worker is informed as well as CIW and the Health Board.

**3.17** Establishing a safe environment in which a young person can learn and develop and equip them with the skills needed to keep them safe.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with our young people, staff are well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The Home will therefore:

- Establish and maintain an environment where young people feel secure and valued, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
- Ensure young people know that there are adults whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Adopt working practices that minimise situations where abuse of a young person may occur;
- Promote the use of the complaints procedures and ensure that a young person has ready access to a trusted adult outside their education environment.
- Include opportunities in the home for young people to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

- Ensure that parents or carers and placing authorities have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the home and staff for safeguarding young people by setting out its obligations in placement meetings.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding safeguarding matters including attendance at case conferences.

**3.18** Within this environment, we will ensure that all staff recognise the need to listen to the young people in our care. Most of them will be of sufficient age and understanding to have a clear perception of what needs to be done to ensure their safety and wellbeing and can be helped to understand how safeguarding processes work. Their wishes and feelings should always inform any decisions as long as they are helped to understand that ultimately decisions will be taken in the light of all available information contributed by themselves, the staff and the professionals involved.

**3.19** Keeping written records

The home will ensure that all safeguarding work has clear, accurate and complete recordkeeping. Anyone who has concern about a young person's welfare will write down their concerns and any subsequent discussion with other staff and the designated Safeguarding Officers will be recorded in writing, making a note of the date and those present. The explicit agreement about whether or not action will be taken must also be recorded. These "concerns" may help to put together a picture that suggests that a young person may be suffering harm.

The written records will provide a clear documented account of events, will provide the basis for professional judgments and will enable the work to be monitored. It will also provide essential sources of evidence for investigation and enquiries and for court cases.

**3.20** The Home will ensure that all records:-

- use clear, straightforward language;
- are concise, accurate factual, distinguishing between opinion, judgments & hypothesis;
- are comprehensive & clarify where decisions have been made jointly across agencies;
- give the relevant history of the young person which led to the intervention;
- outline the nature of the interventions, including intended outcomes;
- state the means by which change is to be achieved;
- clearly indicate the progress being made.

### 3.21 The Home will also ensure that:-

- all records are kept securely; separate from the main young person's file, and in a locked location;
- These records are only accessible to relevant individuals when needed.

### 3.22 Safe recruitment practices

Recruitment and selection of staff will be rigorous and will include obtaining references and work history. In addition, all staff and volunteers at the home will be subject to enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services checks relevant to their role.

### 3.23 Training

All new staff as part of their induction training receive basic Safeguarding Awareness Training. This then forms part of the mandatory training for staff on an annual basis. Thereafter, staff also receive additional training relative to the specific needs of the young people living in the home.

### 3.24 Use of Personal Mobile Phones (Staff)

- Personal mobile phones **must not be used during working hours** unless through agreement with CLT for emergency purposes only.
- Personal mobile phones, if brought on site should be switched off and **must be handed in** for safe and recorded storage **without exception** during working hours.
- It is strictly forbidden to take pictures of young people using a personal mobile phone and to show unsuitable material/images downloaded onto a personal phone to young people and staff.
- These restrictions are put in place to safeguard staff and the young people within the home and form part of the organisations safeguarding procedures.

### 3.25 Use of Social Networking Sites

- It is strictly forbidden for staff to engage with young people currently placed within the organisation, via any form of social networking sites (Facebook / Instagram / WhatsApp / Twitter / etc.)
- It is also **strongly recommended** that staff do not engage in communication with young people via these social networking sites who have previously been accommodated within the organisation.
- The only approved form of networking communication with young people is through the organisations internal email system.



#### 4. Radicalisation

- 4.1** Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, go on to participate in terrorist groups. Staff must remain vigilant of indicators to this.

#### 4.2 Principle Duties

Child care providers must have regard to the statutory guidance issued under Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Paragraphs 57-76 of the guidance are concerned specifically with childcare providers in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the **Prevent Duty**. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies. The specified authorities are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable children, young people and/or the national security

General duty on specified authorities:

- The home must have due regard to the need to prevent young people from being drawn into terrorism.
- In order to fulfil the ‘Prevent Duty’, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and terrorism, and know what to do when they are identified.
- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the home’s wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.
- Building resilience of young people and the promotion of fundamental British values is at the heart of preventing radicalisation. This can be achieved by providing safe places in which children can discuss controversial issues, and be given the knowledge and confidence to challenge extremist beliefs and ideologies.

#### 4.3 Understanding Our Role

It is important that the home and staff have an understanding of the following in respect of Radicalisation.

- **Definition** - The process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, go on to participate in terrorist groups
- **Risks** - Young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. These can include the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet via Social media or other websites.

