

 **Equal Education Chances Safeguarding Policy**

Equal Education Chances is a charity organisation managed by trustees and volunteers based in Manchester. EEC supports families and their children with disabilities/SEN from 0- 25 years, Young people and vulnerable adults.

*This child centred approach is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child. A child centred approach means keeping the child in focus when making decisions about their lives and working in partnership with them and their families*.

EEC demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding children/young people. This policy is intended to safeguard vulnerable people who receive services from EEC

This policy applies to all staff, trustees, volunteers, student and anyone working on behalf of EEC

At EEC everybody is responsible to safeguard children and vulnerable adult.

**Mary Olanrewaju** is the lead safeguarding officer.

**If you are concerned about a child, young person or adult, then please call Manchester Contact Centre on 0161 234 5001 or in an emergency call 999.**

**4 TYPES ABUSE AND DEFINITION**

**Neglect Abuse**- 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.

**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.

**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 meets 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.

**Physical Abuse-** 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.

*In addition- There are situations whereby children need protection from including: Grooming, Domestic Violence, Inappropriate supervision staff/volunteers, Bullying/cyberbullying, Act of violence and aggressive, Self-harm, Unsafe environment, Crime, Exploitation, Female genital mutilation.*

**WHEN AN ALLEGATION IS MADE**

Children and young people can be subject to harm by those who work with them in any setting. This may be by a professional, staff member, foster carer or volunteer.

All allegations must be taken seriously and treated in accordance with agreed procedures. These procedures apply to all organisations within Manchester who have contact with children and young people or provide staff or volunteers to work with or care for children and young people.

The MCC Designated Officer (formerly known as the LADO). should be informed of all allegations that come to an employer’s attention

Referrals to the MCC Designated Officer must be made within 1 working day of an allegation being made. All referrals need to be made using the MCC Designated Officer referral form. (in EEC safeguarding file) It is essential that all sections of the form are completed.

**The completed referral form should to be sent to** **qualityassurance@manchester.gov.uk**

 **If you wish to have an informal conversation with the MCC Designated Officer before making a referral please call 0161 234 1214.**

We have a process for recording incidents, concerns and referrals and storing these securely in compliance with relevant legislation and kept for a time.

**Identifying children and families who would benefit from early help**

we work with Local organisations and agencies and have in place effective ways to identify emerging problems and potential unmet needs of individual children and families. In order to develop joined-up early help services based on a clear understanding of local needs. This requires us to identify emerging problems and to share information with other practitioners to support early identification and assessment.

**Early intervention for a child who**:

• is disabled and has specific additional needs

• has special educational needs (whether they have a statutory Education,

Health and Care Plan)

• is a young carer

• is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including

gang involvement and association with organised crime groups

• is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home7

• is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation

• is at risk of being radicalised or exploited

• is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and

alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse

• is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves

• has returned home to their family from care8

• is a privately fostered child

A code of behaviour for trustees, staff and volunteers; the consequences of breaching the code are clear and linked to disciplinary and grievance procedures.

EEC ensures that we operate a safe recruitment, selection and vetting procedures that include checks into the eligibility and the suitability of all trustees, staff and volunteers who have direct contact with children; through DBS or police check in Africa countries

EEC will ensure that all staff and volunteers working with children given opportunities to learn about child protection by their roles and responsibilities. safeguarding induction training is now mandatory for all those who work directly with children, young people, their families and/or carers

EEC Training requirements for trustees, staff and volunteers will include e-Safety, domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, children who live away from home or go missing, child sexual exploitation, abuse and extremism

EEC will ensure that no child or group of children will be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their needs and all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs

EEC Trustees who work with vulnerable beneficiaries, must always act in their best interests and ensure they take all reasonable steps to prevent harm to them.

Having safeguarding policy in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes the welfare of children/young people but also it enhances the confidence of trustees, staff, volunteers, parents/carers and the public.

All volunteers will be mandated to read and sign the safeguarding policy.

EEC will ensure that we have consent for the followings:

Observation

Photography

EEC publication

EEC website

Video

Nutrition requirement

Social media

Trip

**EEC safeguarding policy has been drawn from-**

Working together to safeguard children 2018

Care Act 2014

<https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/resource/what-is-child-abuse/>

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents