

Safeguarding Children Policy

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Preface

“Through our work as Councillors, staff and contractors, we all come across children and their families.

Occasionally we might see something that concerns us, and may worry that a child is at risk of being abused, harmed, neglected or exploited. Where this is the case Waverley expects Councillors, staff and contractors to act responsibly and report their concerns to the relevant part of Surrey County Council.

This is a sensitive area. The Council will always support the decision to make a referral, because we all want to help protect children and improve their quality of life.

By taking action you could save a life.”

Cllr Simon Thornton

Portfolio holder for Children and Young People

Policy Statement

Waverley Borough Council is committed to its responsibilities as a local authority with respect to children's safeguarding, such that:

- the needs and wishes of each child, be they a baby or infant, or an older child, are be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates;*
- all professionals who come into contact with children and families are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;*
- all professionals share appropriate information in a timely way and can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues*
- all professionals contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote a child's welfare and take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans and outcomes*

Waverley recognises that:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective*
each professional and organisation should play their full part;
- a child-centred approach is intrinsic to the process: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children*

Scope of Policy

This policy covers all activities, areas and services provided by the Council, its agents, contractors or partners, and includes all Council employees, volunteers, agency workers, contractors and partners for and on behalf of the Council who come into contact with children and young people covered by this policy whilst going about their daily duties. The policy is also considered to be an appropriate reference guide for use by those Councillors whose particular roles may involve them coming into contact with children and young people.

This policy aims to provide a brief introduction to the law in relation to children's safeguarding, and offers practical guidance about safeguarding children to all employees, services, agencies and other professionals working with the Council.

This policy highlights the main themes and issues in children's safeguarding, defines key terms, delineates some of the possible indicators of abuse, and recommends what action to take when dealing with a suspected or actual case of abuse against a child. It also includes a list of contacts of organisations which can provide help and support to both children and practitioners.

Please see related 'Safeguarding children: procedure' document in annexe for detailed outline of procedures to follow when dealing with safeguarding concerns and disclosures. This Policy complements the Council's Safeguarding Adults Policy.

1. Introduction

This policy has been produced to meet the Council's duties and obligations with respect to children and young people. Waverley Borough Council, like all public authorities, has a statutory duty to help safeguard children and young people to assist its partners, particularly the County Council, in doing so.

According to statutory guidance under the Children's Act 1989 and 2004, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children (individuals under the age of 18) is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

It is part of this Council's ethos to want to serve everyone in our community so they can live happy, healthy, safe and fulfilled lives. Our Corporate Plan and other policy documents outline how we do this in terms of service provision and improvement and community leadership.

Although we do not have primary statutory responsibility for the role of safeguarding children, we do provide a range of services directly or indirectly for these client groups and where our Councillors, staff, Contractors, partners and volunteers come into contact with them. For example:

- Play areas, recreation grounds and leisure centres
- Council housing
- Tenancy and Estates and Housing Maintenance
- Housing Options and Family Support

We need to ensure that when delivering services in people's homes or at our venues, proper systems are in place to ensure that everyone is safe, particularly those who are less able to protect themselves. We need to be alert to signs of abuse and neglect and be prepared to raise our concerns with Surrey County Council who will follow up on these concerns and determine the best course of action for a particular child.

All those who come into contact with children and young people in their every day work, including staff who do not have a specific role in relation to safeguarding children and young people, have a duty to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare and wellbeing. It is vital that every person who has contact with children and young people should be able to recognise when such groups are, or may be, at risk of harm.

The adoption of a Safeguarding Children Policy brings with it the requirement to regulate many of our services, including specific recruitment and selection, training and vetting procedures. The policy highlights the need for ongoing

training in safeguarding at all levels of the organisation so as to ensure that the policy is adhered to in a consistent manner.

2. Legislative/regulatory Context

There is a great deal of legislation which is relevant to different aspects of safeguarding children, making the area a complex and potentially difficult one. However, the most relevant pieces of government guidance and legislation which relate to safeguarding children include the following:

Children Act (1989)

The Act introduced the concept of 'children in need' and pinpointed 'significant harm' as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. The Act established that in cases where a practitioner is concerned about maltreatment, Children's Social Care for that area must initiate enquiries to find out what is happening to the child and whether protective action is required. Local authorities were also given the duty to make enquiries if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. The Act also stipulated that local authorities have to give due regard to a child's wishes when determining what services to provide, before making decisions about action to be taken to protect that child.

Human Rights Act (1998)

The Act, which came into force in 2000, incorporated the European Convention of Human Rights into UK law. The principle relevant passages consist of articles 2 (the right to life), 3 (prohibition on torture and inhumane or degrading treatment), 5 (the right to liberty) and 8 (the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence).

Children Act (2004)

The Act requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate. The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the wellbeing of all children in the authority's area, which includes protection from harm and neglect. The Act also required each local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board for their area.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)

The Act established the need for individuals wishing to work with children or vulnerable adults to be registered. The Act also established the Vetting and Barring Scheme, which oversaw the creation of two separate but aligned Independent Safeguarding Authority Barred Lists – one, a list of individuals barred from working with children, and the other a list of individuals barred from working with vulnerable adults. Pre-employment vetting was also introduced alongside Barred Lists.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013)

This piece of statutory guidance includes advice on providing early help, information sharing and focusing on the needs and views of the child. The

guidance also stipulates that social workers must make a decision within one working day of receiving a referral about what type of response is required and must acknowledge receipt to the referrer.

3. Definitions

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the process of protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment – a person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. The abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional or be a form of neglect.

A **child**, in the context of safeguarding children, is any child or young person aged 0 to 19 years old (up to 25 years of age for young people with special needs).

A **child in need**, under the Children Act 1989, is a child whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services. The term also includes children who are disabled. Assessments by an appointed social worker are carried out in order to establish whether a child is in need or not. The critical factors to be taken into account in deciding whether a child is in need are what will happen to a child's health or development without services and what effect the services are likely to have on the child's standard of health and development.

Significant harm was introduced by the Children Act (1989) as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. The local authority is under a duty to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made, where it has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. To make enquiries involves assessing what is happening to a child. Decisions about significant harm are complex and should be informed by a careful assessment of the child's circumstances, and discussion between the statutory agencies and with the child and family.

MAPPAs (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) are put in place to ensure the successful management of violent and sexual offenders.

MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a regular local meeting where information about high risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies.

MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub), based at Guildford Police Station, provides a shared space for members of the Police, Children's Services, Adult Services, the Mental Health Team and Victim Support to communicate and coordinate their actions. The Hub receives notices of adults at risk and children coming to the attention of Police. It facilitates multi agency information sharing and action and ensures that coordinated approaches to risk assessments and cases are carried out.

Safeguarding Support Group is a Waverley-only monitoring group, which oversees the safeguarding@waverley.gov.uk email address and monitors safeguarding processes throughout the Council. As of October 2014, the Safeguarding Support Group is comprised of Kelvin Mills (x3432), Katie Webb (x3340) and Julie Shaw (x3245).

The Guildford and Waverley Children's Safeguarding Area Board brings together staff at Head of Service level and others as appropriate to ensure Waverley's compliance with Safeguarding issues for children. The Board meets regularly and discusses safeguarding guidance, policy and protocols, ensures that appropriate multi-agency information occurs and supports serious case reviews. The Family Support Team Manager currently sits on this Board.

4. Roles and responsibilities

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: any member of staff may come into contact with children or young people at risk of abuse throughout their work across the Borough of Waverley. This means that all activities, areas and services provided by the Council, its employees, volunteers, agency workers, partners or contractors, have a responsibility to be alert to safeguarding children and young people.

All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including practitioners who do not have a specific role in relation to safeguarding children, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. You are likely to be involved in three main ways:

- you may have concerns about a child, and refer those concerns to Children's Social Care or the police;
- you may be approached by children's social care and asked to provide information about a child or family or to be involved in an assessment. This may happen regardless of who made the referral to children's social care;
- you may be asked to provide help or a specific service to the child or a member of their family as part of an agreed plan and contribute to the reviewing of the child's progress.

Staff have a duty to raise an alert (by contacting Surrey County Council) if they suspect or know that abuse, neglect or maltreatment (including sexual exploitation) has occurred towards a child, it must be done as soon as possible, in order to minimise the possible danger towards the child. If the case meets the Children's Social Care threshold, they will take on formal responsibility for the case, and will assign a social worker to the child and their family. If the case does not meet the Children's Social Care's threshold, Children's Services may carry out an Early Help Assessment, and Waverley has a monitoring responsibility. This means that staff must keep accumulating and documenting evidence about the child and their situation, as part of an ongoing assessment of whether a referral needs to be made.

Staff also have a duty to contact the Police or medical services in cases of emergency, when a crime has been committed or an individual's life is at risk.

Staff must also ensure that all records they keep relating to safeguarding issues include the recording of decisions taken with regards to a child and the reasoning behind these decisions.

5. Identifying a child at risk

Staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs;
- is a young carer;
- is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour;
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence;
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- is disclosing information that causes concern
- is accompanied or represented by an adult who discloses information that causes concern

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

Children's Services at Surrey County Council are responsible for carrying out formal Early Help Assessments.

5.1 Identifying abuse

Signs of abuse can often be difficult to detect, especially because the child may not be aware that they are being abused. However, the following non-specific signs may indicate that something is wrong:

- a significant change in behaviour
- extreme anger or sadness

- aggressive and attention seeking behaviour
- suspicious bruises with unsatisfactory explanations
- lack of self-esteem
- self injury
- depression
- age-inappropriate sexual behaviour
- child sexual exploitation

The four main categories of abuse that a child may be subjected to are physical, emotional, sexual abuse and acts of neglect. Please see **Annexe 1** for an explanation of each, including possible indicators.

Staff must keep in mind that instances of antisocial behaviour, harassment, bullying and hate crime may feed into safeguarding concerns. Recording instances of the latter in full and dealing with them adequately when they arise will help to prevent cases and safeguarding concerns developing.

5.2 Concerns about child abuse

The following section is intended to be read alongside the procedures to follow when a disclosure has been made about a child or you suspect that abuse has occurred towards a child. The procedures can be found outlined in full in **Annexe 2**.

When receiving a disclosure about the child or after witnessing an event which makes you suspect the child is being abused or neglected, you will need to make a quick evaluation of the situation and decide whether the situation is an emergency.

5.3 In cases of emergency

Where there is a risk to the life of a child or a likelihood of serious immediate harm, an agency with statutory child protection powers (Children's Social Care, the Police or NSPCC) should act quickly to secure the immediate safety of the child. If a crime has been or is about to be committed, or an individual's life is in immediate danger, please call the police and/or medical services on 999.

Record full details and preserve all evidence relating to the child and suspected or actual abuse.

Once you have contacted the emergency services, contact Children's Social Care at Surrey County Council (0300 200 1006). For the out of hours emergency duty team, call 01483 517 898. Staff should also fill out the Report It form on Backstage, to keep the Waverley Safeguarding Support Group informed of safeguarding cases. Staff should note that the Report It form is not a referral form: it is a monitoring tool which is used by the Safeguarding Support Group at Waverley.

5.4 In Cases of Non-Emergency

If you have concerns about a child, or receive a disclosure about abuse, neglect or maltreatment of a child from a member of the public, record full information about the disclosure and the person making the disclosure, including name(s), address(es), gender, date of birth, name(s) of person(s) with parental responsibility (for consent purposes) and primary carer(s), if different, and keep this information up to date.

Check whether other agencies are aware of the child and their situation. Remember that an allegation of child abuse or neglect may lead to a criminal investigation, so do not do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation, such as asking leading questions or attempting to investigate the allegations yourself. Clarify the situation, but do not conduct an investigation: Children's Services are responsible for this. Record in writing all concerns, discussions about the child, decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions. The child's records should include an up-to-date chronology, and details of the lead worker in the relevant agency, if there is one.

Seek to discuss your concerns with the child (as appropriate to their age and understanding) and their parents/carers in order to seek their agreement to making a referral to Children's Social Care. However, if sharing these concerns puts the child at risk of significant or further harm, seek advice from the duty manager at Children's Social Care.

5.5 Receiving a disclosure from a child

Staff must take any disclosure from a child seriously and should react calmly to the disclosure. You must not promise confidentiality to the child: you must make it clear that you may need to inform other people about the child's disclosure.

Do not make assumptions about what the child is saying or put words in the child's mouth. Avoid interrogating the child or asking leading questions. Staff must not verify the abuse: this is the responsibility of Child Protection. Take full notes of all the details after the disclosure has been made. Use direct quotes from the child as much as possible.

Reassure the child that they have done the right thing in telling you. Tell them what you will do next. Seek to discuss your concerns with the child (as appropriate to their age and understanding) and their parents/carers in order to seek their agreement to making a referral to Children's Social Care. However, if sharing these concerns puts the child at risk of significant or further harm, seek advice from the duty manager at Children's Social Care.

5.6 Making a Referral

As soon as possible on the same day that the concern about a child has been made, discuss it with your line manager. The longer intervention is delayed, the more potential damage could be made to the child in question. Your line manager will decide whether an alert needs to be raised by referring the case to Children's Services. **You or your manager could also, without necessarily identifying the child in question, discuss your concerns with**

the Referral Assessment and Intervention Service Team in order to develop an understanding of the child's needs and circumstances - call Children's Services on 0300 200 1006.

If, after discussing the case with your manager, you are concerned that the child may be a child in need, or may be at risk of suffering significant harm, and believe that the child and their parents would benefit from further services, contact Children's Social Care at Surrey County Council to make a referral (0300 200 1006). Agree with the recipient of the referral what the child and parents will be told, by whom and when. Staff must record information relating to all the steps taken (including decisions taken and the reasoning behind them) and individuals or external agencies contacted. Whatever the outcome, staff must ensure that they follow up on all cases referred to the Children's Social Care Team in order to track and record what has happened to it.

The Safeguarding Report It form, found on Backstage, must be completed after a discussion with your line manager and after you have raised a safeguarding concern. The form should be sent to safeguarding@waverley.gov.uk. It is important to always use this form as this enables senior management and Waverley's Safeguarding Support Group to: ensure the correct action and procedures have been taken when the initial concern is raised; monitor the progress of the case and ensure services or individuals within the Council are completing any actions, if required; monitor all safeguarding concerns and report on any trends.

All staff should note that when an alert is raised by telephone, they should confirm it in writing within 48 hours. Children's Social Care should acknowledge your written referral within one working day of receiving it, so if you have not heard back within 3 working days, contact Children's Social Care again and follow up on the referral. All staff at Waverley must ensure that they follow up on all cases referred to the Children's Social Care Team in order to track and record what has happened to it.

If the case meets the Children's Social Care threshold, they will take on formal responsibility for the case, and will assign a social worker to the child and their family. The social worker will then form an appropriate care plan for the child in question. If your concerns are about a child who is already known to Children's Social Care, the allocated social worker should be informed of your concerns: this can be arranged through your contact with Children's Social Care.

If the case does not meet the Children's Social Care threshold, keep accumulating and documenting evidence about the child and their situation, as part of an ongoing assessment of whether a referral needs to be made. Children's Social Care must inform the person making the referral of their decision not to take on the case in writing (by email) – all staff at Waverley must ensure that they follow up on all cases referred to the Adult Social Care Team in order to track and record what has happened to it. Refer the child or their family to relevant support organisations (see below for more information).

5.7 Allegations Against Staff

Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to the actions of employees who wilfully or otherwise disregard legislative guidance or regulations, local Safeguarding Board decisions or Borough Council guidance and policy. Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour, including when a colleague is the source of concern. For more information, please refer to the Council's Whistleblowing policy.

Staff should voice their concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as they feel they can. The earlier a concern is expressed, the easier and sooner action can be taken. Staff should approach their immediate manager, Head of Service or Service Director. If the concern is about an immediate manager or a Head of Service, contact Surrey County Council's Child Protection Team.

If an allegation against a Council employee is made (whether the alleged abuse or neglect occurred within their job responsibilities or outside of their work for Waverley), a thorough investigation will be implemented in accordance with the Council's Disciplinary and Dismissal Procedures. Any investigation under this procedure will not be confused with separate statutory investigations by Children's Services or the Police.

6. Recording and Monitoring

All staff must ensure that any records kept about clients and their children are up-to-date, comprehensive and include notes relating to possible safeguarding concerns. Accurate records about safeguarding concerns relating **both** to tenants and the general public in Waverley must be kept. Keeping accurate records will protect staff and ensure that neglect, maltreatment and risk of significant harm can be prevented. Should the case develop into a serious safeguarding concern, a wealth of evidence and notes will be available about the child and their situation. Good record keeping can allow the building of a wider picture and identify patterns of behaviour and prevent abuse from occurring.

Staff must also take note of and be alert to the fact that instances of antisocial behaviour and hate crime can feed into safeguarding concerns.

Staff must also ensure that all records they keep relating to safeguarding issues include the recording of decisions taken with regards to a child and the reasoning behind these decisions.

Clear and accurate records must be kept whenever a complaint or allegation of abuse is made. Detailed factual records must be kept, including the date, time and circumstances in which conversations were held.

It is recommended that all case files be retained for a minimum of 30 years from the last contact with the individual, or 10 years from their death.

The Safeguarding Report It form, found on Backstage, must be completed once a safeguarding concern has been raised and sent to safeguarding@waverley.gov.uk. It is important to always use this form as this enables senior management and Waverley's Safeguarding Support Group to: ensure the correct action and procedures have been taken when the initial concern is raised; monitor the progress of the case and ensure services or individuals within the Council are completing any actions, if required; monitor all safeguarding concerns and report on any trends.

6.1 Sharing Information

Waverley has signed up to share information in accordance with the Surrey Multi-Agency Information Sharing Protocol (MAISP). This is the overarching agreement which underpins information sharing between agencies in Surrey. The protocol and Waverley's Information Governance officer should be consulted where there is any concern as to whether or how to share information.

7. Recruitment

All employers must be alert to the possibility that any person may pose a risk of harm to children or young people. Employers of staff or volunteers who have access to children must guard against the potential abuse, through a rigorous selection process, DBS checks, supervision, training and ongoing awareness of staff behaviour.

Waverley has specific recruitment procedures in place to ensure that children and young people are protected from potential harm. These include:

- Risk assessments of all posts
- Relevant job descriptions and person specifications being issued with an application form
- All staff/volunteers completing an application form
- Qualifications and details of competence being requested and checked
- References being requested and followed up
- All staff undergoing an enhanced DBS check
- Waverley's annual appraisal system and review procedure ensuring that posts and their responsibilities are regularly tracked

8. Partner Organisations and Contractors

Waverley Borough Council requires that all its partner organisations and contractors who work with children and young people have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place which complement their own.

Officers responsible for negotiating and monitoring contracts are required to ensure that all contractors and partner organisations:

- have relevant policies and procedures in place
- have robust recruitment procedures in places

- train their staff appropriately
- have adequate and appropriate reporting procedures in place
- ensure safeguarding children policy requirements are never contravened

9. Training and support

Every new member of staff at Waverley is given a brief introduction to safeguarding adults and children during their induction. Further, more comprehensive safeguarding training is available to all staff and can be organised through the officer in charge of training in Employee Services.

The aim of the training is to make staff aware of:

- Their responsibility to act when concerns about a child or young person arise
- The respective roles and responsibilities of the different professionals
- Thresholds for intervention from Waverley and intervention from Surrey County Council
- Ways to identify children and young people who are at risk
- Ways to recognise risks and situations where abuse might be occurring
- The appropriate way to accurately record facts, including concerns about abuse and neglect and actions taken as a result
- Appropriate inter-agency working

10. Support Groups and Organisations

Languageline Interpreting Service

Provides interpreters.

languageline.co.uk

0800 169 2879

NSPCC

Charity which works to end cruelty to children in the UK.

0808 800 5000 (for practitioners needing advice)

0800 1111 (for children seeking help and support)

South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service

Provides advice and support for victims of domestic abuse.

1483 577 392

11. Useful Contacts

Surrey County Council: Children's Services (Referral Assessment and Intervention Services, RAIS Team): 0300 200 1006

Surrey County Council Emergency Duty Team (out of hours): 01483 517898
 edt.ssd@surreycc.gov.uk

Author and feedback

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The Council welcomes comments and feedback on its policies and procedures.
Please contact Helen Burgess or Louise Norie if you have any comments.

Related Information

Other Related Council Policies/Information

[Safeguarding Adults Policy](#)

Other Documents:

[How to talk to a child about child abuse and neglect disclosures](#) - Speak Up Be Safe (2008)

[Information sharing: guidance for practitioners and managers](#) - HM Government (2008)

[Surrey Safeguarding Board Procedures Manual](#) - Surrey County Council

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#) - HM Government (2006)

[Working together to safeguard children](#) - Department for Education (2013)

Annexe 1: Types of Abuse and Possible Indicators

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

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, 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, sexual on-line images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born it may involve a parent failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Annexe 2: Safeguarding Children Procedures

