

Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and Procedures



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Executive Summary

The Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and Procedures sets out how George's Rockstars and all staff and volunteers within the organisation will perform their duty to safeguard, protect, and promote the welfare of children (0-18 years of age) in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004.

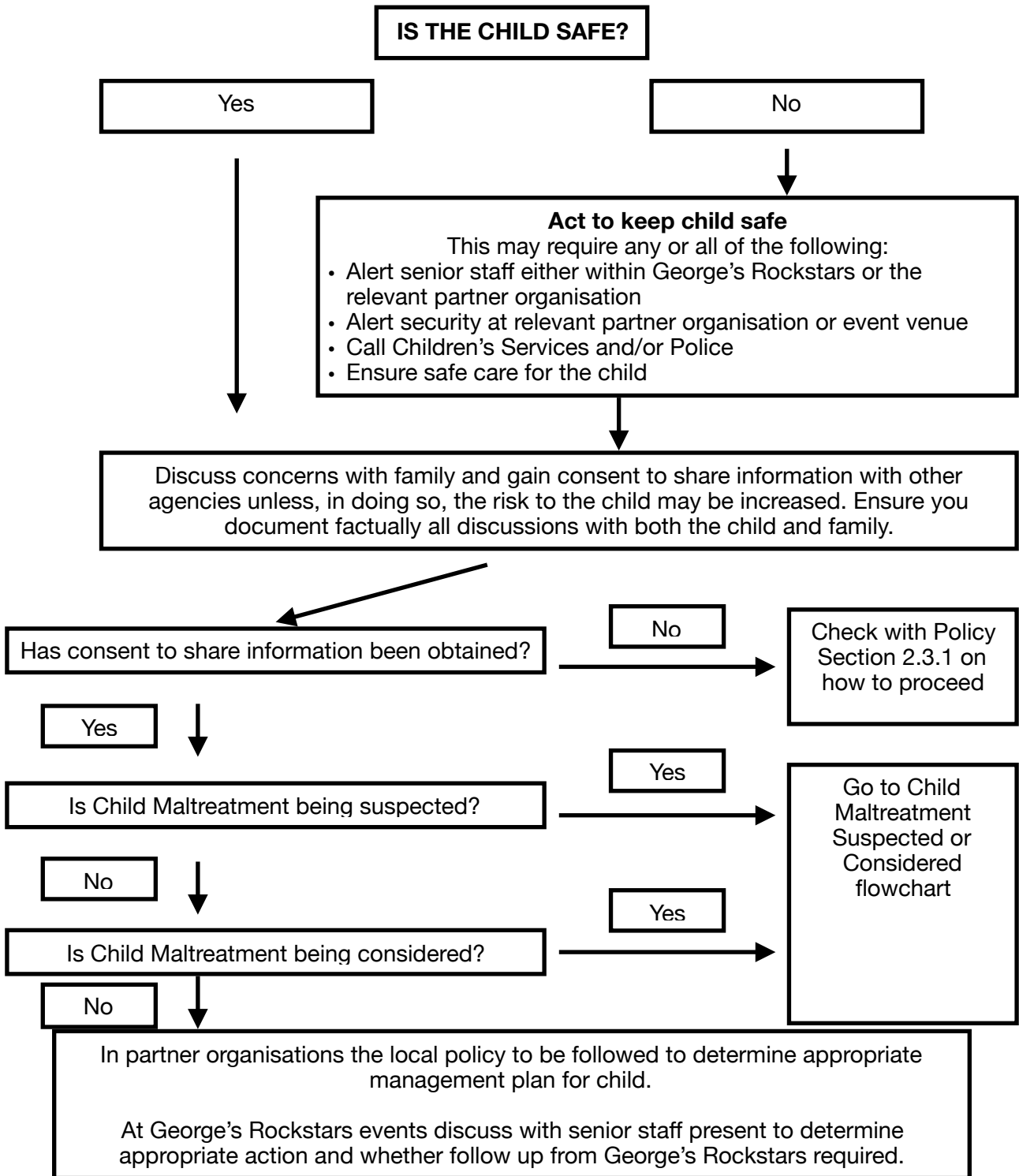
All Children are entitled to protection from abuse and neglect therefore it is important that all staff and volunteers fully understand their roles, responsibilities and duties within the context of the primary legislation and the associated guidance and regulatory frameworks.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policies and Procedures of partner organisations when George’s Rockstars staff are working in partnership with external organisations.

Initial George’s Rockstars Safeguarding/Child Protection Process

This flowchart provides a summary overview of the initial steps George’s Rockstars staff and volunteers need to take if they identify concerns about a child. This flowchart does not replace the full policy document.

Staff member or volunteer has concerns about a child’s welfare.
 George’s Rockstars staff and volunteers have a duty of care to all children who are engaged in George’s Rockstars therapeutic activities or on site at George’s Rockstars fundraising events.



Is the child engaged in George's Rockstars therapeutic activities at a partner organisation?



Yes



Follow partner organisations safeguarding policies and procedures.

Remember if you are unsure what to do you can always ask senior nursing or medical staff for guidance or contact the organisation's Safeguarding Team



No



Consult with senior staff and:

In an emergency, contact the police using telephone no. 999

If the person is not in immediate danger, contact the police using telephone no. 101

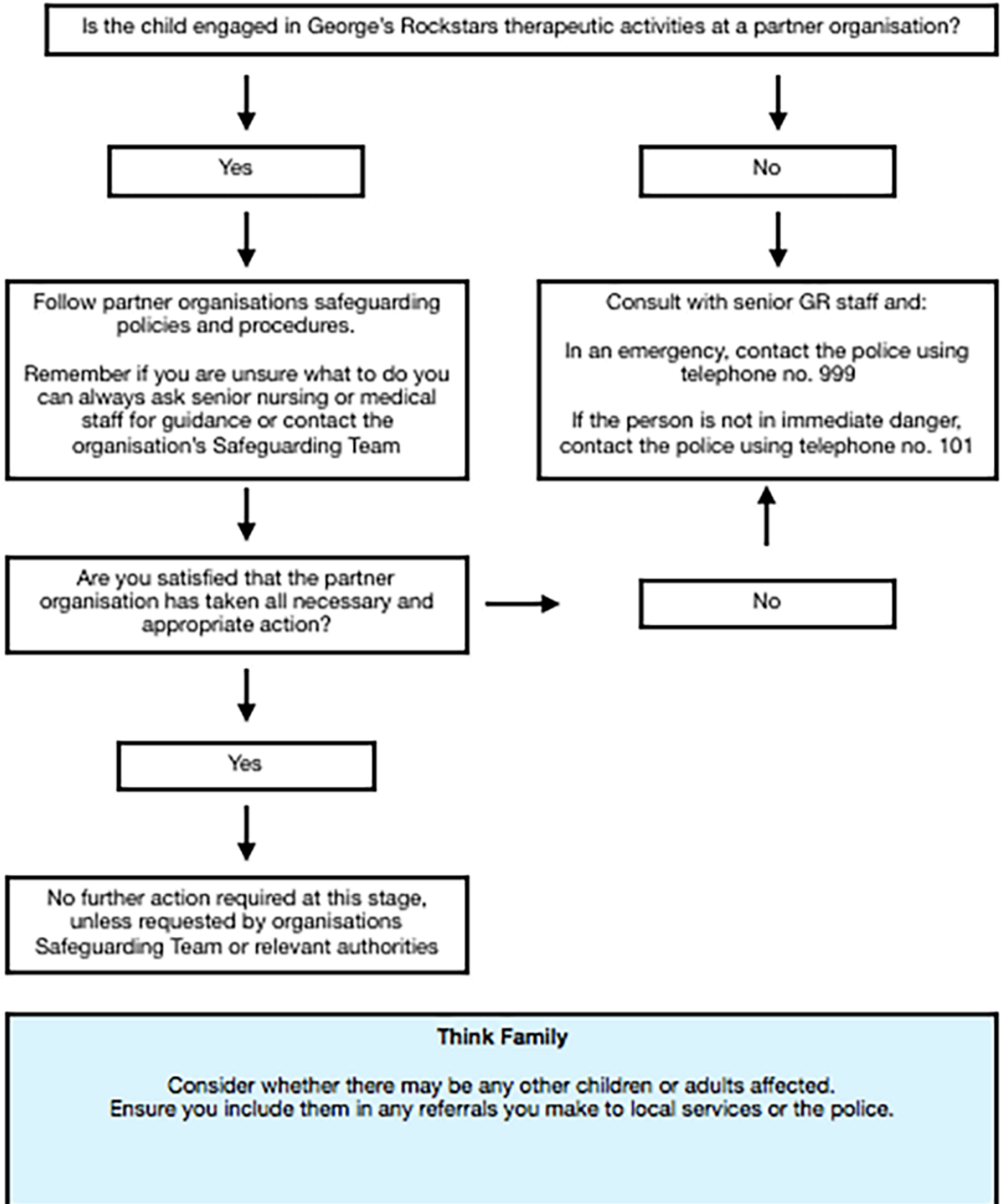
Think Family

Consider whether there may be any other children or adults affected.
Ensure you include them in any referrals you make to local services or the police.

Child Maltreatment is Suspected or Considered Flowchart

Suspect means serious level of concern about the possibility of child maltreatment - it does not mean certainty or that child maltreatment has been proven (NICE CG89 2009)

Consider means maltreatment is one possible explanation for the presentation or is included in the differential diagnosis (NICE CG89 2009)



1 Introduction

These policies and procedures set out how George's Rockstars' staff and volunteers should work together and with other agencies to safeguard, protect, and promote the welfare of children 0 - 18 years.

Effective Safeguarding arrangements should aim to meet the following two key principles:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, each individual and organisation should play their full part
- A child centred approach is needed for services to be effective. They should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

All agencies and professionals should:

- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect.
- Be alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children.
- Share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the child's needs and circumstances.
- Contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
- Take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans.
- Work co-operatively with parents, unless this is inconsistent with ensuring the child's safety.

1.1 Scope

Safeguarding is everyone's business

All George's Rockstars staff and volunteers should

- Work to protect and safeguard children
- Understand their responsibilities and duties as set out in these policies and procedures.

Safeguarding children is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency activities and George's Rockstars works together with other agencies using common guidelines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the children engaged in our activities. George's Rockstars operates a culture of dignity and respect, of listening to and engaging in dialogue with children, seeking their views in ways appropriate to age and understanding, and taking account of these individual decisions and in the development of services to meet the best interests for children.

