



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Document 1

Approval date: May 2024

Review Date: Jun 2025

Version 9

Document Title: Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Owner: Michelle Wilkins – Head of Children and Families Service

Contact Details Summary

Job Title: Designated Safeguarding Officer (Head of Children and Families Service)

Name: Michelle Wilkins

Email: headsupport@childliverdisease.org

Telephone Number: 0121 212 6009

Job Title: Director of Service Delivery

Name: Jonathan Worsfold

Email: jonathan.worsfold@britishlivertrust.org.uk

Telephone Number: 01425 600213

Policy aim and context

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children and young people who receive British Liver Trust'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.

British Liver Trust (BLT) recognises that the welfare of all children and young adults is of paramount importance. It has a moral and ethical obligation to safeguard children and young adults. It is British Liver Trust'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.

British Liver Trust 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. British Liver Trust 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.

British Liver Trust will plan its work to minimise situations where the abuse of children may occur. All children have the right to be protected from abuse. British Liver Trust 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.

British Liver Trust also considers that a child/young person may make a disclosure of abuse when they are attending a BLT activity or engaging with one of our staff via our Children and Families 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 British Liver Trust duties has the same right to be protected from abuse or neglect.

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

British Liver Trust 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 the British Liver Trust, then action **must** be taken to inform the Designated Safeguarding Officer (Head of Children and Families). In the absence of the Designated Safeguarding Officer, the

Director of Service Delivery must be informed. They will decide upon the next course of action, which might include informing the police or social services, as appropriate, so that children are not put at continued risk and an appropriate investigation may take place.

Procedures for responding to concerns of child abuse are outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedure document.

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Children policy principles and procedure apply to young people up to the age of 18 and then the Safeguarding Policy for Adults at Risk will apply.

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

Related internal documentation

- Code of Conduct (Staff Handbook)
- Safer Recruitment and Selection
- Hive & Hive+ Joining, Management, Moderation and Safeguarding Procedure
- Safeguarding Policy for Adults at Risk
- Suicide and Self-Harm Procedures

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 2023: 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 2023

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 British Liver Trust Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Name:

Signed:

Date: