

## **Safeguarding Children Policy (PART 1)**

At little angels we have a duty to acknowledge that abuse does occur in our society and does not restrict itself to any one social, ethnic, cultural or other group.

We believe the well-being of the children is paramount. We aim to create an environment where all children are safe from abuse and any concerns or suspicions are dealt with promptly, and appropriately, ensuring that confidence is maintained at all times.

This statement sets out the procedures we would undertake if we had reason to believe that a child in our care was suffering from neglect, emotional, sexual or physical abuse.

The Children Act 1999 (Section 41(1)) places a duty on local authority to investigate all report on suspected abuse. The Children's Law Guernsey and Alderney 2008 (Section 28) states that it is a duty of:

Each employee and the States And  
All other persons

Whilst they are working with any child whom they have a responsibility believe is in need or at risk, to take actions to promote the child's welfare and share information.

### **Neglect**

Action will be taken if the staff have reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child e.g. exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, which results in a serious impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive. Neglect may include a parent/carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to secure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care takers or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic needs.

## **Safeguarding Children Policy (PART 2)**

### **Emotional Abuse**

Action will be taken if staff have reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional effect on the behaviour and the emotional development of a child caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection. It may involve conveying to the child that they are unloved or worthless, inadequate, or valued in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or develop mentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children, including interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as over protection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing a child participating in normal social interaction. It may also involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

### **Sexual Abuse**

Action will be taken if the staff have witnessed occasions where the child has indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawings or had an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour. Also, where the child is being exposed to images that are not appropriate to the age of the child.

### **Physical Abuse**

Action will be taken if the staff have reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning, where there is a definite knowledge or reasonable suspicion, that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricated the symptoms of, or deliberately induced illness in a child.

### **Procedures for Dealing with Suspected Abuse**

- All concerns, issues and suspicions relating to safeguarding will be documented and kept in a safe confidential place. The parents/care will have access to such documentation.
- Any concerns, issues and concerns relating to safeguarding will be kept confidential and shared only with appropriate people.
- If a staff member suspects that a child is being abused or is at risk of being abused, they will discuss their concerns with the nursery manager.
- Any concerns regarding suspected abuse will be discussed with the child's parents/carer.
- The management will contact the Assessment and Intervention Team if he/she feels that the child is in need of protection.
- If cases where the child is in need then permission will be sought from parents before action can be taken.