

# DRUM BRASS

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Target Audience	Drum and Brass Staff Working Partners Anyone who our organisation comes into contact with
Exceptions to this policy	None

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## **Introduction**

At Drum and Brass we take safeguarding very seriously. We understand the role it plays in organisations and are keen to ensure that everyone we work with are trained to the highest standard in this area. We are passionate about ensuring children and young people's voices are heard and they are kept safe so they can access the services we provide in a safe and encouraging environment.

All of our staff are trained to a Level 3 Safeguarding level and they refresh their training on a regular schedule. It is our expectation that our working partners are trained to a similar level in order to provide projects or work collaboratively with us.

## **Purpose of Document**

The purpose of this policy is to protect people working with Drum and Brass in any way from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with us. This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff or personnel associated with Drum and Brass
- The design and implementation of Drum and Brass' programmes and activities

The policy lays out the commitments made by Drum and Brass and informs staff and associated personnel of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

## **Main Policy Content**

### **2.1 What is Safeguarding?**

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect<sup>1</sup>

We understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our staff or projects.

Further definitions relating to safeguarding are provided in the glossary of terms.

### **2.2 Who does this apply to?**

Our safeguarding policy applies to everyone who works with and for Drum and Brass. There are no exceptions to this. In order to maintain a working relationship with us, it is imperative to be trained in safeguarding

### **2.3 Policy Statement**

Drum and Brass believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Drum and Brass will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated partners.

This policy will address the following areas of safeguarding child safeguarding, adult safeguarding, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. These key areas of

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<sup>1</sup> NHS 'What is Safeguarding? Easy Read' 2011

safeguarding may have different policies and procedures associated with them (see Associated Policies).

Drum and Brass commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

## **2.4 Prevention**

Drum and Brass will:

- Ensure all staff have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- Design and undertake all its projects and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with Drum and Brass. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated.
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying staff and associated personnel
- Ensure staff receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organisation
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process

## **2.5 Recognising signs of abuse Suspicions**

Drum and Brass CIC trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors should be aware of the Signs and Symptoms of Abuse and should make sure they can recognise these in the children and vulnerable adults they come into contact with. Any suspicion of abuse must be shared with a designated safeguarding lead at Drum and Brass CIC reported using email and shared with the designated safeguarding lead at the LADO.

- If anyone sees or suspects abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, they should share this with the designated safeguarding lead.
- If they suspect that the person with legal responsibility is actually the source of the problem, they should make their concerns known to another designated safeguarding lead, and in schools, the Chair of Governors.
- The individual should make a note for record of what they have witnessed as well as their response.

## **2.6 Types of abuse**

We acknowledge that there are five types of child abuse as defined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) which is also defined in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance, 2022'. See appendix A for further information.

Drum and Brass CIC understands that there are indicators of child abuse; however, these should not be considered as a definitive list, but used when considering the possibility of abuse in children. A full explanation of indicators is in Appendix B.

- Bullying including cyber bullying and cyber crime
- Children at risk of exploitation including child sexual exploitation
- Child sexual abuse within the family

- Compromised parenting, particularly in relation to babies and very young children
- Domestic Abuse and teenage relationship abuse
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and breast ironing
- Gangs, youth violence and trafficking
- Gender based violence/Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Hate including race hate, discrimination, including LGBTQI+
- Mental Health
- Missing children from education and home
- Online abuse/Sexting/harassment
- Private Fostering
- Preventing Radicalisation
- Substance and alcohol abuse

Drum and Brass CIC understands that there are specific safeguarding issues, which we will ensure all trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors will be trained to understand, identify, report, and monitor these concerns.

### **Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse is rarely a one-off incident, but a pattern of power and control. It is any threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are, or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional abuse.

Children living with Domestic Abuse in their home or who are caught up in incidents of Domestic Abuse, are victims, and this can seriously harm children and young people. Some children are physically harmed as they can get caught up in the incident, some children are witnesses to the abuse, or hear the abuse. The impact on children living in a household where there is Domestic Abuse is likely to influence their development and social skills. We will treat any disclosure of information relating to Domestic Abuse as a Safeguarding concern and we will follow local Safeguarding Procedures.

### **Emotional/Mental Health and Wellbeing**

All trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors should also be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education.

We acknowledge many children will have periods of feeling anxious, afraid and upset, and can develop phobias. However, some children will experience this more frequently.

### **Online Safety, Cyber Security**

Drum and Brass CIC will work with our partners to keep children safe when online.

We will ensure that we have information and processes to raise awareness of online safety and cyber security for all our trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors.

This will cover a range of online safety issues including:

- fraud and scams
- copycat websites, phishing e-mails
- identity theft
- cyberbullying/trolling, cyberstalking,
- online grooming, online radicalisation,
- offensive/illegal content including race hate
- child sexual exploitation online
- Youth produced sexual imagery (sexting, nudes, semi-nudes)
- Using social media platforms.

Cyber Security is a growing Safeguarding concern and we recognise the need to have procedures to ensure networks, data and systems are protected against Cyber threats and help keep our trustees, staff, volunteers, contractors and our beneficiaries safe, particularly when in relation to our CRM, remote learning platforms and remote teaching platforms and different delivery styles.

### **The Sending of Indecent Images from one child to another through Digital Media Devices, including nudes and semi-nudes.**

In the latest advice for schools and colleges (UKCIS, 2020), this is defined as the sending or posting of nude or semi-nude images, videos, or live streams online by young people under the age of 18. This could be via social media, gaming platforms, chat apps or forums. It could also involve sharing between devices via services like which works offline.

The motivations for taking and sharing nude and semi-nude images, videos and live streams are not always sexually or criminally motivated. This does not apply to adults sharing nudes or semi-nudes of under 18-year olds. This is a form of child sexual abuse and we will refer this to the police as a matter of urgency.

### **The Criminal Exploitation of Children**

Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children under 18 and older where there is a vulnerable adult are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes.

County Lines is the police term for urban gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets - suburban areas and market and coastal towns and using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”.

Cuckooing is a practice where people take over a person’s home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. There are different types of cuckooing:

Using the property to deal, store or take drugs Using the property to sex work

Taking over the property as a place for them to live Taking over the property to financially abuse the tenant

The most common form of cuckooing is where drug dealers take over a person’s home and use it to store or distribute drugs. Children living in these properties are at risk of neglect and other types of abuse.

### **The Sexual Exploitation of Children**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type 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.

It can occur online, and many young people can be persuaded or forced to have sexual conversations by text or online, send or post sexually explicit images of themselves, take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone.

Children and young people in sexually exploitative situations and relationships are persuaded or forced to perform sexual activities or have sexual activities performed on them in return for gifts, drugs, money, or affection.

All suspected or actual cases of CRE/CSE are a Safeguarding concern in which safeguarding procedures will be followed.

### **Forced Marriage/ Honour based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (Child Protection)**

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. If any trustees, staff volunteers and contractors are concerned about a child, they should contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads. This will also apply to suspicions of a child been subject to treats of or honour-based violence.

If there are concerns that a child may be or is subject to breast ironing, this is Child Abuse and Safeguarding procedures will be followed and in all cases.

### **Prevent and Counter Terrorism**

Drum and Brass CIC will ensure all trustees, staff, volunteers and contracts will adhere to their duties under Prevent, as detailed in the Prevent Duty Guidance 2015, (also Prevent Duty Guidance for schools) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and to work with our partners to comply with any policies and procedures they have in place.

### **Peer on peer abuse Definition**

Peer on peer or child on child abuse occurs when there is any kind of physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse or coercive control exercised between children both on and offline. It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children/young people.

It is most likely to include but may not be limited to: bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying); abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers; physical abuse; sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; sexual harassment; non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi nudes images and/or videos; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent; upskirting; and initiation/hazing type violence and rituals.<sup>1</sup>

## **2.7 Spotting the signs and indicators**

- Absence from school or disengagement from school activities.
- Social isolation and withdrawal from daily activities
- Physical injuries.
- Mental or emotional health issues.
- Becoming withdrawn – lack of self-esteem.
- Lack of sleep.
- Alcohol or substance misuse.
- Changes in behaviour.
- Inappropriate behaviour for age.
- Harmful towards others.

### **Additionally vulnerable groups to peer-on-peer abuse**

- Those aged 10 and upwards.

- Girls and young women are more likely to be harmed and boys and young men more likely to have harmed.
- Children of colour/young people often under identified as having been harmed and over-identified as having harmed others.
- Children/young people with intra-familial abuse in their histories or those living with domestic abuse.
- Children/young people in care and those who have experienced loss of a parent, sibling or friend through bereavement.
- Children/young people who have harmed others can be younger than their victims.

It is important to remember that as with all safeguarding issues, peer on peer abuse can impact on children and young people without these characteristics. It is therefore important to look at interlinking factors and not isolated incidents.

### **What we can do**

- Follow D&B's code of conduct and ensure all children and young people are supported and know their rights.
- Understand your local community and the context in which children and young people are growing up.
- Ensure children/young people know the risks – where appropriate, talk about peer-on-peer abuse in an age-appropriate way.
- Ensure those working with children and young people understand the impact of peer/child on child abuse on children/young people's mental health as well as the additional needs/vulnerabilities of children/young people with special educational needs or disabilities, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender; and/or have other perceived differences.

<sup>1</sup> Taken from

<https://safeguarding.network/content/safeguarding-resources/peer-peer-abuse/>

- Where appropriate, check children/young people have safe relationships – in their family, with their peers and with your staff. Create the environment where it is OK to talk, even about the most difficult things.
- Spot the signs and know what to do – use the checklists above and be confident to raise peer on peer/child on child abuse as a possibility.

### **Historical or Non-Recent Child Abuse**

Historical child abuse, sometimes referred to as non-recent child abuse, is when a child or young person experienced abuse when they were younger, or historically, that may or may not have been disclosed at the time. It's important we know what to do when a child or young person discloses historical abuse.

We advise, that if a child or young person discloses or talks about historical abuse, that you respond in the same way you would if it was a disclosure of recent abuse and that you follow our normal reporting procedures As part of this, we ask you to inform one of D&B's Designated Safeguarding Officers immediately. The DSO will then follow this up with the relevant parties to ensure that they are aware of this historical abuse and to take further



action if needed.

## **2.8 Handling a disclosure**

It is possible that a child or vulnerable adult who is suffering, or has suffered abuse, will disclose to a Drum and Brass CIC representative or member of staff. It is vital that the adult receives the full information. This is something that everyone should be prepared for and must handle carefully. The following action should be taken:

- Remain calm and in control (“I can help”) but do not delay acting.
- The child or vulnerable adult should be reassured (“You’ve done the right thing sharing”).
- Listen carefully to what is said. Allow the child or vulnerable adult to tell the story at their own pace and ask questions only for clarification. Do not ask questions that suggest a particular answer.
- Do not promise to ‘keep it a secret.’ The first opportunity should be taken to say that this information will have to be shared with others. It should be made clear that only people who need to know will be told and they should be able to help (“We might need to ask someone for help in dealing with the matter”).
- The child or vulnerable adult should be told what is going to happen next.
- Notify a designated safeguarding lead at Drum and Brass CIC and the designated safeguarding lead at the school/setting. It is that person’s responsibility to liaise with relevant authorities, usually social services.
- In confidence, you should notify your line manager immediately that you have been disclosed to (not the details of the disclosure), so that you can be offered support.
- As soon as possible a note for record (see appendix c) should be made of what was witnessed as well as the response. Do not do this when with the child. Note the date, time, and any names that were involved or mentioned, and who the record was given to. Sign and date the record.

