



# Safeguarding Children & Child Protection Policy

## Rationale

The aim of this policy is to promote the safeguarding of all children at Hellys Angels. For the purpose of this policy the child abuse definitions from the, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children – Department of Education (2018) have been used.

Childminders have a professional responsibility to protect children from abuse and neglect, and ensure they adhere to statutory duties relating to child protection, as well as Ofsted Early Years Foundation Stage registration requirements in the event of any allegation of serious harm or abuse to a child attending the setting.

As the sole childminder, I am the lead safeguarding practitioner for my setting. My main priority and overriding responsibility, is towards all the children in my care. It is my duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as defined as:

- a. Protecting children from maltreatment
- b. Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- c. ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- d. taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

If I have any cause for concern, I will report it to the relevant bodies, following the local Safeguarding Children Partnership's (SCP) procedures. The name of our SCP is **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership (CIOS)** and its procedures can be found at [Safechildren-cios](https://www.safechildren-cios.org/).

I understand that child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, domestic, or a mixture of these, and am aware of the signs and symptoms of these.

### ***Definitions of Child 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. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or 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:

- a. Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- b. Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- c. ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care- givers)
- d. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

#### ***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, though 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. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

***Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)***

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.

I am also aware that I must have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This is referred to in the Prevent Duty.

### ***What is the Prevent Duty?***

From 1 July 2015 all childcare providers (including schools, nurseries, childminders, and registered later years childcare providers) are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

#### ***Terrorism:***

Terrorism is the use or threat of action, both in and outside of the UK, designed to influence any international government organisation or to intimidate the public.

#### ***Extremism:***

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society.

Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.

I am also aware of the signs and indicators of extremism or radicalisation. If I had any concerns, I would contact the Prevent Officer in my local area:

#### **Steve Rowell MICJP**

Community Safety Officer (West)  
& Preventing Extremism/Terrorism Lead Cornwall, Community Safety & Protection,  
Cornwall Council,  
Penzance One Stop Shop,  
St Clare, Penzance, Cornwall. TR18 3QW

Phone: (01736) 336587 Mobile: 07980 895 104  
E-mail : [steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk) or [Prevent@Cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Prevent@Cornwall.gov.uk) Secure E-mail :  
[Steve.Rowell@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.Rowell@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk)

as well as my SCP as detailed on page 1 of this policy.

I am aware of the Department for Education telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

I recognise and understand that there is a new mandatory reporting duty for all practitioners to report to the police where it is believed an act of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been carried out on a girl under 18 in the UK. Failure to do so may result in legal/disciplinary action being taken.

**FGM:**

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence.

There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

All suspected or actual cases of FGM are a Safeguarding concern in which safeguarding procedures will be followed; this will include a referral to the police and to Children's Social Care via MARU.

I must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse that are alleged to have taken place while the child is in my care, including any allegations against me, or any members of my family, or other adults or children in my home who have had contact with minded children.

I must also ensure that no individual who is unsuitable to work with children has unsupervised access to a child in my care. I have read and understand the safeguarding and welfare requirements of EYFS. I have also read the national statutory guidance document [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) and [What to do if you are Worried a Child is being Abused - Advice for Practitioners 2015](#). I have also read and understand the Ofsted safeguarding guidance – [Inspecting Safeguarding in Early Years, Education and Skills settings](#) and the document [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services](#)

Everyone has the right to make a referral to Children's Services if they are worried about a child. As the childminder, I will advise parents of this and about safeguarding responsibilities at the setting in the welcome pack given to them during their child's settling in period.

**Procedure (how I put the statement into practice)**

I keep up to date with child protection issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training courses and by reading relevant publications.

I have copies of the local Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures. Every six months I check that I have the latest version of the relevant procedures (or any documents that may replace them in the future).

I follow the procedures outlined in my confidentiality policy. I aim to share all information with parents but in some instances (where I am worried about a child's wellbeing) I may have to refer concerns without discussing this with you.

I work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent – please refer to my Working with Parents policy.

Children will only be released from my care to the parent/carer or to someone named and authorised by them, and who is aged over sixteen years of age. A password agreed between us might be used to confirm identity if the person collecting the child is not previously known to me. Children will not be released into the care of anyone that I have reason to believe is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child, and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which I will record and ask parents to sign.