- **Indicators** - It is important that staff understand the potential indicators, or behaviours young people may present that demonstrate they are at risk to being radicalised.
- **Proactive Responses** - Protecting young people from radicalisation and extremism requires careful assessment and working collaboratively across agencies as initially concerns may be inconclusive and protecting the young person against a potential risk can be dependent on a wider range of factors. Sharing information effectively and keeping the young person in focus, should be the main aim of any intervention.
- **Protection and Action to be taken** - At the point of referral, the registered manager of the home should consider whether radicalisation/extremism has been identified as a risk. In the case that it is, an assessment will be made. The assessment process may lead to a Strategy discussion, Section 47 Enquiry and an Initial Child Protection Conference, if there are concerns about the child or young person suffering significant harm.

#### 4.4 Procedures

- Build the young person's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.
- The 'Prevent Duty' is not intended to stop young people debating controversial issues.
- Assess the risk of young people being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- The general risks affecting young people may vary from area to area, and according to their age. The home must identify risks within a given local context.
- Respond in an appropriate and proportionate way.
- Staff should be alert to changes in young people's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Those at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

### 5. Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) / Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

#### 5.1 What is Child Criminal Exploitation?

Child criminal exploitation is increasingly used to describe this type of exploitation where children are involved.

**Child Criminal Exploitation** is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been

criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines, and includes for instance children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft.

### **5.2 How does it affect young people?**

Like other forms of abuse and exploitation, county lines exploitation:

- can affect any child or young person (male or female) under the age of 18 years;
- can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual;
- can involve force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence;
- can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and young people or adults; and
- is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation. Whilst age may be the most obvious, this power imbalance can also be due to a range of other factors including gender, cognitive ability, physical strength, status, and access to economic or other resources.

One of the key factors found in most cases of county lines exploitation is the presence of some form of exchange (e.g. carrying drugs in return for something).

Where it is the victim who is offered, promised or given something they need or want, the exchange can include both tangible (such as money, drugs or clothes) and intangible rewards (such as status, protection or perceived friendship or affection).

### **5.3 What is Child Sexual Exploitation?**

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.

Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed and exploited online.

### **5.4 Reporting process for CCE / CSE.**

If you are worried that a young person is at immediate risk of harm you should follow the homes safeguarding procedures to report the incident.

A further mechanism of referral is to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), referring any young person or adult suspected of being a potential victim of trafficking or modern slavery to the NRM is escalated after appropriate safeguarding steps have been taken and in light of multi-agency discussions.

## 6. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- 6.1 Female genital mutilation (FGM) is first and foremost a violation of girls' and women's human rights. There is no developmental, religious or health-related justification for the harmful practice.

FGM is practiced in a variety of forms but is defined as ***“any procedure that involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”***

### 6.2 What are the dangers of FGM?

- FGM poses immediate risks to girls' health including severe pain and bleeding, difficulty in passing urine, infections, and even death due to hemorrhagic or neurogenic shock.
- The practice often leaves girls with long-term scars as well: post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic pain, HIV infection, cysts, abscesses, genital ulcers, etc.
- Girls who have undergone FGM also face an increased risk of complications affecting their menstrual cycles, sometimes resulting in infertility.

### 6.3 Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

Supports females and aims to build a system to prevent the abuse. FGM has been a specific criminal offence in the UK since 1985 when the (UK-wide) Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act (“the 1985 Act”) was passed. The female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) replaced the 1985 Act in England, Wales and Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>. It modernised the offence of FGM and the offence of assisting a girl to carry out FGM on herself while also creating extra-territorial offences to deter people from taking girls abroad for mutilation. To reflect the serious harm caused, the 2003 Act increased the maximum penalty for any of the FGM offences from five to 14 years' imprisonment.

### 6.4 Support Procedures - Duty to notify police of female genital mutilation

The introduction of a mandatory reporting duty for FGM. The intention is that the new duty will make professionals' responsibilities in respect of FGM absolutely clear, and that it will aid police investigations and support an increase in the number of perpetrators caught and prosecuted.

Section 74 inserts new section 5B into the 2003 Act which creates a new mandatory reporting duty requiring specified regulated professionals in England and Wales to make a report to the police. The duty applies where, in the course of their professional duties, a professional discovers that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl aged under 18 (at the time of the discovery).

The duty applies where the professional either:

- is informed by the girl that an act of FGM has been carried out on her, or

- observes physical signs which appear to show an act of FGM has carried out and has no reason to believe that the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth.

**The duty applies to professionals working within healthcare or social care and social care workers in Wales.**

### **6.5 Reporting process**

This is to be carried out using the homes safeguarding procedures.

## **7. Safe Touch**

It is important that all staff working in the home familiarise themselves with the individual case documents relating to the young people they support (Individual Behaviour Support Plan, Risk Management Form, Personal Plan, Risk Assessments, etc.)

- For staff to feel confident in their working practice in relation to physical contact with young people in their care.
- A commitment to supporting staff and managers both in establishing and maintaining safe working practices.
- A commitment to the provision of appropriate support for staff and young people.
- A clear understanding of responsibilities for staff.
- To demonstrate a commitment to providing appropriate guidance for staff.

### **7.1 Staff can only touch young people:**

- to prevent imminent injury to a young person or staff member
- to prevent serious damage to property
- to provide planned care
- to encourage or assist
- to reinforce appropriate physical presence when touch is not resisted or rejected by the young person

**7.2** It is recognised that there are times when young people are in need of physical reassurance. Staff should feel comfortable with this as long as it is appropriate, the young person accepts the gesture, is reassured by it and understands the staff member's intention.

**7.3** Staff should not encourage young people to sit on their laps or lie down on top of them etc. but can encourage a young person to sit next to them so that they are safely touching if they are in need of reassurance.

**7.4** Staff need to be aware that for young people who have suffered abuse, physical contact may have upsetting connotations and result in a negative reaction.

**7.5** Cultural factors are significant with regard to physical contact and a young person's culture needs to be respected at all times.

- 7.6** Young people with special needs e.g. an autistic disorder, may be particularly averse to physical contact and need their own personal space. Staff should always adopt a young person centred approach and be guided by the relevant supporting case information.
- 7.7** Staff need to remember that some young people are indiscriminate in their affections and in their approaches to unfamiliar adults and other young people. The home aims to encourage young people to learn about appropriate touching. Inappropriate touching by young people should be discouraged and where possible the incident should be discussed with the young person.

### DECLARATION

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the safeguarding policy, procedure and guidance for safe working practice and the protection of young people.

I understand that if I do not abide by this aforementioned guidance, I may be subject to an internal disciplinary investigation or section 47 investigation (Children Act, 1989)

Signed.....

Date.....

**Policy Reviewed and Updated:** August 2019  
**Next Scheduled Review:** February 2020

## Appendix 1

### Linked Documents

<b>Safeguarding</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Safeguarding	Safeguarding Policy E-Safety Policy Anti-Bullying Policy
Health and Safety	Health & Safety Policy
Lone Working	Lone Working Policy
Complaints process	Complaints (Young Person) Policy Complaints, Compliments & Representations Policy
Notifications	Notifications & Reporting of Incidents & Significant Events Policy
Additional staff support (management)	On Call Policy Disaster, Response and Recovery Plan (DRRP)
Use of mobile phones by staff (restrictions that apply)	Mobile Phone Policy
Missing episodes	Missing From Home Policy
Expectations of staff	Employee Handbook
Missing Children	All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 – Missing Children
Child Sexual Exploitation	All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 – Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children who are at Risk of Abuse through Sexual Exploitation
Legislation	The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016
Legislation	The Regulated Services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2017
Legislation	Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014
Legislation	Protection of Children Act 1999 (POCA)
Legislation	Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
Legislation	The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

## Appendix 2

### SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES – FLOW CHART

Young person shares a concern  
(discloses) or something of concern is  
observed

Record word for word and inform senior staff member on  
duty

Designated Safeguarding Officer is notified (within 24 hours)  
in order to make an internal assessment and decision

If immediate safety concerns then contact police

***If further action is required***

Referral made to Local Authority Social Services and  
Safeguarding team (within 24 hours - verbal) using the North  
Wales Children's Services referral form  
(Within 48 hours - written)

Flintshire Safeguarding Team carries out an initial  
assessment and decides what action is to be taken

#### Section 17 –

“Child in need” – extra provision;  
not judged to be at risk of  
significant harm

#### Section 47 –

Serious Case – actual harm or  
likely significant harm; may well  
involve police



## Appendix 3

### **Definitions of child abuse and neglect (As defined by “All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008”)**

A child may be abused or neglected by a person inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. A child or young person up to the age of 18 years can suffer abuse or neglect and require protection via an inter-agency Child Protection Plan.

**Physical abuse** – this 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 or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation may be described as fabricated or induced illness by carer.

**Emotional abuse** - this is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve 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 ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Sexual abuse** - this involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Neglect** - this 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. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

**Race, ethnicity and culture** - We will ensure that we are always aware of differing lifestyles and patterns of child rearing that vary across different racial, ethnic and cultural groups and also the broader social factors that can lead to discrimination against black and minority ethnic people. We will ensure that we are not affected by myths and stereotypes, both positive and negative; neither will we allow anxiety about being accused of racist practice prevent us from taking necessary action. At all times, we will put the safety of the young person first.