These policies and procedures apply to all children under 18 years of age who are engaged in George's Rockstars therapeutic activities or on site at George's Rockstars events.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to make explicit for all staff and volunteers their individual and collective duty to safeguard and protect children 0 - 18 years from actual or suspected abuse and/or neglect in the context of primary regulation and the broader government and organisations strategy for all children. These policies and procedures are designed to ensure that effective strategic, operations and governance systems and processes are in place for staff to identify, report, and action Safeguarding children concerns.

The purpose of the Policies and Procedures is to promote and engender appropriate and effective child-centred care and support for children who are suffering from or like to suffer from child maltreatment in order to protect these children and optimise their outcomes.

1.3 Key Definitions

Child	<p>Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.</p> <p>The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is married or has children does not impact on the definition.</p> <p>UK law does not afford legislative rights to an unborn baby. However consideration should be given to their needs and any risk factors taken into account and acted upon</p>
Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children	<p>Defined in Working Together 2018 as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting children from maltreatment • preventing impairment of children’s health or development • ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care • taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances
Child protection (Section 47)	<p>Part of Safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 requires local authorities to undertake enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm.</p>
Harm and Significant Harm	<p>“Harm” is defined as the ill treatment or the impairment of health or development, including e.g. impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another. “Development” means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. “Health” means physical or mental health.</p> <p>“Significant harm” may include a single traumatic event or a compilation of events. It can be both acute and long-standing. It is anything which interrupts, changes or damages the child’s physical and/or psychological development. For some children it is the corrosiveness of long-term abuse or neglect that causes impairment to the extent of constituting significant harm.</p>
Child Maltreatment	<p>Child maltreatment includes neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and fabricated or induced illness.</p>
Child in Need (Section 17)	<p>Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 defines a child in need as a child who is unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health or development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired, without the provision of services, or children who are disabled.</p>
Early Help	<p>Early help is support provided to children and families to promote the welfare of children who don’t meet the threshold for referral to children social care. The aim of early help is to prevent the situation for children deteriorating.</p>

