

## **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

**CHILD PROTECTION** *is the process of undertaking to protect individual children who are identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. (\* Working Together 2015) It involves recognising signs and symptoms of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect and acting upon them*

**SAFEGUARDING** *keeping children and young people safe from a wide range of potential dangers and harm. It looks at preventative action rather than just reactive action by protecting children from maltreatment, preventing the impairment of children's health and development, ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care also taking action to allow all children to have the best life chances*

Our centre in Birmingham, England, is committed to and working towards the objectives as defined in \* **Working Together to Safeguard Children – a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. (March 2015 DfE)**

### **THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BIRMINGHAM SALVATION ARMY CHILD CONTACT CENTRE**

- We believe that children and young people need safe environments, in which they can grow and develop in confidence, to give them the best life chances.
- We recognise that as we work with and support children and young people we have a duty to keep them safe.
- We place Child Protection and the Safeguarding of children and young people at the centre of our activities and planning.
- We believe that children and young people should not be exposed to negligence or avoidable risks.
- We recognise that Child Protection and Safeguarding are emotive issues that need to be handled both sensitively and carefully.
- We are committed to creating and implementing policies and procedures that will ensure where risks need to be taken regarding children and young people they are both calculated and carefully managed.
- We are committed to ensure that all our volunteers are aware of, kept up to date with and operate in accordance with good practice. This will mean that they will have the ability to recognise, respond to, report, record and refer issues of Child Protection and Safeguarding.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- All volunteers will be required to read the policy.
- A copy of this policy will be made available on the Centre's website .

### **INTENTIONS when managing Child Protection and Safeguarding within the Centre.**

Graham Andrews who will be responsible for all aspects of the centre's work in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding. A specialist on the Advisory Board will give advice when required

### **RECRUITMENT and DBS CHECKS**

Our Child Contact Centre has a clearly defined recruitment process for the volunteers. This includes application forms, checking ID, interviews, obtaining references, induction procedures and probationary periods. Probationary volunteers, after three successful sessions of induction

with the Co-ordinator or Deputy Co-ordinator are placed in appropriate teams to be mentored by the Team leader. Our commitment to Child Protection and Safeguarding means that all volunteers are checked to an enhanced level DBS when they are recruited and every three years thereafter.

### **EDUCATION and TRAINING**

It is a condition of being accepted that our volunteers undertake induction training and then participate in a three year rolling programme of ten modules. These modules will be completed in various ways e.g. by personal attendance at Training Days, on-line training or face to face. During 2015 Child Protection and Safeguarding was studied using an on-line course and in 2016 and 2017 during Training Day sessions with the Coordinator. (The Coordinator will have received regular mandatory training at a higher level.) The Coordinator will work alongside each team every year for training and will supervise the team leaders who mentor their team members.

### **SHARING INFORMATION**

Birmingham Salvation Army Child Contact Centre has a statutory obligation to pass information to relevant partner organisations, under the Children's Act 1989, (amended in 2004) when a Child Protection or Safeguarding issue has been brought to the attention of the Coordinator or volunteers. There is a procedure, following NACCC National standards that ensures that every issue of concern is logged correctly and information is shared with the relevant agencies. Families using the Centre and referrers will be made aware of our statutory obligation to report any incidents of substantial and /or significant harm relating to Child Protection and Safeguarding.

### **PROVIDING ADVICE and SUPPORT**

Birmingham Salvation Army Child Contact Centre will ensure that their volunteers will receive the advice and support they need when they are working with Child Protection and Safeguarding incidents or concerns. NACCC have a nominated advice line (Mon-Fri 9:30am-4:30pm) and a dedicated Saturday Safeguarding help line run by trained members of staff to provide its centres with the necessary guidance and support. This telephone number is on the first page of the Team Leader's notes about the families and is listed with other contact details on our Safeguarding Poster. These notes will also include any risks that each family presents and any procedures required to deal with these. All volunteers are required to follow and comply with our recognised procedures and good practice, failure to do this will generate support, information and training at the centre. If appropriate, with serious cases, disciplinary action proceedings could begin for individuals.

### **DISTRIBUTION and REVIEW**

A current copy of this policy is in the Volunteers' Contact Centre folder and on our website. Copies of this policy will also be made available to referrers, families using the centre and other agencies upon request. A review of this policy will be made regularly taking into account new legislation and practice directions

**Graham Andrews** (Coordinator) 2018

**Statement of Commitment to these policies of Birmingham Salvation Army Child Contact Centre.**

This form must be completed by all our volunteers.

I have read and understood the standards and guidelines outlined in these policies. I agree with the principles contained therein and accept the importance of implementing them as a volunteer of Birmingham Salvation Army Child Contact Centre.

..... Signature

..... Print Name ..... Date

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