

Addendum for North Somerset Safeguarding Procedure for Early Years and Play Providers Booklet (May 2022)

1. Essential Contact Numbers

Please note the following contact details:

Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) formerly known as the Designated Officer for Allegations (DOfA) 01275 888 211 or mobile 07795 092 692

Early Years Advisor- Safeguarding 07920 082 811

Please note: The Single Point of Access (SPA) 01275 888 808 is now known as the Front Door

Front Door Professional Helpline 01275 888 690

2. Section 1.1

The latest version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' is 2018, a link to the document can be found below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

The latest version of 'Information sharing advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers' is 2018, a link to the document can be found below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721581/Information_sharing_advice_practitioners_safeguarding_services.pdf

The latest version of 'Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings' is 2022, a link to the document can be found below.

<https://c-cluster-110.uploads.documents.cimpress.io/v1/uploads/d71d6fd8-b99e-4327-b8fd-1ac968b768a4~110/original?tenant=vbu-digital>

Practitioners should follow the guidance in these updated documents, particularly section 2.4 Sharing information about children and 2.5 flow chart for information sharing.

3. Section 1.1. Child Protection

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) outlined new governance for multi-agency partnership arrangements. Since September 2019 the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board has been replaced by the North Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership. All references to the Local Safeguarding Board should be taken to refer to that.

4. Section 2.7 Making a referral to Children's Social Care

Escalation policy

There may be situations where professionals differ in their opinions. If matters cannot be resolved internally, consider use of the Escalation Policy, which is available to download from the North Somerset Children's Services Procedures Manual (tri.x site)

https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/northsomerset/p_escalation.html

5. Section 2.8 Early Help and Early Help Assessment

The NSSCB Threshold Guidance 2017 has now been replaced by the Threshold Document – continuum of need which can be found by following the link below;

https://www.proceduresonline.com/northsomerset/cs/p_threshold.html

6. Section 2.9 Good Practice

Non-Mobile babies/children

Infants under the age of one are more at risk of being killed at the hands of another person (usually a carer) than any other age group of children in England and Wales. Non-mobile babies cannot cause injuries to themselves and therefore must be considered at significant risk of abuse. Multi-agency information sharing allows for sensible, informed judgments regarding the child's safety to be made.

Early Years providers looking after babies and non-mobile children should have a non-mobile baby/children policy in place. This should be based on guidance on the North Somerset Children's Services Procedures Manual (tri.x site)

https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/northsomerset/p_bruising.html?zoom_highlight=non+mobile+baby+policy

Child Exploitation (Sexual and Criminal)

The exploitation of children happens when someone uses an imbalance of power to manipulate and control a child into sexual or criminal acts for their own advantage, in exchange for something the victim wants or needs, even where it appears that the child has consented.

County Lines is a term used to describe a mechanism for organised criminal networks to move illegal drugs around the UK using dedicated 'deal lines'. Children are often used for moving and storing both drugs and money and are controlled using coercion, threats and violence.

Cuckooing is a form of crime in which perpetrators take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation, including the dealing of drugs.

Settings must be aware of the risks posed to children through exploitation, whether they are directly exploited or living in circumstances where exploitation may be affecting others close to them. Concerns about children being exploited, at risk of exploitation, or being otherwise affected by it, should be dealt with by following your usual safeguarding procedures.

More information can be found on the North Somerset Children's Services Procedures Manual (tri-x site)

https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/northsomerset/p_ch_sexual_exploit.html

https://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/northsomerset/p_ch_criminal_exp.html

7. Appendix 1. North Somerset Early Years Complaints Procedure (for dealing with allegations and complaints about childcare providers)

If the complaint is an allegation, the Lead Advisor for Safeguarding will liaise with the LADO to decide the most appropriate action to be taken.