

LOCAL PROTOCOL TO RESPOND TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MAKE ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE, OR THERE ARE CONCERNS THE YOUNG PERSON HAS SUFFERED, OR IS LIKELY TO SUFFER SIGNIFICANT HARM WHILST IN PEBBLE LODGE

1. Agencies this protocol applies to are:
 - Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Children's Services
 - Pebble Lodge
 - Dorset CAMHS
 - Dorset Police
 - NHS Dorset, DHUFT

2. This Protocol should be read in context of the Statutory Guidance Working together to Safeguard Children March 2015.

3. Principles of this protocol:
 - 3.1. Young people's wishes and feelings are considered and they are confident that they are being heard.
 - 3.2. The process is sensitive to the young person's current emotional wellbeing and mental health.
 - 3.3. Young people are provided with the appropriate support including the offer of Police Intermediary.
 - 3.4. If the young person is not deemed to have capacity at the time of the allegation/disclosure being made, or the Child Protection concerns being identified and this prevents Working Together Guidelines being followed, the Strategy Meeting will identify a plan and a Multi-Agency Review.
 - 3.5. Young people, their parents/carers and key professionals will be kept informed of actions and decisions being made in a way which does not prejudice ongoing investigations or the young person's emotional/mental health.

4. Aims of this protocol:
 - 4.1. To provide arrangements for protection and future welfare for young people who are inpatients at Pebble Lodge, who make an allegation of abuse, or concerns are raised that the young person has suffered, or is likely to suffer significant harm.
 - 4.2. To describe how agencies will meet their statutory requirements as described in Working Together to Safeguard Children.
 - 4.3. To describe the arrangements which will promote appropriate information sharing between Pebble Lodge and relevant agencies.
 - 4.4. To define processes for managing Children Act 1989 Section 47 enquiries and Police Criminal Investigations for young people who are inpatients at Pebble Lodge.

5. How the Protocol will work:
 - 5.1. Each organisation ensures that its workforce has an appropriate level of understanding and training in respect of Working Together to Safeguard Children. For example, LSCB Level 3 Multi Agency Safeguarding Training.
 - 5.2. When a young person is admitted to Pebble Lodge, Pebble Lodge will contact the relevant Local Authority allocated social worker, or if there is no allocated social

worker, the Social Care MASH Team responsible for the area in which the young person is ordinary resident, to share relevant information. This information sharing should be done with the consent of the young person and their parent/carer unless to seek consent is likely to increase the risk to the young person.

- 5.3. Wherever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a young person has, or is likely to suffer significant harm, or an allegation of abuse has been made, the allocated social worker should be informed or if there is not an allocated social worker, a Referral should be made to Social Care through the MASH. The referral should be made initially by telephone and followed up in writing within 24 hours.
 - 5.4. If the allegation of abuse which relates to a member of the children's workforce, including volunteers working with children, a referral should be made to the Bournemouth Local Authority Designated Officer (due to the location of Pebble Lodge – other LADOs may be involved by the Bournemouth LADO).
 - 5.5. Unless there are immediate risks to the young person, or the young person's welfare is likely to be compromised, Pebble Lodge should inform parents/carers, or young person of the referral being made.
6. The Local Authority will respond to referrals of abuse, or concern with regards to the child suffering, or likelihood of suffering significant harm.
- 6.1. A Strategy Meeting will be convened and chaired by the Social Care MASH Manager. The Police, Health, Pebble Lodge staff and any other relevant professionals will be invited to attend.
 - 6.2. Consideration should be given to best venue and time to allow the Consultant Psychiatrist from Pebble Lodge to attend the Strategy Meeting.
 - 6.3. The young person's capacity to make decisions about actions taken and be interviewed should be discussed in the Strategy Meeting. Consideration of commissioning a Police Intermediary should be considered within the Strategy Meeting.
 - 6.4. The Strategy Meeting will focus on the young person's welfare, immediate and long-term safety. It will also consider whether there are other children who need to be protected / assessed.
 - 6.5. The minutes of the Strategy Meeting will be sent to all attendees by the Chairperson within 48 hours of the meeting taking place.
7. s47 process for Poole, Bournemouth & Dorset young people in Pebble Lodge
- 7.1. Child Protection is a joint responsibility; however, the Local Authorities' Children & Young People's Social Care will lead for the Section 47 enquiries and assessment of risk and the child's welfare and the Police will be responsible for leading any criminal investigation.
 - 7.2. Relevant professionals will agree what actions they are responsible for progressing at the strategy meeting.
 - 7.3. Planning will include how the young person will be informed and supported following the outcome of the Strategy Meeting. This will include consideration of commissioning of Police Intermediaries as appropriate.
 - 7.4. Planning will include when and how parents/carers are informed and interviewed where necessary.
 - 7.5. If the young person does not have capacity as agreed by the Consultant Psychiatrist at Pebble Lodge, and Working Together Guidelines cannot be followed in respect of S47 enquiries/criminal investigations, ongoing assessment and support will be agreed.
 - 7.6. The Local Authorities based in the MASH will have robust arrangements with the Social Care Teams in order that any S47 enquiry and/or assessment of needs are commenced immediately following the strategy meeting.

- 7.7. The allocated Social Workers will update professionals on the progress of any assessment/investigation and advise of the date of the Child Protection Conference, if the threshold for a Conference is met.
 - 7.8. It is important to reach multi-agency agreement at the strategy meeting. If agreement cannot be reached, professionals should refer to the LSCB Escalation process.
- 8.** Process for young people who are not ordinarily resident in Bournemouth, Dorset or Poole who are resident in Pebble Lodge.
- 8.1. Pebble Lodge will share this protocol alongside any referral to another Local Authority where the child is ordinarily resident and discuss with them whether the same principals can be followed, or an alternative approach is required by them.