



Children's Liver
Disease Foundation

fighting childhood
liver disease

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Document 1

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Policy aim and context

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children and young people who receive CLDF's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) recognises that the welfare of all children and young adults is of paramount importance. The charity is a child and family-centred organisation. It has a moral and ethical obligation to safeguard children and young adults. It is CLDF's intention that all children and young adults with whom it comes into contact receive care and attention and that whilst working with them and their family they are protected from harm.

CLDF recognises that for the majority of children this is the case. Very occasionally a child or young adult may be hurt through an accident, which may have been preventable. Even more rarely a child may be abused by another child, stranger, paid member of staff or volunteer. CLDF recognises that prevention of such abuse is a key part of its duty of care for the children and young adults with whom it works.

CLDF will plan its work to minimise situations where the abuse of children may occur. All children have the right to be protected from abuse. CLDF will not discriminate in any way - for example on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity or reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

CLDF also considers that a child/young person may make a disclosure of abuse when they are attending a CLDF activity or engaging with one of our staff via our Families and/or Young People's services. Staff/volunteers may also witness physical or behavioral indicators or observe evidence that raises concerns that a child is at risk of harm or has been harmed.

Each child should be treated as an individual, encouraged to express their own needs and wishes, and to be listened to by the worker.

Any child, whether diagnosed with a liver condition or not, with whom a worker or volunteer may come into contact during CLDF duties has the same right to be protected from abuse or neglect.

All children's and young adult's complaints and concerns should be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

CLDF staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns of suspected abuse or poor practice regarding child protection within the organisation. Also, there may be a need to report concerns that are not child protection but require recording with subsequent actions completed by staff. These can be things that are not abuse or poor practice but build up a picture of a family and if further issues are raised may necessitate a referral to Children's Social Care in the future.

Where information about an allegation or concern becomes known to a person within CLDF, then action **must** be taken to inform the Designated Safeguarding Officer who will inform and liaise with the CEO. In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Officer, a member of CLDF's senior team must be informed who will inform and liaise with the CEO. They will decide upon the next course of action, which might include informing the police or social services, as appropriate, so that children and young adults are not put at continued risk and an appropriate investigation may take place.

Procedures for responding to concerns of child or young adult abuse are outlined in the CLDF Safeguarding Children Procedure document.

CLDF's definition of young people is up to the age of 25. However, the Safeguarding Children policy principles and procedure apply to young people up to the age of 18 and then the Safeguarding Adults principles will apply. Guidance on this is included within the Safeguarding Children Procedure document.

This policy applies to everyone who works for CLDF; whether in a paid, voluntary or trustee role.

Related internal documentation

- CLDF Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who Work with Children and Young Adults
- Lone Working Policy and Procedure
- Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment and Selection
- CLDF Employee Handbook (Whistleblowing Procedure, P33)
- Hive & Hive+ Joining, Management, Moderation and Safeguarding Procedure

Compliance (legislation and guidance)

This policy has been composed based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2014
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0-25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguard children 2018: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government
- National guidance for child protection in Scotland; Scottish Government 202

Definitions of Abuse or Neglect

Abuse is any action that harms another person. The following is a list of the types of abuse and neglect that can occur:

- **Physical abuse** – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions. Also includes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- **Domestic violence** – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, '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 and sexual assault or sexual acts relating to a child or to which a vulnerable adult has not consented to or was pressured into consenting. This would include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- **Psychological abuse** – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or 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, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Modern slavery** – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Discriminatory abuse** – including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- **Online abuse** - Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that is connected to the web, like computers, tablets and mobile phones. And it can happen anywhere online, including social media; text messages and messaging apps; emails; online chats; online gaming; live-streaming sites. Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know or from strangers. This includes trolling, the term for any kind of purposeful online abuse on social media sites like Twitter or Facebook. It might be part of other abuse which is taking place offline, like bullying or grooming. Or the abuse might only happen online.

- **Organisational abuse** – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice because of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.
- **Neglect and acts of omission** – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self-neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviours of neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- **Non-recent abuse** – sometimes called historical abuse, is when an adult was abused as a child or young person under the age of 18. The long-term effects of abuse and neglect can include: emotional difficulties like anger, anxiety, sadness or low self-esteem; mental health problems like depression, eating disorders, self-harm or suicidal thoughts; problems with drugs or alcohol; disturbing thoughts, emotions and memories; poor physical health; struggling with parenting or relationships.

Please refer to the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Additional Guidance document** for further information regarding indicators of abuse and neglect. This guidance also provides information on variations within the UK home nations.

I confirm that I have read, understood, and will comply with Children's Liver Disease Foundation's (CLDF) Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (dated November 2022).

Name:

Signed:

Date: