charitable incorporated organisation number 1183921

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES (TWR) SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

The policy is reviewed annually
It was last reviewed in November 2026

Introduction

Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR) takes its responsibilities seriously and is committed to the duty of care to safeguard all children and adults at risk who have been resettled in Somerset.

A refugee is an individual to whom the UK government has offered protection in accordance with the Refugee Convention 1951 and has been granted leave to stay for a certain period of time. Refugees can, broadly speaking, access the same services as UK nationals, including social care provision.

As groups, refugees and asylum seekers will include men, women and children of different ages with different educational backgrounds, who have experienced different circumstances within their own countries. They will have faced hardship before, during and after arrival in the UK and many commentators have remarked on the resilience, skills and strengths shown by refugees as well as their social, cultural and economic contribution to life in the UK. Asylum seekers too contribute both socially and culturally.

TWR will, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that all refugee/asylum seeker children and adults at risk, for whom it is responsible, are protected through appropriate procedures and safe working practices, based on recognised good practice. Accordingly, TWR will work with the Local Authorities and all appropriate agencies at whatever locations are needed, to ensure that, in carrying out its charitable works, it operates good practices with regard to safeguarding policies and procedures.

Everyone who works with young children and adults at risk has a responsibility to keep them safe. Therefore it is the responsibility of all individuals within TWR to take action by reporting their concerns in accordance with these procedures to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and then through them, to appropriate agencies.

All children and young people will have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise the additional needs of children from minority ethnic groups and disabled children and the barriers they may face, especially around communication.

This Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy applies to anyone working on behalf of this organisation.

We believe that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 years and adults at risk of harm and keep them safe.

Purpose

- To inform volunteers of their responsibilities for safeguarding children and to enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities will be carried out.
- To safeguard the volunteer in their role.
- To safeguard adults and children from any risks of abuse, including peer on peer or harm from adults.
- To safeguard family members resettled from internal and external threats.
- To inform and involve all necessary outside agencies.

For the purpose of this policy definitions of Children and Adults at risk

Children are defined as anyone under the age of 18 (including unborn babies). Once an individual reaches their 18th birthday, they are an adult in this legal context.

An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is an adult who:

- has need for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of these needs); such as elderly and frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment, or someone with a learning disability or has a physical disability, or mental health

needs including dementia or arising from trauma suffered, or a person who misuses substances or alcohol); and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

(Adapted from Taunton Deane Safeguarding Policy and the current Care Act Statutory Guidance to look at for the definitions of abuse to adults)

It is important to appreciate that care needs arising from mental health problems are particularly common amongst refugees and asylum seekers. Mental health problems may pre-exist movement, be associated with the process of displacement or may arise following arrival in the UK. Post-arrival factors which might create mental strain in refugees and asylum seekers are enforced poverty, social isolation and uncertainty about the future.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
Child Protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

There are three main elements to our Safeguarding Policy:

1. **Prevention** through the safeguarding training offered to our staff and volunteers within TWR which will enable them to recognise risk and respond to it quickly and effectively.

2. **Protection** by following agreed procedures, ensuring staff and volunteers are recruited safely and supported to respond appropriately and sensitively to safeguarding concerns.

3. **Support** to children and adults at risk who may have suffered abuse or mental trauma.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all individuals who represent TWR. This includes, but is not limited to, trustees, members of the Board, steering groups, employees and volunteers.

Policy Aims and Objectives

- To ensure children and adults at risk are protected within the charitable works carried out by TWR.

- To ensure that all individuals representing TWR who are working with children and/or adults at risk are safely recruited, understand and accept responsibility for the safety of those children and adults at risk with whom they are working.

- To ensure that the welfare of children and adults at risk is of paramount importance, regardless of age, race, social class, gender, culture, religious belief, ability or sexual identity.

- To respond swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse, and to ensure information is shared in accordance with statutory guidelines which, in certain situations, will demand the sharing of information with statutory agencies.

- To raise awareness of safeguarding to relevant trustees, members of the Board, employees and volunteers.

- That this policy is available online or in printed version and accessible for all necessary parties to view.

Roles and Responsibilities

The safeguarding of children and adults at risk is everybody's responsibility. However, there are specific roles that individuals within TWR hold.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:-
Louise Froud
Safeguarding@tauntonwelcomesrefugees.co.uk
07572 440479

The above named individual is accountable for ensuring that TWR has appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures in place and for overseeing and ensuring that safeguarding incidents are escalated and responded to in an appropriate and timely manner.

The Safeguarding Lead has responsibility for receiving allegations where there is a concern for the welfare of a child or adult at risk where an allegation has been made against a representative of TWR. Accordingly, this officer is responsible for centrally recording information relating to concerns regarding the welfare of children and adults at risk.

The Safeguarding Lead also has the responsibility of co-ordinating safeguarding training and providing advice and support to TWR volunteers.

TWR is committed to working in partnership with the Local Authority of Somerset and the Safeguarding Lead will be responsible for liaising with their respective safeguarding representatives to ensure compliance with best practice.

As well as using early help services the Designated Safeguarding Lead will refer all cases of suspected abuse or neglect to the Local Authority Children's Services (Safeguarding and Specialist Services) and/or Police (cases where a crime may have been committed) or to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern.

Deputy Safeguarding Lead:-
Simon Forrester
Simon@tauntonwelcomesrefugees.co.uk
07876 775401

This named individual will provide additional support to the Safeguarding Lead in all aspects of safeguarding and will be the point of contact for all volunteers and staff, in the absence of the Safeguarding Lead.

Safeguarding Procedures

The procedures below will ensure TWR adheres to safer recruitment. Safer recruitment is a set of practices to make sure staff and volunteers are suitable to work with those to whom TWR provides services including befriending. It is a vital part of creating a safe and positive environment and making a commitment to keeping resettled families, refugees and asylum seekers safe from harm when they access the services TWR provides.

Recruitment of volunteers and employees

1. Application

1.Job Advert – where a role is advertised, a statement will be included regarding the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and the need for appropriate DBS clearance.

2.Application Pack – this will include reference to the importance of safeguarding.

3.Application Form or Letter supporting an application - the applicant should state the reasons for wanting to work or volunteer with TWR and any relevant experience.

2. References

1.Two written references will be required.

2.Referees will be questioned specifically on the applicant's suitability for the role.

3.Referees will also be asked to declare if they have any concerns regarding the applicant's suitability for the role.

3. Interviews

1.Interviews for employees will be carried out by a panel normally consisting of three Trustees or other key personnel within the charity.

2.All Volunteers are interviewed at the end of the Training programme before being appointed to specific roles or activities.

4. DBS Checks

1.Volunteering roles are likely to require an appropriate DBS check. These should be renewed every three years or more frequently if circumstances dictate.

5. Records

1.Application forms, references, signed policy documents will be kept for employees and staff for a further six months after the particular role ends.

Training

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead will receive comprehensive training regarding safeguarding with a refresher course (linked to their level of responsibility) every **two** years.

All volunteers, members of staff and members of the Board whenever they join TWR must be given copies of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures prior to engaging in any work with TWR. They will also be required to attend a 'Safeguarding Training Session' as detailed below.

On a centrally held confidential record, they must sign and date their contract and code of conduct confirming that they have read and understood it. A record of their training will also be kept.

Training required

Led by: Designated Safeguarding Lead (specifically safeguarding) and other members of TWR as appropriate
Theme: Safeguarding awareness
Comments: Safeguarding is a vital and mandatory part of our duty of care and therefore this training is a priority for all volunteers, members of staff and Board members.

Training occurs for **everyone** within TWR every two years. This is to include all Board members, trustees, volunteers and employees.
NB The only exception are Advisors to the Board who are not working directly with asylum seekers, refugees or resettled families who will not be required to do further training. However, they may do so if they wish on the two-year cycle.

Volunteers must attend this training to stay on roll, even if they are not currently working with a family, with children or with adults at risk on behalf of TWR.

This training will enable everyone to be knowledgeable and aware of their role in the early recognition of the indicators of abuse or neglect and of the appropriate procedures to follow. In addition, if required everyone working directly with children, adults at risk or families will receive essential safeguarding and child protection updates (for example, via email and meetings), to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children and young adults effectively.

Everyone will be made aware of their role in identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other professionals to support early identification and assessment of a child's or adult's needs. It is important for children and adults at risk to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. This also includes staff monitoring the situation and feeding back to the Designated Safeguarding Lead any ongoing/escalating concerns so that consideration can be given to a request for involvement to Children's Services if the child's/adult's situation does not appear to be improving.

Everyone will also be aware of the main categories of maltreatment: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. They will also be aware of the indicators of maltreatment and specific safeguarding issues so that they are able to identify cases of children/adults who may be in need of help or protection.

Appropriate whistleblowing procedures are reflected in our policies and our 6 monthly volunteer review procedure.

All volunteers, members of staff and Board members MUST feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in safeguarding arrangements.

Allegations made against staff, members of the Board or volunteers will be referred to the relevant Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

Dealing with/reporting suspected abuse including domestic abuse and inter-personal violence

It is not always easy to spot when children or adults at risk have been abused. However, some of the more typical signs and indicators that could trigger suspicions would include, but is not limited to these 'signs of safety':

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries.
- The disclosure of what appears to be an abusive act.
- A change in behaviour, whether sudden or observed over a long period of time.
- A general distrust and avoidance of people, especially with whom a close relationship could be expected.
- An unreasonable reaction to normal physical contact.
- Difficulty in making friends or abnormal restrictions on socialising with others.
- Unexplained loss of money (adults at risk).

Domestic violence includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; honour based violence.

It is important to note that a child or adult at risk could be displaying some or all of these signs, or behaving in a way which is worrying, particularly in light of the trauma that they will have suffered as a result of their displacement and resettlement. This does not necessarily mean that they are in need of safeguarding because of harm by others. Similarly, there may not be any signs and individuals may just feel something is wrong**.**

If a child or adult at risk tells you that they are being abused, then you should:

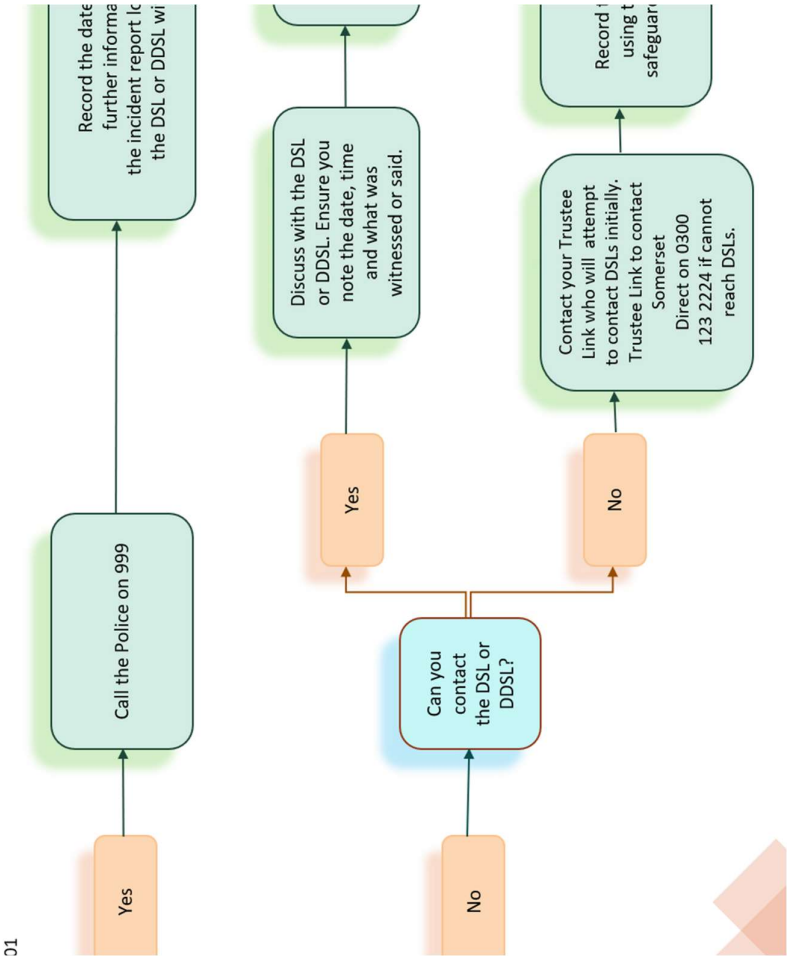
- Stay calm – ensure the individual is safe and feels safe
- Accept what you have been told (this should not be seen as believing or disbelieving what you have been told)
- Reassure that they were right to tell you
- Do not ask leading questions
- Keep a written record, preferably within one hour of the conversation having taken place, of what was said in their words
- The written record may be kept in a WhatsApp message to the DSL. WhatsApp is 'End to End' encrypted. It should not be kept on the shared group WhatsApp chat.
- **Do not promise to keep what they have told you a secret**

Be aware of 'disguised compliance' - adults covering up the truth, telling you what you expect to hear, making out that everything is fine. Be curious, be observant, don't take things at face value and above all have a professional sharing conversation with the Safeguarding lead if you are at

all concerned about something said or something observed that does not 'ring true'.

Any and all allegations of abuse must be taken seriously and reported to the Safeguarding Lead, or in his/her absence the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

The Safeguarding Lead will then be responsible for dealing with the disclosure. This may involve liaising with the Local Authority, police or other relevant bodies.



If, however, there is imminent risk of serious harm you should contact the police without delay.

Reporting a concern

Safeguarding procedure checklist for our volunteers

If:

- A child or adult at risk discloses abuse, or

- A volunteer suspects a child or adult at risk may have been abused, or
- A third party expresses concern
- A volunteer witnesses a potentially abusive situation involving another volunteer.

The volunteer **MUST: RECORD AND REPORT**

If you receive a disclosure it is important to reassure the child or adult at risk that what he/she says will be taken very seriously and everything possible done to help.

If you are in the room when a child or adult at risk begins to disclose concerns to another person, you should stay unobtrusively in the background. You may be able to support/witness what has been said if required.

- **Respond** without showing any signs of disquiet, anxiety or shock
- **Calmly ask** about how an injury was sustained or why a child/adult at risk appears upset and **reassure** that they were right to tell you
- **Confidentiality must not be promised** to children or adults in this situation
- **Observe** carefully the demeanour of behaviour of the child/adult
- **Record** in detail what has been seen and heard and sign and date the document
- **Do not interrogate,** ask leading questions or enter into any investigation. That is the role of the statutory agencies. Encourage the child/adult at risk to say what he/she wants

Asking Questions – Volunteers are understandably anxious about what questions they can ask if they are concerned about a child/adult at risk, or if they tell them something they are concerned about. Asking open questions might be helpful and can help you clarify the situation.

- **It is important NOT to ask leading questions (i.e. questions that imply a specific answer)**
- **It is important to listen**
- **It is important not to investigate the situation yourself**

Things that are appropriate to say:

- Tell me ("tell me what happened…")
- Where ("where did this happen/where were you…")
- When ("how long ago did this happen/when did this happen…….")

Remember you are only clarifying with the child or adult at risk what has happened from their point of view.

Then **REPORT** to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy within 24 hours or, if you believe there is imminent risk of harm to a child or adult, contact the police. In the event of it being impossible to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead or deputy, then the report should be made to the Trustee Link.

Volunteers **MUST NOT:**

- Investigate suspected/alleged abuse themselves
- Evaluate the grounds for concern
- Seek or wait for proof
- Discuss the matter with anyone other than the Designated Safeguarding Lead or in his/her absence the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

Confidentiality is important. However, there may be exceptional occasions of complexity where it is thought that there is a need to share information with other members of the befriending team and/or the team's Trustee link. If a volunteer feels that this is necessary, they must discuss it with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) who will decide using 'need to know' principles and keep a record of the facts and decision.

For areas of responsibility noted earlier, the Safeguarding Lead will then be responsible for dealing with the disclosure. This may involve liaising with the Local Authority, police or other relevant bodies. They will follow a record, action, outcome, review model.

Incidents involving volunteers

Any incident involving a volunteer is a serious and often complex matter. There may be implications for the safety of children, adults at risk, other volunteers and for the reputation of TWR.

Harassment or grooming of another person using technology, or breaching their right to privacy, poses a serious threat to their physical and emotional safety, and may have legal consequences.

TWR will follow written protocols for resolving issues regarding the conduct of volunteers, ensuring that proper documentation and recording of information.

Depending on the incident the Designated Safeguarding Lead, together with the Deputy Safeguarding Lead will decide on an appropriate course of action. This may include involving external agencies, including the LADO.

Statement on Safeguarding Policy

I understand that while volunteering with TWR I will ensure that I comply with the guidelines set out above in respect of the use of safeguarding.

Signed ……..

Print Name ……..

Date ……

Safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance

Taunton Welcomes Refugees (TWR) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, safety and dignity of all children and adults who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

TWR will carry out its work in accordance with relevant legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice. This includes, where applicable:

- The Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004.
- The Care Act 2014 and its statutory guidance on safeguarding adults.
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, as amended, and relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) guidance.
- The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015.
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026*.
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026*, where relevant to TWR's activities.
- Relevant local safeguarding procedures and Charity Commission guidance.

TWR recognises that safeguarding responsibilities depend on the nature of the activity, the role being undertaken and the circumstances of each case. Legislation and guidance will be applied as appropriate to TWR's work, and school-specific requirements will not be assumed to apply to the charity unless they are relevant to its activities or otherwise required.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place, that this policy is reviewed regularly and that everyone representing TWR understands their responsibilities and receives appropriate information, training and support.

All trustees, staff and volunteers are expected to follow this policy, act promptly on safeguarding concerns and work together to protect the welfare of the children and adults with whom TWR comes into contact.

Types of Abuse

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts. It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, and slapped or having objects thrown at them. Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI). Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child,

perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell – this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII). There is no excuse for physically abusing a child. It causes serious, and often long-lasting, harm – and in severe cases, death.

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is abuse. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents. A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Sexual Abuse (including intrafamilial sexual abuse) A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact and it can happen online. Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse. They may not even understand that it's wrong.

Intrafamilial Sexual Abuse: Many children do not 'tell' in a straightforward way; rather, their behaviour and demeanour or the characteristics or behaviour of caregivers indicates that something is wrong.

Those who do tell are not always heard or believed, and, as noted above, some groups of children such as disabled children and BAME children face greater barriers to disclosure.

Children abused by a female family member can face higher levels of disbelief from professionals, who may also minimise the seriousness of such abuse.

Important facilitators that enable children to tell include having access to safe adults with the skills to listen, and having the opportunity to obtain information and confidentially explore the consequences of disclosure

Emotional abuse (including psychological abuse) is the ongoing emotional maltreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them. Children who are emotionally abused are often suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time – but this isn't always the case.

Specific abuse and vulnerability concerns

Domestic Abuse (including verbal abuse, control and coercion)

Domestic abuse may take many forms. Witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of a parent may cause considerable distress to children, and both the physical assaults and psychological abuse suffered by adult victims who experience domestic abuse can have a negative

impact on their ability to look after their children. Children can still suffer the effects of domestic abuse, even if they do not witness the incidents directly. However, in up to 90% of incidents involving domestic violence where children reside in the home, the children are in the same or the next room. Children's exposure to parental conflict, even where violence is not present, can lead to serious anxiety and distress among children.

Domestic abuse can therefore have a damaging effect on a child's health, educational attainment and emotional well-being and development. The potential scale of the impact on children is not always easy to assess, but may manifest itself as behavioural, emotional or social difficulties, including poor self-esteem, withdrawal, absenteeism, adult–child conflict. Children sometimes disclose what is happening or may be reluctant to do so, hoping that someone will realise something is wrong.

Child Exploitation, Sexual (CSE) and gangs, (also known as Child Criminal Exploitation)

There will be other circumstances which give cause for serious concern about the welfare of children; such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affections, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones.

In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common; involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Honour-Based Violence (HBV)

So-called 'honour based' violence (HBV) encompasses crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage and practices such as breast ironing.

All forms of so-called HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. If in any doubt, staff should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for

non-medical reasons (World Health Organisation). It is also sometimes referred to as female genital cutting or female circumcision. The practice is illegal in the UK.
FGM is not an issue that can be decided on by personal preference – it is an illegal, extremely harmful practice, and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. Professionals in health, social care and teaching have a statutory duty to report all cases of FGM to the Police where disclosure or signs of FGM are noted, or where a person knows or suspects FGM has been – or will be – perpetrated. When someone reports FGM to the Police, they should ask for a crime reference number.
If there is an IMMEDIATE RISK, call the Police on 999 (emergency number).
If there is NOT an immediate risk, call the Police on 101 (non-emergency number).

Forced Marriage
The UK Government describes this as taking someone, usually overseas, to force them to marry (whether or not the FM takes place), or marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not). Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence.
When a disclosure or signs of FM are noted, staff should always alert the Headteacher immediately. We should never attempt to intervene directly as a school or through a third party. In such situations, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will always call either Somerset Direct/Police and/or the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151.

Breast Ironing/Binding
Breast ironing (also known as breast flattening) is the pounding and massaging of a pubescent girl's breasts, using hard or heated objects, to try to make them stop developing or to disappear.
When a disclosure or signs of breast ironing are noted, staff should always alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

Faith Abuse
Faith abuse is linked to a belief in witchcraft or possession by spirits and demons. In such instances, physical and/or psychological violence may be used in order to "get rid" of the possessing spirit.
Child abuse is never acceptable in any community, in any culture, in any religion, under any circumstances. This includes abuse that might arise through a belief in spirit possession or other spiritual or religious beliefs."
Faith abuse usually occurs in the household where the child lives. It may also occur in a place of worship where alleged "diagnosis" and "exorcism" may take place.
When a disclosure or signs of faith abuse are noted, staff should always alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately. In such situations, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will always call the Children's Social Care Emergency Duty Team.

Extremism and Radicalisation
The UK Government defines extremism as: "The vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of

law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs" and/or "calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas."
Radicalisation is defined by the UK Government within this context as: "The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups."
We take the "Prevent" duty seriously and recognise that Safeguarding against extremism and radicalisation is no different from Safeguarding against any other potential concern about abuse; it is about protecting children and young people from being groomed and exploited by others.
Historical Abuse
Historical abuse (also known as non-recent abuse) is an allegation of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse made by or on behalf of someone who is now 18 years or over, relating to an incident which took place when the alleged victim was under 18 years old.

The Police should be informed about allegations of crime at the earliest opportunity. Any reports of historic abuse made to Avon and Somerset Police must be to the Safeguarding Co-ordination Unit 01823 349037.

County Lines, Cross Borders, Gangs, Trafficking and Cuckooing.
These are police terms for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market/or coastal towns using dedicated mobile or 'deal lines'. Gangs use children and sometimes adults to move drugs and money. Often they take over the homes of adults and children by force or coercion in a practice referred to cuckooing. Getting involved in gang culture can have serious and potentially devastating consequences, with dealers/offenders/members not afraid to use violence. There are people themselves vulnerable and at risk of exploitation by gang members from outside the county. Any activity that deems to be suspicious or involve drug dealing/crime/exploitation should be passed to the police on 101. Should young people thought to be involved the early help assessment is a useful tool. A request for involvement to CSC/police is needed if the child is at immediate risk of harm.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines

Hate Crime
A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender. If you, or anyone you know, has been called names, been bullied or had anything happen to them that you think may be because of one of these factors, then you should report this as a hate incident. Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but those that do become hate crimes.

Sexting
Sexting is sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit messages, photographs or images, primarily between mobile phones. It may also include the use of a computer or any digital device. The provision will

follow local procedures with police and Somerset Safeguarding Children's Board.

Online Abuse
This type of abuse happens on the web, through social networks, playing online games or using a mobile phone. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse. Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online).Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour
Sexual behaviour between children is also considered harmful if one of the children is much older – particularly if there is more than two years' difference in age or if one of the children is pre-pubescent and the other isn't. However, a younger child can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled. If you're not sure whether a sexual behaviour is harmful find out about the signs, symptoms and effects of harmful sexual behaviour Harmful sexual behaviour framework: an evidence-informed operational framework for children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is the **exploitation of people who have been forced, deceived**, or **coerced into a life of labour and servitude**. It is a crime hidden from society where victims are subjected to abuse, inhumane and degrading treatment

Upskirting

Upskirting is where someone takes a picture under a person's clothing without their permission. It is a criminal offence in England and Wales.

Grooming
Is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse.

Missing Children
Anyone under the age of 18 years is to be considered "missing" if he/she is absent from his/her place of residence without authority to a degree or in circumstances where the absence causes concern for safety of the child

or a danger to the public" This includes children and young people who have been forced to leave home and those whose whereabouts are unknown and those who feel they have had to leave home (rather than making a positive choice to do so).
High risks concerns include where:

- The responsible adult has no indication when the child is likely to return
- The child develops a pattern of going missing repeatedly
- The child's location is unknown, or reason for absence is unknown and there is cause for concern for the child because of their vulnerability
- The child is at high risk of CSE/gangs
- The child is pregnant or has a young child
- The child has a history of suicidal thoughts or behaviours
- The child is at risk of radicalisation

See Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership Protocol for Children who go missing:

Types of Abuse as noted for adults within the Care Act Statutory Guidance

Physical abuse including:

- assault
- hitting
- slapping
- pushing
- misuse of medication
- restraint
- inappropriate physical sanctions

Domestic violence including:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional abuse
- so called 'honour' based violence

Sexual abuse including:

- rape
- indecent exposure
- sexual harassment
- inappropriate looking or touching
- sexual teasing or innuendo
- sexual photography
- subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts
- indecent exposure
- sexual assault
- sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting

Psychological abuse including:

- emotional abuse
- threats of harm or abandonment
- deprivation of contact
- humiliation
- blaming
- controlling
- intimidation
- coercion
- harassment
- verbal abuse
- cyber bullying
- isolation
- unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks

Financial or material abuse including:

- theft
- fraud
- internet scamming
- coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions
- the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits

NB This is not an exhaustive list and reference to the Guidance online will add further clarity.

Appendix B

Useful Contacts

For Safeguarding Children Concerns call: **Somerset Direct 0300 123 22 24**

Somerset Council's social care services for children and young people have the responsibility for the investigation of all safeguarding concerns.

Email childrens@somerset.gov.uk

Police: 101 or in an emergency 999