Looked After Child	<p>Under the Children Act 1989, a child is legally defined as ‘looked after’ by a local authority if he or she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is subject to a Care order or Emergency Protection Order (to put the child into the care of the local authority). • Is subject to a placement order (to put the child up for adoption) • gets accommodation from the local authority for a continuous period of more than 24hrs <p>Looked After Children may be placed with parents, foster carers (including relatives and friends), in Children's Homes, in Secure Accommodation or with prospective adopters.</p>
Physical Abuse	<p>Physical abuse 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.</p>
Emotional Abuse	<p>Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person • Imposing 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 • Seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another e.g. where there is domestic violence or abuse • Serious bullying, including cyber bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger • Exploitation or corruption of children <p>Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.</p>
Neglect	<p>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 and development.</p> <p>Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter • Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger • Ensure adequate supervision • Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment <p>It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.</p> <p>Neglect may occur during pregnancy.</p>

<p>Child Sexual Abuse</p>	<p>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 (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.</p> <p>Sexual abuse includes non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, including online and with mobile devices, 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).</p> <p>Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.</p> <p>In addition, Sexual abuse includes abuse of children through sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Penetrative sex where one of the partners is under the age of 16 is illegal, although prosecution of similar age, consenting partners is not usual. However, where a child is under the age of 13 it is classified as rape under Section 5 Sexual Offences Act 2003.</p>
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Missing Exploited Trafficked</p>	<p>A Missing child is defined as one who has run away from their home or care placement or has been forced to leave or whose whereabouts is unknown.</p> <p>All forms of exploitation should be considered in the same way, with an understanding of grooming and vulnerability. Child Sexual Exploitation is defined above. Child Criminal Exploitation occurs when a child forced or coerced into criminal activity.</p> <p>Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by means of threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception or abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation.</p> <p>There are clear links between Child Sexual Exploitation and those children who are trafficked and/or go missing and cannot be dealt with in isolation when identifying and assessing risk.</p>
<p>Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: Psychological, Physical, Sexual, Financial and Emotional.</p>
<p>Young Carer</p>	<p>A young carer is a child under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person of any age, except generally where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work. The young carer carries out significant or substantial caring tasks on a regular basis and assumes a level of responsibility, which would usually be associated with an adult. The person receiving the care is often a parent but can be a sibling, grandparent or other relative who is disabled, has some chronic illness, mental health problem or other condition that with a need for care support of supervision.</p>

Honour based violence	A crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. It is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.
Forced marriage	A term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of their parents or a third party in identifying a spouse. Forced marriage can be a particular risk for people with learning difficulties and people lacking capacity.
Female Genital Mutilation	<p>Involves procedures that include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. The practice is medically unnecessary. FGM constitutes a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls, and has severe physical and psychological consequences. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.</p> <p>Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 places a duty on all regulated professionals, including health to report 'known cases' of FGM in girls under 18 years to the police. Mandatory reporting came into place on 31st October 2015.</p>
Modern Slavery	Includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced and compulsory labour. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 became law on 26 March 2015 and is designed to tackle slavery in the UK. Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.
Extremism	Exploitation of susceptible people by radicalisers who promote violence in order to draw them into violent extremism. In July 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into force creating a statutory duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

2 Legal Issues

2.1 Rights of the child

Children have Human Rights as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990). The United Kingdom is party to this Convention.

The Convention has 54 Articles (<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>)

The following Articles are highlighted:

Article 3 - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children

Article 12 - Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

Article 19 - Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Staff have a duty to listen to the voice of the child, allow the child to express their wishes and to consider the views of the child and involve the child in any decisions made about the child. Staff also have a duty to consult with and identify the wishes of those who have parental responsibility in respect of a child up to 18 years.

However, where the wishes of the parent conflict with those of the child or compromise the safety or well being of the child, the child's best interest will be the overriding consideration. (Children Act 1989).

2.2 Parental Responsibility

Parental responsibility means all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property (Children Act 1989, Section 3).

Staff have a duty to consult with and identify the wishes of those who have parental responsibility in respect of a child up to 18 years. However, where the wishes of the parent conflict with those of the child or compromise the safety or well being of the child, the child's best interest will be the overriding consideration.

2.2.1 Who has parental responsibility?

Where the parents were married to each other at the time of birth both parents have parental responsibility for the child.

Where a child's father and mother were not married to each other at the time of birth

- the mother has parental responsibility.
- the father has parental responsibility if: his name is on the child's birth certificate, or the parents make a parental responsibility agreement, or the Court orders that the father shall have parental responsibility.

The following also have parental responsibility

- A Guardian of a child as appointed by Court (Children Act 1989, Section 5).
- The local authority if the child is subject to a Care Order (Full or Interim) or Emergency Protection Order.
- A person granted a Child Arrangement Order where the order includes that the child resides with that person.
- Adoptive parent(s).

The following should be noted

- A number of people can hold parental responsibility at the same time.
- Where more than one person has parental responsibility for a child, each of them may act alone and without the other(s) in meeting that responsibility, except under specified circumstances.
- Those with parental responsibility do not lose it because other people acquire it e.g. when the child is made the subject of a Care Order. However, the local authority is allowed to determine the extent to which the parent(s) may exercise their responsibility, but only where they consider this necessary in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.
- Police protection does not confer parental responsibility.
- A temporary carer without parental responsibility may do what is reasonable in all circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the child's welfare e.g. step-parents, grandparents, foster carers. Their consent can be accepted if they are authorised by the parent.

Adoption

Adoption is a legal procedure in which the Parental Responsibility for a child is transferred from their birth parent or other person with Parental Responsibility to their adopters. Parental responsibility will be held solely by the adopter/s (Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 46(2)).

Guidance to staff

In most situations, it is easy to determine which adults have parental responsibility. However, it is not sufficient to rely on the word of an adult that they have parental responsibility for a child. If you are unsure you are advised to seek guidance from senior staff members of George's Rockstars or the partner organisation you are working in.

2.3 Confidentiality, Sharing Information and Consent

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing, but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.

Consent from a child, if competent, and/or the parent or the person with parental responsibility is required to share information with other agencies (e.g. Children's Social Care, Police and/or Education). Sharing information with other organisations does not require consent but it is good practice to inform the parent if this is being done. Verbal consent is sufficient for information sharing and this should be documented.

Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at risk of abuse or neglect. Everyone must take responsibility for sharing the information they hold, and cannot assume that someone else will pass on information, which may be critical to keeping a child safe (*Information sharing - Advice for*

practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers, HM Government July 2018).

George's Rockstars staff and volunteers should be open and honest with the person (and/or their family/carer where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so. Staff and volunteers should consider whether obtaining consent for information shared should be sought or if it is in the child's best interest for information to be shared without consent from the parents/carers or child. This might be appropriate in any of the following situations:

- It could place a person at increased risk of serious or significant harm.
- It could prejudice the prevention, detection, or persecution of a serious crime.
- It could lead to a unjustified delay in making enquiries about allegations of significant harm to a child, or serious harm to an adult.

Consent for information sharing should be documented. A formal consent form is not required.

Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

2.3.1. What to do when the parent refuses to provide consent

If a parent refuses to provide consent to share information that staff believe is in the best interest of the child a number of different actions can be followed:

- If there are urgent concerns about the child's safety or welfare and the parents are not co-operating staff should consider Police Protection and, if necessary, contact the Police on 999.
- If the situation is not an emergency, staff should explain to the parent the consequences of not providing consent. If this approach does not succeed, speak with senior staff for advice but ultimately you should act in the child's best interest. This can include the sharing of information without parental consent, if these actions are proportionate to the concerns about the child.

If any actions are taken against parental wishes, the parent (and child if appropriate) should be informed of the actions taken and the rationale for doing this unless it is inappropriate to do so.

2.4 Looked After Children

A child is looked after by a local authority if s/he is in their care by reason of a Care Order or is being provided with accommodation under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 for more than 24 hours with the agreement of the parents, or of the child if s/he is aged 16 or over (Section 22, Children Act 1989).

A Care Order gives the local authority parental responsibility for the child but any person who is a parent or guardian also retains their parental responsibility and may continue to exercise it to the extent that their actions are not incompatible with the care order.

For a child who is 'accommodated' under a section 20 voluntary arrangement ('an accommodated child'), the local authority does not have parental responsibility for the child – parental responsibility remains with the parents.

Children on remand to local authority accommodation or under supervision with a residence requirement requiring them to live in local authority accommodation and those accommodated by the local authority are looked after children at the police's request.

Partner Organisations will likely have Specific Duties with respect to Looked After Children (LAC), it is the duty of all George's Rockstars staff to familiarise themselves with these and to follow them appropriately.

3 Recognising Abuse

3.1 Child Protection/Safeguarding Risk Factors

Any child can suffer abuse and neglect. Child abuse occurs within all sections of society regardless of socio-economic grouping, ethnicity, religion, culture, financial position or educational attainment. Children may be abused by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

A number of risk factors have been identified relating to the child, the parents/carers/family and/or the environment and one or more of these risk factors is frequently present when a child is abused or neglected. Knowledge of these risk factors is important for staff so that children at risk of abuse can be identified, especially in the presence of clinical concerns.

NICE guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect (2017) <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/ng76> have included a section on factors that increase vulnerability to child abuse and neglect (P14-16). George's Rockstars staff should be aware of these factors and consider them when assessing a child.

3.2 Protective/Resilience factors

Children's ability to cope with adversity and Safeguarding risk factors is related to their age, gender, and individual personality. Support from wider family, friends, school, professionals etc. can act as a protective factor and boost resilience.

3.3 Presentation of abuse or neglect

There are a number of resources that contain information about the features of child abuse and neglect including:

- NICE Clinical Guidelines. When to suspect child maltreatment 2009 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg89>
- RCPCH Child Protection Companion 2013 – available free to members of RCPCH and available from UHS Safeguarding Team
- RCPCH Child Protection Evidence <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/key-topics/child-protection/evidence>
- HSCB Neglect Strategy and Tool <http://www.hampshiresafeguardingchildrenboard.org.uk/2016/11/07/news-item-2/>

Staff can undertake specific training as appropriate, often through their partner organisation. If you feel you should have had training but have not been offered this, please speak with senior staff members to make appropriate arrangements.

3.4 Safeguarding children with a disability

Disabled children may be especially vulnerable to abuse because

- They may have impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse
- They may have speech, language and communication needs that make it difficult to tell others what is happening.

Staff need to be alert to safeguarding concerns when providing care to children with complex health issues and should be treated with the same degree of professional concern accorded to non-disabled children.

3.5 Children not brought for appointments

Staff working in partner organisations should familiarise themselves with each organisation's WNB policy and act accordingly.

3.6 Case Reviews

Staff working in partner organisations may sometimes be called on to contribute to Serious Case Reviews or Child Death Reviews. Staff have a duty to engage with these as requested.

The criteria for reviews and the purpose are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), namely that serious child safeguarding cases are those in which abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected and the child has died or been seriously harmed.

Case reviews are not enquiries into how a child died or was seriously injured, or who's is culpable, that is a matter for the coroners and criminal courts to determine.

When a review is commissioned records will be reviewed, staff may be interviewed asked to write a report, and/or asked to attend learning events. The aim is to review the case and identify if any organisational changes could be made in order to improve outcomes for children in the future.

4 General Principles of managing safeguarding cases

4.1 Safety of Child

Where there is a risk to the life of a child or a likelihood of serious immediate harm, local authority social workers, the police or NSPCC should use their statutory child protection powers to act immediately to secure the safety of the child (*Working Together 2018, P34*).

The first priority regarding any child about whom there are concerns about abuse and/or neglect is the welfare and safety of the child. It is the role of Children's Social Care to ensure there is safe care (a place of safety) for any child at risk of abuse or neglect.

Advice on safeguarding others can be obtained from Safeguarding Teams in partner organisations, or by contacting the police on telephone 101.

4.2 Safety of Siblings and other family members

When considering whether immediate action is required to protect a child, staff must also consider whether action is required to safeguard and protect the welfare of any other children in the same household or related to the household or the household of an alleged perpetrator or elsewhere, e.g. a work environment such as a hospital, school, etc.

Advice on safeguarding others can be obtained from Safeguarding Teams in partner organisations, or by contacting the police on telephone 101.

4.3 Talking with the child/children

Staff must communicate with the child in a way that is appropriate to the child's age, understanding and preference. In the process of finding out what is happening to a child and in understanding the child's perspective, it is best practice for staff to speak to the child alone, to listen, believe and develop an understanding of their wishes and feelings. This allows the child's voice to be heard independently.

It is preferred, but not necessary, that consent to speak to the child alone is obtained from the parent(s). The conversation should not be limited to concerns that any questions or responses will impact on subsequent police investigation or court case. However, the child must not be pressed for information, led or cross-examined. A child must not be given false assurances of confidentiality.

If the first language of the child is not English, it is essential that an interpreter be used if at all possible.

You must document your conversations with the child. Do not go beyond what is told to you i.e. avoid making your own judgements or assumptions about what is being told to you, but write as closely word for word as you can the child's statements.

4.4 Talking with parent/carer of the child

Staff and volunteers should be open and honest with parents/carers and treat them with respect. Staff and volunteers should not judge any individual and must not provide a false or inaccurate explanation for any management plan for a child.

Staff and volunteers should see, in general, to discuss concerns with the family and where possible seek the family's consent to sharing information unless this may either cause undue delay or place the child at increased risk of significant harm. Where consent is given this must be documented.

4.5 Multi-agency Strategy Meetings

Staff working in partner organisations may be asked to contribute to Multi-agency Strategy Meetings and it is their duty to do so as requested.

The purpose of a Multi-Agency Strategy Meeting is to:

- Share available information from all parties
- Agree whether the child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm - if so, then the threshold for Child Protection actions have been met.
- Agree on the multi-agency plan to support the actions of Children's Social Care and the Police, if required.
- Plan how to ensure that the child continues to be kept safe
- Consider the needs of any other children who may be affected
- Agree who and which agencies will speak with parents/carers regarding the outcomes of the meeting.
- Consider whether any further multi-agency meetings are required
- Secure additional expert advice and support if necessary
- Agree on the need for any reports to be written and their timescales.

4.6 Attendance at Court

George's Rockstars will support any staff or volunteers who are asked to attend court regarding safeguarding issues. Speak with the designated Safeguarding Lead discuss what support you may need. Staff should also be aware that support and guidance may be available through your partner organisation.

4.7 Writing Reports for Child Protection cases

If requested all staff and volunteers must be ready to provide Police, Children's Social Care, Legal Services, Court etc. with a written report/statement of the nature and extent of their concerns and/or input to that child.

These reports will be shared with the child and their parents/carers and are the equivalent of a Police Statement. All reports should include the following disclaimer:

This statement, consisting of ... pages, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in this statement which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Copies of all reports should be kept and if staff or volunteers are asked to give statements to the Police or any other agency we would advise you to inform the Safeguarding Lead at George's Rockstars and your partner organisation.

4.8 Duty of Candour

The effects of harming a child can have devastating emotional and physical consequences for the child, their families and carers. It can also be distressing for the professionals involved. Being open and honest about what happened, discussing the incident fully, openly and compassionately

can help all those involved cope better with the consequences of harm, whether potential or actual, in managing the event and also in coping in the longer term. In addition, being open and candid when things go wrong ensures that the investigation gets to the root cause or major contributory factors of the event and promotes organisational learning.

5 Relevant Legislation, statutory and non-statutory guidance

- Adoption and Children Act 2002 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/38/contents>
- Children Act 1989 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>
- Children Act 2004 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>
- Children and Young People Tool Kit. British Medical Association December 2010 file:///C:/Users/roem/Downloads/childrenyoungpeopletoolkit_full.pdf
- Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation February 2017 Department for Education https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_13.02.2017.pdf
- Data Protection Act 2018 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>
- Fabricated or Induced Illness(FII) by carers - a practical guide for paediatricians. RCPCH 2009 <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/fabricated-or-induced-illness-fii-carers-practical-guide-paediatricians>
- Human Rights Act 1998 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>
- Information sharing - Advice for practitioners providing Safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. HM Government July 2018 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/Safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>
- Looked after children: Knowledge, skills and competences of health care staff. Intercollegiate document, March 2015 https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Looked_after_children_Knowledge_skills_and_competence_of_healthcare_staff.pdf
- NICE Clinical Guidance. When to suspect child maltreatment <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg89>
- NICE Guideline. Child Abuse and Neglect <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/ng76>

- Protecting children and young people - The responsibilities of all doctors. General Medical Council July 2012 : https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/Protecting_children_and_young_people___English_1015.pdf_48978248.pdf
- Protection of Children Act 1978 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1978/37>
- Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children. HM Government March 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-looked-after-children--2>
- Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment (2nd edition). HM Government August 2009 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reference-guide-to-consent-for-examination-or-treatment-second-edition>
- RCPCH Child Protection Companion v2 2103 – only available on-line to members of the Royal College for Paediatrics and Child Health
- Safeguarding Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced. HM Government March 2008 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/Safeguarding-children-in-whom-illness-is-fabricated-or-induced>
- Safeguarding disabled children: practice guidance, HM Government July 2009 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/Safeguarding-disabled-children-practice-guidance>
- National service framework: children, young people and maternity services, HM Government October 2004 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-service-framework-children-young-people-and-maternity-services>
- Sexual Offences Act 2003 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>
- Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competences for health care staff. Intercollegiate document, March 2014 <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/Safeguarding-children-young-people-roles-competences-healthcare-staff>
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/?gclid=Cl3r_J6bgNICFQ0-GwodpdgOdg&sisr=1
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2>

6 Roles and Responsibilities

All staff and volunteers have a key role to play in actively promoting the health and wellbeing of children. All staff working directly with children should ensure that protecting, safeguarding and promoting their welfare forms an integral part of all elements of care offered.

All health professionals who work with children and families must be able to:

- Identify the signs and symptoms of actual and potential abuse or neglect in children.
- Identify and be alert and observant for risk factors and any indications of abuse, including parental conditions that can impact on children.
- Recognise the needs of parents who may need extra help in bringing up their children, and know where to refer for help.
- Recognise the risks of abuse or neglect to an unborn child.
- Known how to act effectively on their concerns.
- Work as part of a multi-agency team along with Children's Social Care and Police colleagues,
- Where appropriate, play an active part, through the child protection plan, in keeping the child safe.
- Maintain up to date knowledge and competent skills in these areas, through regular training and supervision.

Named Safeguarding Lead for George's Rockstars is *Cathy Birch*, Music Therapist and Fundraising Co-Ordinator

The Safeguarding Lead has a key role in promoting good practice within George's Rockstars, providing advice and support to colleagues, and ensuring safeguarding training is in place as appropriate.

7 Arrangements for Review of the Policy

This policy is due for review every three years. It is recognised however that they may be updates in the interim, in line with any amendments, or new, legislation, regulation or best practice guidance. This review will be led by the designated Safeguarding Lead for George's Rockstars.