Unless I believe that it would put the child at risk of further harm, I will discuss concerns with a child's parent if I notice:

- significant changes in children's behaviour;
- deterioration in children's general wellbeing;
- unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect;
- children's or parents' comments which give cause for concern, including expressing extremist views;
- any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child's home; and/or inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any person working with children. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities, or inappropriate sharing of images.

I will ensure I have at least three relevant contacts for the child, so that I have alternative contact details in the case of unexpected absences.

Where the child fails to attend unexpectedly, I would take all necessary action to attempt to contact their parents and emergency contacts as necessary. If still not contact can be made, I will contact the school that they or their siblings may attend. If contact with parents has not been made, nor explanation received after 48 hours, I will visit the home of the child. Thereafter, still unexplained absence will be reported to the Police, or other safeguarding agency according to individual circumstances.

I recognise the additional barriers that exist when recognising the signs of abuse and neglect of children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

If a child tells me that they or another child is being abused, I will:

- Show that I have heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, but I will not prompt them or ask them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account.
- Explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child.
- Record what I have been told using exact words where possible.
- Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.

I will call the local social services' duty desk for advice and an assessment of the situation.

I will follow this phone call up with a letter to the Duty team within 48 hours. I will record the concern and all contact with Children's Services thereafter.

If an allegation is made against me, any member of my family, or any other adult or child in my setting I will report it to Ofsted/my Childminding Agency and the Local Authority Designated Officer (telephone 01872 326536), following local SCP's procedures. I will also contact PACEY's Helpline on 0300 003 0005 for advice and support.

In all instances I will record:

- the child's full name and address
- the date and time of the record
- factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present
- details of any previous concerns
- details of any explanations from the parents
- any action taken such as speaking to parents.

Ofsted will be informed within 14 days of any allegations against the me or someone living on the premises and the action taken in respect of allegations or by any person, where the allegation relates to harm or abuse occurring on those premises.

**It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.**

### **The use of mobile phones and cameras**

I understand that mobile phones are an everyday part of life for parents and childminders and with that in mind have laid out my procedure for their use:

- I will ensure my mobile phone is charged and with me at all times in case of emergencies.
- I have the facility to take photographs on both my mobile phone and camera and will seek your permission to take any photographs of your child to record activities and share their progress with you.
- Any photographs taken will be stored, used and deleted in accordance with my data protection and privacy policies.
- I will not publish any photographs of your child on any social networking sites or share with any other person without your permission.

I request that you do not use your mobile phone whilst dropping off and collecting your child/children.

Any visitors to the setting will also be asked not to use their mobile phone.

If your child has a mobile phone, games console etc with camera facilities that they wish to bring into the setting please discuss with me first and/or refer to my policy *Television and Games Console Policy*. This is so that we can work together for the safety of all children in attendance and ensure appropriate access to material when using the internet.

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR I have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office as a data controller to allow me to store digital images on an SD card device/computer.

Useful Contacts:

Safeguarding Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Silly	3 West New County Hall Truro TR1 3AY  01872 327225  <a href="mailto:ciosscp@cornwall.gov.uk">ciosscp@cornwall.gov.uk</a>
Multi-agency Referral Unit	0300 123 1116
Out of Hours Service	01208 251300
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	01872 326536 <a href="mailto:lado@cornwall.gov.uk">lado@cornwall.gov.uk</a>
Local Prevent Officer	Steve Rowell Community Safety Officer (West) & Preventing Extremism/Terrorism Lead Cornwall, Community Safety & Protection, Cornwall Council, Penzance One Stop Shop, St Clare, Penzance, Cornwall. TR18 3QW  Phone: (01736) 336587  Mobile: 07980 895 104 E-mail : <a href="mailto:steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk">steve.rowell@cornwall.gov.uk</a> \  or  <a href="mailto:Prevent@Cornwall.gov.uk">Prevent@Cornwall.gov.uk</a>  Secure E-mail : <a href="mailto:Steve.Rowell@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk">Steve.Rowell@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk</a>
Department for Education telephone helpline	(020 7340 7264)
Devon & Cornwall Police	101 non-emergency 999 emergency
NSPCC	Help for adults concerned about a child: 0808 800 5000
Childline	0800 1111
Pacey	0300 003 0005
Ofsted	0300 123 4666 <a href="mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk">enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk</a>

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Action/Amendments to be taken following review	