



Safeguarding Child Protection Policy Statement

WILD acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Safeguarding Children's Board requirements, with particular reference to The Children Act 1989 and 2004, Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, Protection of Children Act 1999, Working Together 2018, and South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP).

WILD's policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and unborn children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children:

- Enjoy positive activities at WILD, in a safe and child centred environment
- Are protected from abuse, both at WILD and outside of WILD

WILD knows that some children, including disabled children and those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse, including sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, fabricated or induced illness, forced marriage, modern slavery, honour-based violence and prevention of radicalisation. WILD accepts the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

Research indicates that young babies are particularly vulnerable to abuse but that work carried out in the antenatal period can help minimise harm if there is early help, assessment, intervention and support.

As part of our Safeguarding Policy WILD will:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of unborn children
- Ensure everyone at WILD understands their safeguarding roles and responsibilities
- Provide learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents or concerns of abuse
- Provide support to people who raise or disclose concerns
- Provide support for staff in dealing with concerns
- Ensure confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- Prevent the employment of unsuitable people
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in place
- Work effectively in partnership with other agencies

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in WILD. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed and may result in dismissal or exclusion from WILD.

The policy will be reviewed every year, or following changes in legislation and guidance, or as required by our Safeguarding Children's Partnership.





Safeguarding Child Protection Policy

WILD Child Protection Policy works within, and alongside ***“South West Child Protection Procedures” (SWCPP)***, ***“Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018” (Working Together)*** and DfE; ***What To Do If You Are Worried About A Child (What To Do)***.

WILD’s **Child Protection Policy** provides an overview of WILD’s specific child protection procedures, but all staff and volunteers will need to use **SWCPP**, **Working Together** and **What To Do** as WILD’s key safeguarding policy documents.

This policy also works alongside guidance for specific types of abuse, including CIOS OSCP’s ***Child Sexual Exploitation*** Risk Assessment Toolkit, and CIOS OSCP’s Multi Agency Practice Guidance re ***Female Genital Mutilation and regarding Fabricated or Induced Illness***.

WILD follows Safer Cornwall guidelines on ***Modern Slavery, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence*** and ***Prevention of Radicalisation***.

Working Together defines SAFEGUARDING as: *protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of childrens’ 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 life chances.*

Working Together defines CHILD PROTECTION as: *Part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.*

1. Safer Recruitment

WILD’s **Safer Recruitment Policy** and **Disclosure and Barring Policy** outline WILD’s duties and procedures to ensure safer recruitment of staff and volunteers, including use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and references. All roles within WILD are considered as ‘*regulated activity*’. All roles within WILD are also subject to **Disqualification by Association** declarations.

2. Training and supervision

- All staff, including casual-paid staff and volunteers, will undertake Level 1 training
- All contracted staff will undertake Level 2 Single Agency Child Protection Training, run internally by a WILD trainer, trained to OSCP standards
- Identified staff will undertake higher level multi-agency child protection training
- Induction for staff and volunteers will include safeguarding policy and procedures introduction meeting

- Team meetings will include a focus on safeguarding; case studies, good practice, changes in guidance, specific issues.
- Team meetings will include opportunities to learn from national or local Rapid Reviews or Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews
- All supervision and coaching sessions for staff and volunteers will include safeguarding discussions
- Staff and volunteers dealing with child protection issues will be supported through managerial support, reflective practice coaching, and external supervision

3. Prevent abuse by means of good practice

Children:

- Children will be encouraged to develop autonomy and independence through adult support in making choices and in finding names for their own feelings and ways to express them. This will enable children to have self-confidence and the vocabulary to ask for help

Parents:

- Young parents will be encouraged to learn about child development, positive relationships, attachment, and the impact of abuse and neglect on children's wellbeing and development
- Young parents will be encouraged and supported to make positive choices and practice positive parenting behaviours related to safeguarding

4. Define Abuse

Abuse of children includes one or more of the following types of abuse:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Exploitation (criminal or sexual or Modern Slavery)
- Neglect
- Fabricated, Fictitious or Induced Illness (FII)
- Forced Marriage
- Honour-based Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Radicalisation

Definitions of all these types of abuse are attached as appendices to this policy.

5. Be alert to Disclosures and Concerns

Child Protection concerns can be brought to WILD's attention in a number of ways, including:

- Disclosure from a child
- Disclosure from a young parent
- Allegation or concern raised by another agency
- Allegation or concern raised by another third party (e.g. another young parent)
- Incident of physical or emotional abuse witnessed by WILD staff or volunteer
- Concerning behaviour witnessed by WILD staff or volunteer, including relating to sexual behaviour, child sexual exploitation, fictitious/fabricated/induced illness
- Any bruises, cuts or other injury on a pre-mobile child
- Unexplained or concerning bruises, cuts or other injuries on a mobile child or young person
- Incidents of neglect observed by WILD staff or volunteer
- Social networking or online concern observed by WILD staff or volunteer ([link to WILD's Cyber Safety policy](#))
- Missing children or young persons
- Through a child's play or artwork

6. Dealing with a disclosure of abuse from a child or young person

WILD Staff and Volunteers will:

- Calmly listen to and take seriously the disclosure
- Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing in talking about what has happened
- Inform the child or young person that the information will need to be shared
- Clarify, but not investigate, any necessary aspects of the disclosure
- Take action immediately. Do not wait until the end of the session.
- If the child or young person may need medical attention, seek medical assistance
- If the child or young person needs immediate first aid, immediately inform the First Aider on the premises

7. Procedure to follow if you are concerned a child is being abused (PLEASE ALSO SEE FLOWCHART)

WILD Staff and Volunteers will:

- Telephone the MARU to make a referral and/or gain advice
- Follow up the call to the MARU by submitting a MARU Referral Form when a referral has been made
- Take actions on the advice of the MARU
- Store the MARU referral form according to WILD's record keeping procedures
- Store any other recordings of the concern or disclosure according to WILD's record-keeping procedures
- Liaise with other agencies if required or advised (eg police)
- If the child or young person may need medical attention, ensure medical assistance is sought
- If the child or young person needs immediate first aid, immediately inform the First Aider on the premises
- Inform WILD's Designated Officer (or Deputy or Chair of Trustees in their absence) of actions taken
- In all cases discuss concerns with the parent, explain necessary actions and offer support (unless this would potentially place the child at further risk).
- Gain agreement from the parent to share information where possible (however in certain circumstances information sharing may be necessary in the public interest where a failure to disclose information may expose children or others to significant risk of serious harm or to prevent criminal activity.)
- Speak with other agencies as required (e.g. police or MARU)

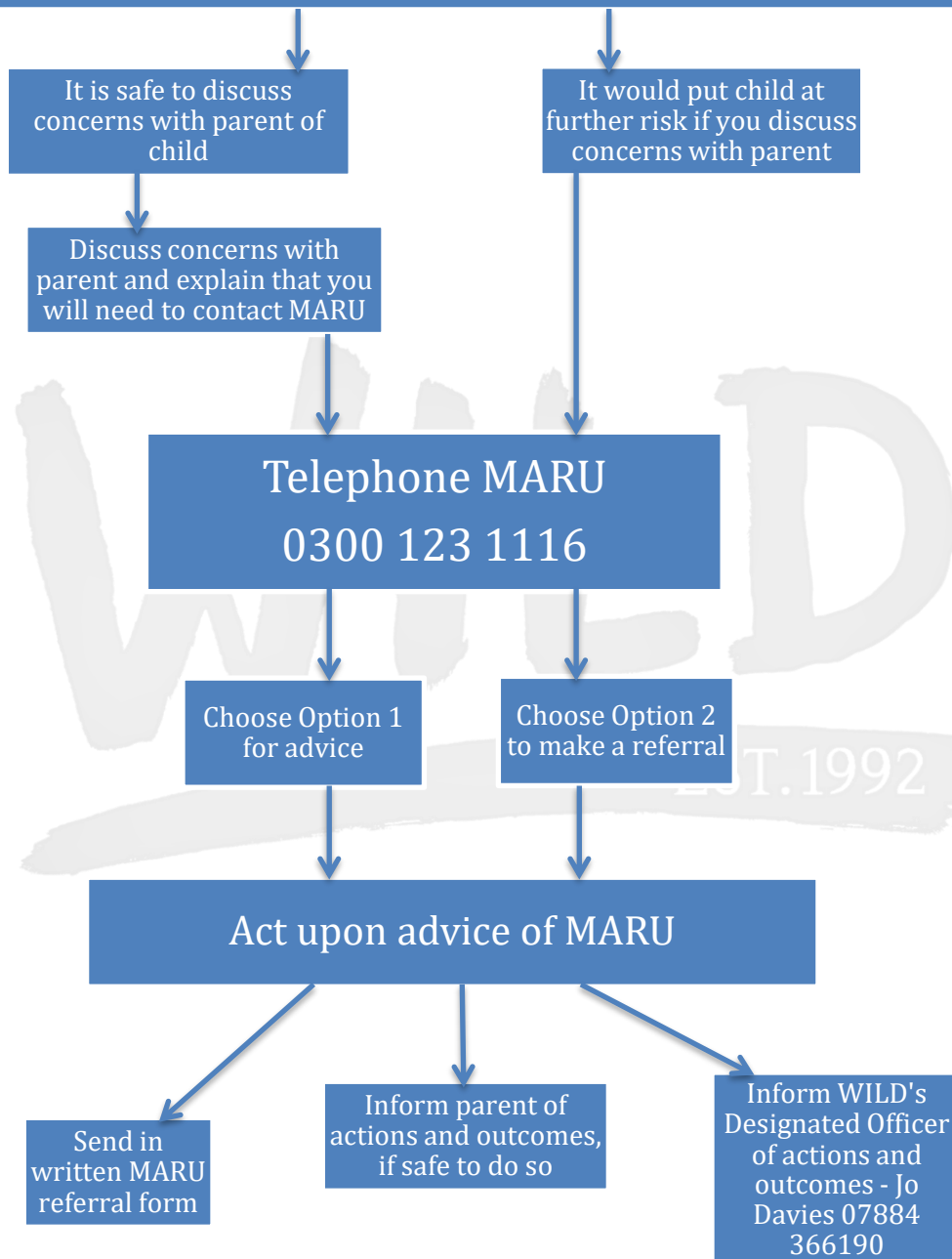
WILD's Designated Officer will:

- Support the WILD team regarding all aspects of child protection
- Lead safeguarding team meetings

WILD's Trustees will:

- Respond to concerns raised by staff or volunteers
- Liaise with WILD's CEO regarding complex cases

You are concerned that a child is being abused



8. Concerns about Unborn Children

Concerns for the welfare of an unborn child include:

- Concerns that the parent/carer's current behaviour, e.g. known mental health concern or substance misuse poses a threat to the unborn baby.
- Concerns that the parent/carer may not be able to care for the baby to an acceptable standard
- Concerns that the behaviour of the father, co-parent (or any other person) poses a threat to the unborn baby
- Concerns that the behaviour of the father, co-parent (or any other person) will impact on the ability of the pregnant parent to care for the baby to an acceptable standard.

WILD staff and volunteers will:

- Act immediately on concerns for the welfare of an unborn child by contacting the MARU
- Develop positive working relationships with Cornwall Council's Pre-birth Assessment teams in order to best support unborn children of young parents
- Follow the SWCPP Unborn Child Protocol

9. Concerns about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- Concerns about CSE should be addressed using the same procedures as concerns about any child abuse, via MARU

10. Concerns about actions of a colleague

Please refer to WILD's **Whistleblowing Policy**

11. Support for children and families

WILD is committed to supporting children and their families when safeguarding concerns are raised and through any processes or actions that may result from these concerns.

WILD will:

- Appoint keyworkers to work with children who are subject to safeguarding concerns
- Offer individual support to parents who are, or whose child is, subject to a Child Protection Plan, a Child in Need plan, Public Law Outline, care proceedings, or where there are other safeguarding concerns.
- Complete and review weekly safeguarding monitoring forms for children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan, a Child in Need plan, Public Law Outline, care proceedings, or where there are other safeguarding concerns.
- Attend multi-agency meetings to advocate and represent the child. This may include offering support to parents regarding understanding proceedings and having their voice heard, in accordance with the ***Signs of Safety*** approach
- Produce reports for multi-agency meetings, in accordance with the ***Signs of Safety*** approach and using other observations
- Work closely with other professionals to support parents to put formal plans into action

12. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

WILD staff and volunteers will operate within WILD's Confidentiality Policy

WILD recognises the need to share information where appropriate in order to protect children.

13. Record Keeping

WILD Staff and Volunteers will:

- Keep records of all concerns, disclosures and actions taken
- Keep copies of all MARU Referral forms in families' confidential records
- Keep all other records of concerns, disclosures and actions taken in families' confidential records
- Write up records as soon as possible after a concern or disclosure has been acted upon
- Ensure records focus on facts, actions and reviews

- Transport physical records securely to WILD's central office, where they will be stored securely and in accordance with Data Protection procedures
- Inform WILD Designated Officer and Deputy Designated Officer (Jo Davies and Ellie Nicholas) of all MARU referrals

14. Resolving Professional Differences

WILD recognises that sometimes professionals may disagree about decisions regarding children's wellbeing or safety.

WILD encourages mutual discussion and challenge with other professionals in order to improve children's wellbeing and safety

WILD staff and volunteers will use Cornwall Council's ***Resolving Professional Differences*** policy in order to escalate concerns where appropriate

15. Management and Governance

- WILD will appoint a Designated Officer for Safeguarding
- WILD will appoint a Deputy Designated Officer, who will be a senior member of staff, who will deputise during the Designated Officer's absence
- WILD's Chair of Trustees will be responsible for governance relating to Safeguarding
- WILD's CEO and Chair will ensure that safeguarding policies are reviewed and updated
- WILD's Trustees will discuss Safeguarding as a mandatory item at all Trustee meetings

WILD Designated Officer: Jo Davies

WILD Deputy Designated Officer: Ellie Nicholas

Safeguarding Child Protection Policy Appendices

Appendix 1

Working Together Definitions of Abuse

Abuse:

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical Abuse:

A form of abuse which 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:

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 a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a 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 (including cyber 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, although it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse: *Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.*

Neglect: *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, neglect may involve a parent or carer 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); or*
- *ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.*

Appendix 2:

Working Together Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation

Definition:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Indicators:

It is important for everyone to be aware of possible indicators of exploitation. The lists below are not exhaustive, but contain warning signs and typical vulnerability factors.

- Missing from home or care and / or absent from school
- Involvement in offending
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Repeat Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), pregnancies and terminations
- Poor mental health, self-harm and / or thoughts or attempts at suicide
- Receipt of gifts from unknown sources
- Changes in physical appearance and / or physical injuries
- Evidence of sexual bullying and / or vulnerability through the internet and / or social networking sites
- Estranged from their family
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations

The following are typical vulnerability factors in young people; remember though that young people from any background may become victims of sexual exploitation

- Living in a chaotic or dysfunctional household (including parental substance abuse, domestic abuse, criminality etc.)
- History of abuse
- Recent bereavement or loss
- Gang association (either through relatives, peers or intimate relationships)
- Learning disabilities
- Associating with other young people who are victims of CSE
- Uncertainty about their sexual orientation or identity and/or unable to disclose this to their families
- Living in residential care
- Lack of friends from the same age group
- Homeless or living in a hostel, B&B or a foyer
- Low self-esteem or confidence

Link for CSE Toolkit:

<http://www.safechildren-cios.co.uk/media/12534748/Children-Abused-Through-Sexual-Exploitation-Risk-Assessment-Toolkit.pdf>

The new working together advice on CSE and the new definition can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>

Appendix 3:

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation is the partial or total removal of a girl's external genitals. Her body is physically damaged when the healthy tissue of her genitals are cut away. There are no health benefits to FGM. Complex cultural and social reasons are often given about why it is practised. FGM has harmful effects on the health and wellbeing of a woman throughout her life and contravenes human, women's and child rights.

Link for multi-agency FGM Guidance:

<http://www.safechildren-cios.co.uk/media/12617942/Multi-Agency-Practice-Guidelines-Female-Genital-Mutilation.pdf>

Appendix 4:

Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII)

NHS Definition:

The term FII covers a wide range of cases and behaviours involving parents seeking healthcare for a child. This ranges from extreme neglect (failing to seek medical care) to induced illness.

Behaviours in FII include:

- A parent or other carer who convinces their child they are ill when they are perfectly healthy
- A parent or other carer who exaggerates or lies about their child's symptoms
- A parent or other carer who manipulates test results to suggest the presence of illness – for example, by putting glucose in urine samples to suggest the child has diabetes
- A parent or other carer who deliberately induces symptoms of illness – for example, by poisoning their child with unnecessary medication or other substances

Link for Working Together Additional Guidance re FII:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277314/Safeguarding_Children_in_whom_illness_is_fabricated_or_induced.pdf

Appendix 5:

Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Violence

CPS UK Government Definitions:

Forced Marriage:

A Forced Marriage (FM) is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor. FM is now a specific offence under s121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and comes into force on 16 June 2014.

Honour Based Violence:

There is no specific offence of "honour based crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. Honour based violence (HBV) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence. There is no, and cannot be, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

Appendix 6:

Radicalisation

WILD follows Safer Cornwall advice on the Prevent Strategy, and preventing violent extremism:

<https://safercornwall.co.uk/preventing-crime/preventing-violent-extremism/>

Appendix 7:

Modern Slavery

WILD follows Safer Cornwall guidance on Modern Slavery:

Modern slavery is estimated to affect in region of 20 -30 million people worldwide, who are being sold as objects. Some of this extends into the UK and into Cornwall, However no one really knows the full extent. As a result, the Modern Slavery Bill is currently working its way through the parliament process.

Broadly speaking modern slavery consists of four main categories;

- *Sexual exploitation* – where people are trafficked and are held under ‘debt bondage’ this is a slick criminal business, involving child abuse and prostitution.
- *Labour exploitation* – This can involve the agriculture and construction industries.
- *Criminal exploitation* – Cannabis farming, fraudulent use of charity bags, benefits fraud, forced marriage.
- *Domestic servitude* – where foreign nations are exploited for low paid domestic service.

This Policy was reviewed on.....May 2022

Next policy review date.....May 2023