Remember not all disclosures are obvious. Some children and vulnerable adults will be too frightened to directly disclose abuse but will make hints and even jokes to try and make an appropriate adult aware of the issue.

## **Staff responsibilities**

### Child safeguarding

Drum and Brass staff and associated partners must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18
- Sexually abuse or exploit children
- Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking
- Engage in private messaging with anyone under the age of 18
- Offer lifts to anyone under the age of 18 unless another member of Drum and Brass staff or a parent is also present

## Adult safeguarding

Drum and Brass staff and associated partners must:

- Not sexually abuse or exploit any adults (to include colleagues as well as participants)
- Not subject any adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Use business, not private, digital and social media accounts to send/receive information relating to Drum and Brass

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Drum + Brass staff and associated personnel must not:

Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance

Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

Additionally, Drum + Brass staff and associated personnel are obliged to:

Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy

Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a Drum + Brass staff member or associated personnel to the appropriate staff member

## **2.9 Disclosure and Barring**

Drum and Brass Directors all have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certification. It will be the expectation of staff, individuals and working partners to supply a valid DBS certificate before working with children and / or vulnerable adults in any of our projects. Having a criminal conviction is not necessarily a barrier to working with us. However, due to the nature of the work we do, if the criminal conviction is relating to children or adult's safety, we reserve the right to refuse access for the protection of our Participants.

Drum and Brass will accept valid DBS certificates from other organisations as evidence. If unavailable, we are able to obtain DBS certificates for Drum and Brass.

## **2.10 Reporting incidences of concern**

Drum and Brass will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to staff and the communities we work with.

Any staff reporting concerns or complaints through formal whistleblowing channels (or if they request it) will be protected by Drum and Brass's IDEA B policy.

Drum and Brass will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

### Safeguarding Reporting Process

Drum and Brass process for anyone with a safeguarding concern.

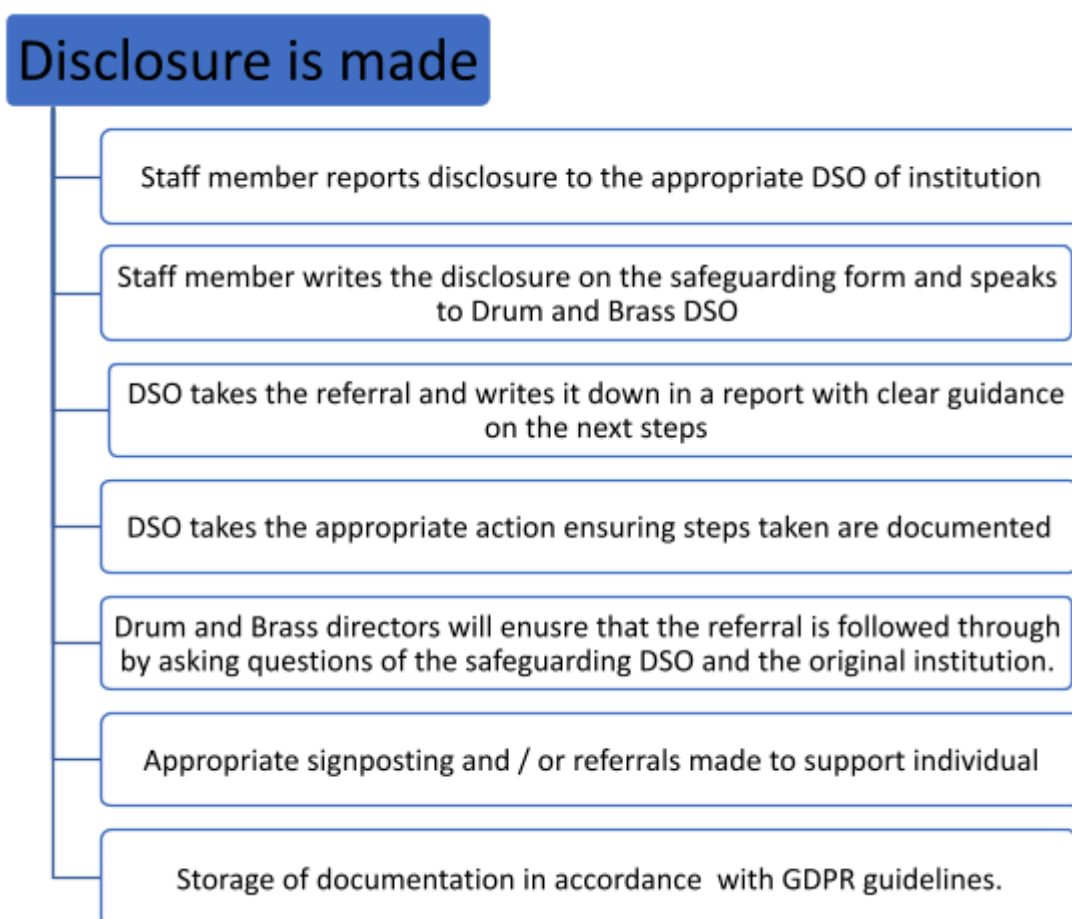
- Write down what you have experienced as soon as possible after the event on any piece of paper
- Contact DSO by phone, email or in person [phone number and email address]
- The DSO will support the person with the concern from this point on.

