



CHRIS'S CHILDCARE CENTRE

0 TO SCHOOL

TRADING AS CHRIS'S CHILDCARE LTD. 11894528

www.chrisschildcare.com

christines_childcare@hotmail.co.uk

01572 756461

07866756197

Safeguarding and the Protection of Children Policy

Policy for @HCC Childminder Agency (CMA) Childminders

This policy has been developed in accordance with the published versions of the following regulatory documents designed to safeguard and promote the welfare of children:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2025
- Keeping Childcare Safe in Education 2024

As a registered childminder I take seriously my responsibility to ensure the safety and promote the welfare of children in my care in line with the procedures laid out by my local authority's (LA) Safeguarding Children Partnership. I have developed a structured procedure to be followed in the case of suspected abuse, which is regularly reviewed and updated.

As the Designated Person for my childminding setting, I work with other agencies to ensure I have adequate arrangements in place to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm. I can be contacted on: 01572 756461 during the following hours: 8am – 6pm

I attended Safeguarding and the Protection of Children Training on 22/04/2023 and I am aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse: **physical, emotional and sexual, and those of neglect:**

Physical Abuse - can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, punching, kicking, scalding, burning, drowning and suffocating. It can also result when a parent or carer deliberately causes the ill health of a child to seek attention through fabricated or induced illness. It can also include female genital mutilation.

Emotional Abuse - is where a child's need for love, security, recognition and praise is not met. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of someone else such as in the case of Domestic Violence or Domestic Abuse. A parent, carer or authority figure is considered emotionally abusive when they are consistently hostile, rejecting, threatening or undermining toward a child or other family member. It can also occur when children are prevented from having social contact with others or if inappropriate expectations are placed upon them. Symptoms that indicate emotional abuse include:

- Excessively clingy or attention seeking



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- Very low self-esteem or excessive self-criticism.
- Withdrawn behaviour or fearfulness.
- Lack of appropriate boundaries with strangers; too eager to please.
- Eating disorders or self-harm.

Sexual abuse - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may include physical contact both penetrative and non-penetrative, or viewing pornographic material including through the use of the internet. Indicators of sexual abuse include: allegations or disclosures, genital soreness, injuries or disclosure, sexually transmitted diseases, inappropriate sexualized behaviour including words, play or drawing.

Neglect - is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which can significantly harm their health and development. Neglect can include inadequate supervision (being left alone for long periods of time), lack of stimulation, social contact or education, lack of appropriate food, shelter, appropriate clothing for conditions and medical attention and treatment when necessary.

I update my training every 2 years as required by my CMA and the EYFS.

I provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child. I support the children's development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence.

I am responsible for ensuring the acceptable and safe use and storage of all camera technology, images, and mobile phones.

I aim to provide an environment in which children and young people feel valued and respected, and confident to approach me if they are in difficulties, believing they will be effectively listened to.

I have a copy of my local authority safeguarding poster/leaflet available for parents / carers to look at.

If a parent tells me that they are / have been suffering from Domestic Abuse I will provide them with information and phone numbers for support. 0808 80 200 28



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I ensure staff / volunteers are recruited safely and understand the Safeguarding Policy. (see my Safer Recruitment Policy in the appendix).

A copy of *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused* 2015 (ensure you download this and read it, if you have not done this already) is kept with this policy and an additional copy is available for parents / carers to read if required. This sets out the guidelines for how I must record any incidents and disclosures and the procedures I must follow.

If I have reason to believe that any child in my care needs protection in any way I will:

- Refer a child, if there are concerns about possible abuse, to Rutland Children's Services. Referrals will be made in writing, following a telephone call. Under these circumstances I will share information relating to your child with Rutland Children's Services and the Police if requested.
- If the concern relates to me or another adult in my setting, I will follow my 'Allegations of Abuse' procedure.
- Keep written records of concerns about a child, even if there is no need to make an immediate referral. I will ensure that all such records are kept confidentially and securely, separate from a child's records.
- Liaise with other agencies and professionals.
- Attend case conferences, or other multi-agency planning meetings, as necessary
- Ensure that any child currently with a child protection plan who is absent without explanation is referred to their Social Worker with the Children Social Care Team.
- I will notify my local child protection agency and my CMA of any serious accident, illness or injury to or death of, any child whilst in my care. My CMA must be informed ASAP.
- I will follow the procedure for children who are absent (see my Child Absent Policy in the appendix)

If a child confides in me, I will:

- Show that I have understood what they are saying and that I take their allegations seriously.
- Encourage the child to talk, without asking leading questions or interrupting when a child is recalling a significant event.



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- Record the concern and the child's comments in writing, in their own words as far as possible. The record will contain:
 - o The child's name
 - o The child's date of birth
 - o The date the record is made.
 - o A note of the child's non-verbal behaviour
 - o A body map, if appropriate, to record any visible injuries or marks.
 - o My name and signature.
- Inform the child that I cannot promise not to share this information but that everything I do will be in the interest of their safety.
- Seek advice from the Rutland Children's Services and, if necessary, make a referral using the LA's referral form, if applicable.

Confidentiality

- I recognise that all matters relating to safeguarding are confidential. I will disclose any information about a child on a need-to-know basis only, referring to 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' 2015 and [Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners 2015](#)
- I am aware that I have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies to safeguard children.
- I am aware that I cannot promise a child that I will keep secrets which might compromise their safety and wellbeing.
- I undertake to share an intention to refer a child to Rutland Children's Services with their parents/carers unless to do so could put the child at greater risk of harm or impede a criminal investigation. If in doubt, I will consult with Rutland Children's Services at my LA's Children's Social Care department.

Visitors to my home

- Children are not left unsupervised with visitors, and I have a procedure in place for checking the identity of all visitors to my home whilst I have minded children in my care:



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- o I record all visitors to my home during childminding hours with the time and nature of visit. The record is signed by the visitor.
- o If the visitor is unknown to me, I ask for proof of identification and, if appropriate, which organisation they work for. e.g. identity badge; driving licence. If I need further verification, I will contact the phone number of their organisation and ask to be put through to the visitor's manager. I record that ID has been checked.
- o If I know the visitor, they must have a valid reason for visiting during my working hours.

Allegations of Abuse

- I will take precautions to protect myself from allegations of abuse against myself; my household members and staff (if applicable). I will aim to prevent this from happening by:
 - Ensuring all household members aged 16 and over are DBS cleared.
 - Ensuring all visitors to the house are recorded as above, and do not have unsupervised access to the children under any circumstances.
 - Ensuring, where possible, that no workmen/women are in the house during minded hours, unless it is to repair an emergency service or for health and safety reasons.
 - Documenting every accident and incident that occurs whilst children are in my care, informing parents of such events and requesting them to sign my records.
 - Noting any noticeable marks on the children when they arrive and asking parents to inform me of any accidents that have occurred whilst outside my care.
 - Ensuring the children are always within sight and/or hearing according to the child's age & stage of ability.
 - Ensuring that any occasion where physical intervention is used to manage a child's behaviour is recorded as an incident and parents are informed about it on the same day.
1. Checking the behaviour of adults - for example inappropriate sexual comments; excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of



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their usual role and responsibilities; inappropriate sharing of images.
Keeping Children Safe in Education provides advice on this:

2. However, if an allegation is made, I will then follow the procedure detailed below in order to gain support and professional advice:
Immediately inform:

- The LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) for your area 01572758454 / 01572720913 LADO@rutland.gov.uk
- The Designated Person for Safeguarding in my CMA are as follows:
 - My SAM (Support and Monitoring) Mentor - Kay-Louise Ley
 - The Head of Safeguarding, Kay-Louise Ley
 - The CEO, Yvette Oliver-Mighten
- If my SAMs is absent, I can the CMA office on 0115 978 3399 to request assistance from the Head of Safeguarding, Kay-Louise Ley.
- If the Head of Safeguarding is absent, the
- Depending on the severity of the safeguarding concern/disclosure, I may need to contact:
 - My Insurance Company.
 - Relevant Legal Advice Line or Family Solicitor.

I will write a detailed record of all related incidents, including what was said and by whom, with times and dates including completing the LA's referral form, if applicable.

After seeking advice/approval from the designated person for safeguarding in my CMA I will ask witnesses (if there were any) to also write a statement detailing the incident they witnessed and giving their contact details in case it needs to be followed up by the authorities.

If you have any concerns regarding this policy, I will be happy to meet and discuss them with you.



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Childminder's signature: _____

Date: _____

Review date: _____

Phone Numbers for Immediate Referrals:

For Immediate Referrals - 01572 758 407

Out of hours - 0116 305 0005

In case of allegations - 01159783399

For general advice and guidance

LSCB

Domestic Abuse Support - 0808 80 200 28

The following policies relating to sub-policies relating to safeguarding can be found in my Appendices attached to this over-arching safeguarding policy:

- Safer Recruitment
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Safeguarding Children: Online, Mobile and Digital Technology Use
- Whistleblowing
- British Values and Prevent Duty
- Child Absence