#### Contact details

DSL [Davina Vencatasamy davina@drumandbrass.co.uk](mailto:davina@drumandbrass.co.uk) 07816612766

DSO Sim Mistry [sim@drumandbrass.co.uk](mailto:sim@drumandbrass.co.uk) 07825559271

DSO Julie Hoggarth [julie@drumandbrass.co.uk](mailto:julie@drumandbrass.co.uk) 07866378392



### 2.11 Expectation

As an organisation that expects the highest standards of safeguarding care from its partners and staff, Drum and Brass will ensure that it meets these expectations:

It is the expectation

- That all safeguarding concerns, informal and formal referrals will be followed up with the appropriate authorities.
- That all safeguarding queries will be answered in a timely manner, either through their own expertise in the area or by asking other professional agencies for their advice and support
- That if there is a need to write reports or attend meetings with regards to children or adults who use the service, a member of the director team will attend wherever necessary and appropriate.

Our promise:

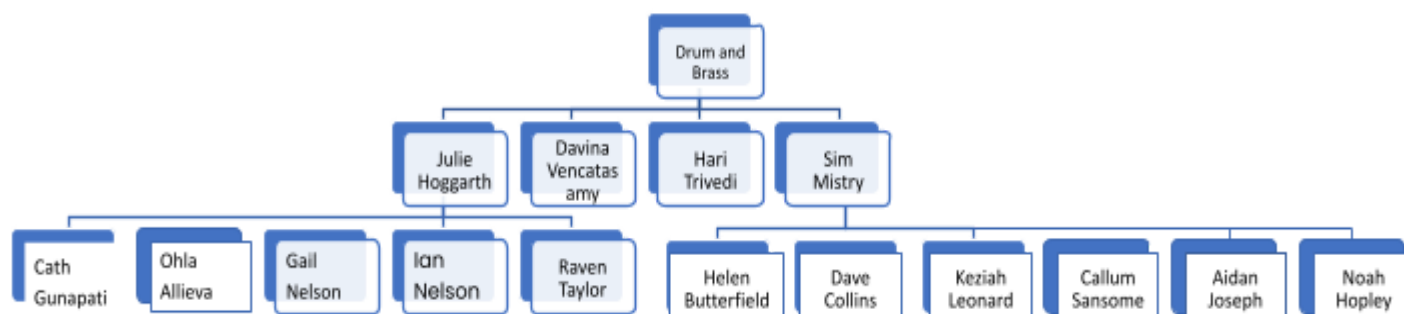
In turn, you have the right to have expectations of Drum and Brass:

- We promise to act swiftly and within due process to any referral or concern reported.
- All safeguarding concerns will be recorded
- All safeguarding concerns will be taken seriously
- If Drum and Brass feels that even after reporting a safeguarding concern through the proper channels that appropriate action have not been implemented, they will ensure that a higher authority is informed to get the concern logged and followed through properly.

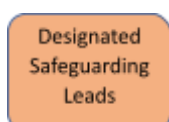
## 2.12 Confidentiality

At Drum and Brass, we understand that confidentiality matters around issues of safeguarding. We will not promote confidentiality between staff and client as this is not something which is able to be supported if a disclosure is made. However, all materials generated from a disclosure will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy and kept in a confidential manner. We as an organisation will ensure any discussion about safeguarding matters are held at director level who have been appropriately trained in safeguarding to at least level 3 (DSO level).

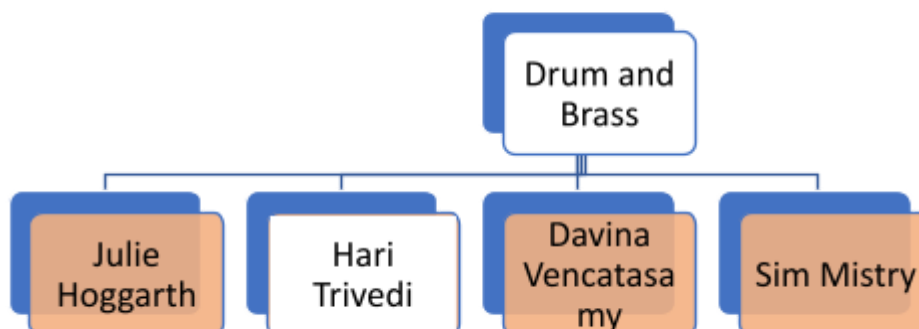
## 3.0 Management Structure



Safeguarding Leads



Key:



### 3.1 Implementation of Policy

All directors and staff working for and with Drum and Brass are responsible for implementing the safeguarding policy. All external partners are responsible for getting appropriate, robust and current safeguarding training. Drum and Brass will endeavour to provide this training wherever possible but a Level 3 is a standard level accepted to work with our participants.

### 3.2 Evaluation and monitoring of policy

Drum and Brass directors will be responsible for monitoring of the policy. The designated safeguarding lead will perform an audit of all safeguarding referrals and produce a report on a quarterly basis to be reported to the directors.

### 4.0 Resources

- References

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/safeguarding/about/>

[https://www.thh.nhs.uk/documents/\\_Patients/PatientLeaflets/general/Safeguarding\\_Adults\\_LD-Easy-Read-DOH.pdf](https://www.thh.nhs.uk/documents/_Patients/PatientLeaflets/general/Safeguarding_Adults_LD-Easy-Read-DOH.pdf)

Resource	Link
Adverse Childhood Experiences	<a href="https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/what-are-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces/">https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/what-are-adverse-childhood-experiences-aces/</a>
Keeping Children Safe in Education	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2</a>
Leicester Children's Safeguarding Board	<a href="http://www.lcitylscb.org/">http://www.lcitylscb.org/</a>
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	<a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/</a>

## 5.0 Glossary of terms

**CEOP** is a law enforcement agency to help keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

**Designated Safeguarding Lead** is named person for safeguarding children and young people. The designated safeguarding lead has a responsibility at both a strategic level within the organisation and on a day-to-day basis.

**Local Authority Designated Officer** is an identified role in local authorities (referred to as the LADO) to be involved in the management and oversight of individual cases of allegations of abuse made against those who work with children.

**NACRO** is a national social justice charity with more than 50 years' experience of changing lives, building stronger communities, and reducing crime. <https://www.nacro.org.uk>

**NSPCC** is a national charity campaigning and working in childcare in the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

**UK Safer Internet Centre** is a partnership of three leading organisations: SWGfL, Childnet International and Internet Watch Foundation whose mission is to promote the safe and responsible use of technology for young people.

## 6.0 Appendix A Types of Child Abuse

- **Physical Abuse** - may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning/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** - is 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 children 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 the 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** and child sexual abuse within the family (CSIF) 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 or 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 (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males; women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

- **Neglect** is 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. It may include a failure to:
  - Provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter.
  - Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.
  - Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or
  - Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
  - Respond to a child's basic emotional needs
- **Bullying** and forms of bullying on and off line including prejudice based and Cyber Bullying is also abusive which will include at least one, if not two, three or all four, of the defined categories of abuse [**cross reference /refer to School Bullying Policy and similar other policies**].

## Appendix B Indicators of Child Abuse

### Physical Abuse

Most children will collect cuts and bruises and injuries, and these should always be interpreted in the context of the child's medical / social history, developmental stage and the explanation given. Most accidental bruises are seen over bony parts of the body, e.g. elbows, knees, shins, and are often on the front of the body. Some children, however, will have bruising that is more than likely inflicted rather than accidental.

Important indicators of physical abuse are bruises or injuries that are either unexplained or inconsistent with the explanation given; these can often be visible on the 'soft' parts of the body where accidental injuries are unlikely, e.g. cheeks, abdomen, back and buttocks. A delay in seeking medical treatment when it is obviously necessary is also a cause for concern.

The physical signs of abuse may include:

- Unexplained bruising, marks, or injuries on any part of the body
- Multiple bruises- in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh
- Cigarette burns
- Human bite marks
- Broken bones
- Scalds, with upward splash marks.
- Multiple burns with a clearly demarcated edge.

Changes in behaviour that can also indicate physical abuse:

- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away from home.

### **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse can be difficult to identify as there are often no outward physical signs. Indications may be a developmental delay due to a failure to thrive and grow, however, children who appear well-cared for may nevertheless be emotionally abused by being taunted, put down or belittled. They may receive little or no love, affection or attention from their parents or carers. Emotional abuse can also take the form of children not being allowed to mix or play with other children.

Changes in behaviour which can indicate emotional abuse include:

- Neurotic behaviour e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking
- Being unable to play
- Fear of making mistakes
- Sudden speech disorders
- Self-harm
- Fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour
- Developmental delay in terms of emotional progress.

### **Sexual Abuse**



It is recognised that there is underreporting of sexual abuse within the family. School / College all staff and volunteers should play a crucial role in identifying / reporting any concerns that they may have through, for example, the observation and play of younger children and understanding the indicators of behaviour in older children which may be underlining of such abuse.

All Staff and volunteers should be aware that adults, who may be men, women, or other children, who use children to meet their own sexual, needs abuse both girls and boys of all ages. Indications of sexual abuse may be physical or from the child's behaviour. In all cases, children who tell about sexual abuse do so because they want it to stop. It is important, therefore, that they are listened to and taken seriously.

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Bruising or bleeding near genital area
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Vaginal discharge or infection
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy.

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate sexual abuse include:

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming aggressive or withdrawn
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Having nightmares
- Running away from home
- Sexual knowledge which is beyond their age, or developmental level
- Sexual drawings or language
- Bedwetting
- Eating problems such as overeating or anorexia
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- Substance or drug abuse
- Suddenly having unexplained sources of money
- Not allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- Acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults.

### **Neglect**

It can be difficult to recognise Neglect, however its effects can be long term and damaging for children.

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- Being constantly dirty or 'smelly'.
- Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children.
- Losing weight or being constantly underweight.
- Inappropriate or dirty clothing.

Neglect may be indicated by changes in behaviour which may include:

- Mentioning being left alone or unsupervised.
- Not having many friends.
- Complaining of being tired all the time.
- Not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments.