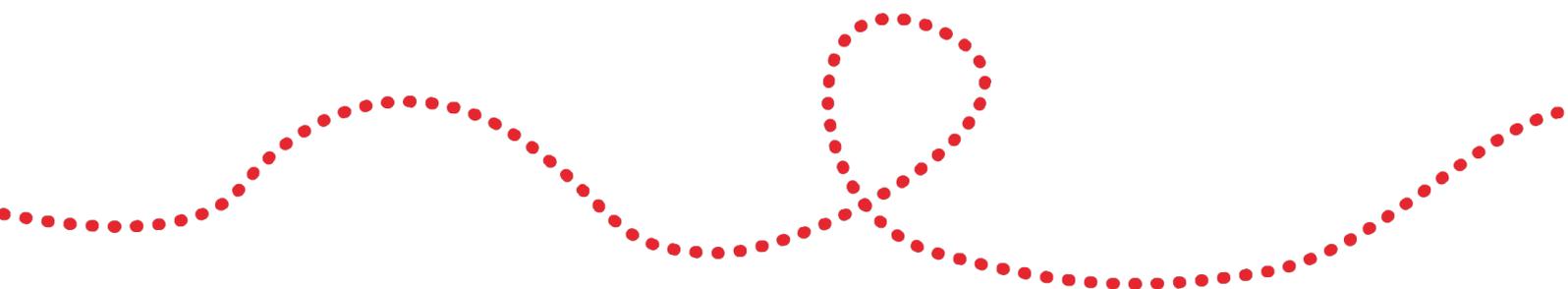


SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Version	2
Date	5 July 2020
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Approved by	Fiona Morrison, Safeguarding Lead
Author	Lynn Irwin
RENEWAL DATE	July 2022



INTRODUCTION

This document is a plan for action on discovery of possible or actual child abuse.

It applies to all children (including unborn babies) and young people under the age of 18 years who have or may have suffered physical injury, neglect, failure to thrive, emotional or sexual abuse, which the person or persons who had custody, charge or care of the child either caused or knowingly failed to prevent.

It is the responsibility of ALL STAFF to take appropriate action when they know or suspect a child has been subject to abuse.

All staff employed/sub-contracted by Heartbeat Alliance are required to act in accordance with the following policy & procedures. These are compatible with the procedures of North Yorkshire & City of York Safeguarding Children Boards (NYSCB & CoY SCB).

All staff are required to undertake child protection training, at a level commensurate with their role & responsibilities. Please ensure that you have discussed your child protection training needs with their Manager or a member of the Safeguarding Children Team to ascertain the level & frequency of training that you should access.

Child abuse is a highly emotional and stressful area of work and it is vital that staff do not operate in isolation. If abuse is identified or suspected, staff are required to discuss the situation in the first instance with either their Manager or with one of the Directors. The situation should also be discussed with a member of the NYCC Safeguarding Team (see contact details at the end of this document). Any discussion relating to abuse should take place within 24 hours of concerns coming to the attention of professionals. However, under no circumstances should it delay any action needed to protect the child.

Any member of staff who is aware of or suspects that a child has been abused or is otherwise seriously at risk must follow the procedures laid down in (NYSCB) Child Protection Procedures and Guidance. These can be accessed at:

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

Staff are required to make detailed written notes of their concerns, observations and actions, including diagrams of any injuries noted. These should be made as soon as practicable as they may be required subsequently for legal purposes.

Effective communication and inter-disciplinary liaison is necessary at all stages and staff have a statutory duty to co-operate with the investigating agencies. Staff should be aware of their professional responsibilities in respect of confidentiality, but this should never prevent action being taken to protect a child.

Following an investigation, staff may be required to attend a multi-disciplinary Child Protection Conference and/or submit a written report. If required to attend, this should assume priority over other work.



For further information on contacting your locality Safeguarding Children Team (see contacts page).

CONFIDENTIALITY

Ethical and statutory codes concerned with confidentiality and data protection are not intended to prevent the exchange of relevant information between different professionals who have a responsibility for ensuring the protection of children.

Personal information about children, young people and families held by agencies is subject to a legal duty of confidence and should not normally be disclosed without the consent of the subject or upon receipt of a court order. However, the law and advice from professional bodies permit the sharing of confidential information necessary to safeguard and protect a child or young person.

The Data Protection Act (1998, superseded by the General Data Protection Act 2018), the Human Rights Act (1998) and the Freedom of Information Act (2004) all permit the disclosure of confidential information without consent in order to safeguard children and young people.

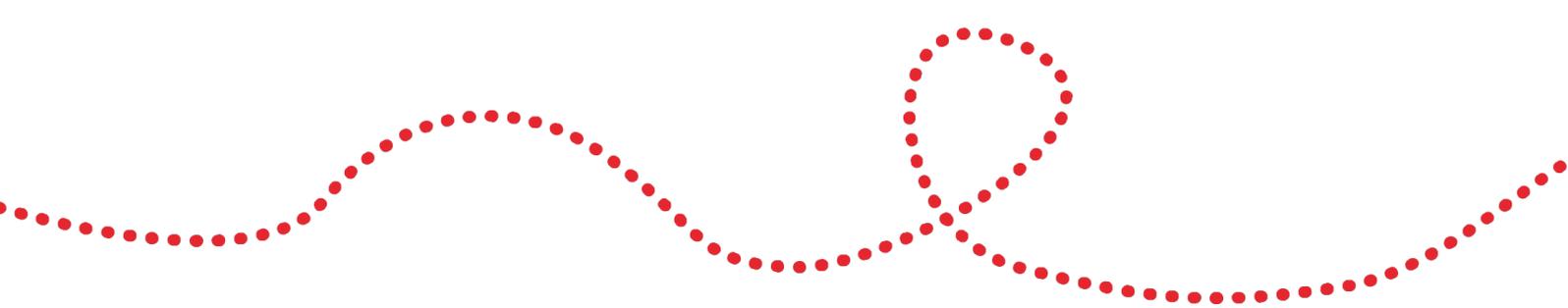
The protection of children overrides the duty of confidentiality.

“The welfare of the child is paramount” (Children Act, 1989)

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board has produced multi-agency protocols and guidance concerning the sharing of information. These can be found within the Board’s Child Protection Procedures and Guidance at:

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

Where you have a different view of the level of concern or risk to a child than another professional, this must always be discussed with a member of the NYCC Safeguarding Team (see contact details at the end of this document) who will advise on how to proceed. You may also consider it necessary to contact NYSCB for advice. It is essential that any differences of opinion between colleagues, advice taken and subsequent actions planned are fully recorded, dated & signed within the relevant child’s records.



LEGAL PROCEEDINGS:

Requests from Police, Solicitors or Guardians ad Litem etc for written statements or health records should not be released until discussion has taken place with the Head of Service or Safeguarding Children Team. A member of the Safeguarding Children Team or your Manager should be present when any such statements are given.

Media contacts should be referred to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will contact the Press/Communications Officer for the organisation.

It is the individual responsibility of each member of staff to ensure that appropriate action is/has been taken.

PROCEDURE FOR ALL STAFF

If you suspect child abuse but are not sure, or if you require advice, contact your Manager, the Clinical Director (Dr Andrew Dickie) or Heartbeat Alliance's Safeguarding Lead (Miss Fiona Morrison, ANP based at Central Dales Practice 01969 667067).

Where possible, discuss your planned action with the parent(s)/carers of the child. Exceptions to this are:

- i) If you suspect sexual abuse.
- ii) If you suspect Fabricated or Induced Illness (previously known as Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy).
- iii) If you consider that discussing your actions with parents would place the child or yourself in danger.

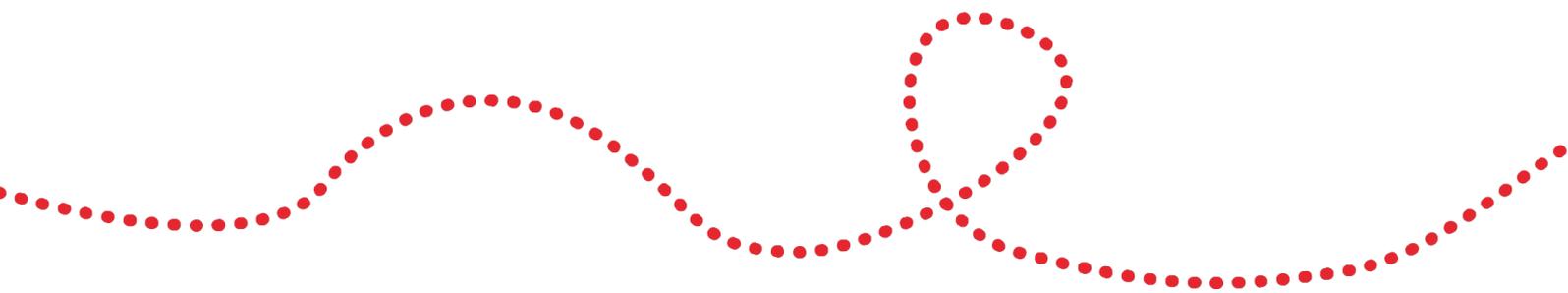
Qualified medical and nursing staff should make a check against the Child Protection Central Database of North Yorkshire (24 hour tel: 01845 574742) or the Child Protection Database/Register of the area where the child normally lives to assess whether the child is subject to a Child Protection Registration or Child Protection Plan. North Yorkshire's or City of York's Child Protection Database/Register can give you Child Protection Database/Register telephone numbers for other areas.

Child Protection referrals should be made to the appropriate Customer Relations/Customer Advice Unit of Social Care (See contact details below).

Any child protection medical examination should be conducted by a Consultant Paediatrician.

Record all events and action taken (to include conversations with other professionals and agreed outcomes) in accordance with NYCC policies and professional guidance.

Notify other health professionals (including the usual GP) involved with the child or young person.



Discuss action/take further advice from the NYCC Children's Safeguarding Team (see below for contact details).

Notify the Clinical Director (Dr Andrew Dickie) or the Safeguarding Lead (Miss Fiona Morrison) of situation and action taken.

Follow up your telephone referral in writing using the agreed referral form (available on the NYCC Childrens Safeguarding Team's website) for North Yorkshire Children's Social Care. One copy of this form should be sent to Social Care Customer Relations/Advice Unit, one copy to be included in the child/young person's clinical notes and one copy to be sent to Miss Fiona Morrison, ANP/Safeguarding Lead) (see contact details below).

If you encounter an emergency situation (e.g. where a child has been badly injured as a consequence of abuse or a child has been left unattended in the home you should ring 999 and request assistance from the appropriate service. The above procedure should then be followed.

Contact Numbers

Safeguarding Children Team: 01609 751411 Or 07810 542946

Or 07766 763368

North Yorkshire County Council Customer Service Centre:

Tel: 0845 034 9410

Clinical Director – Dr Andrew Dickie (andrew.dickie@nhs.net)

Safeguarding Lead – Miss Fiona Morrison, ANP (fiona.morrison12@nhs.net)

Further Information

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board:

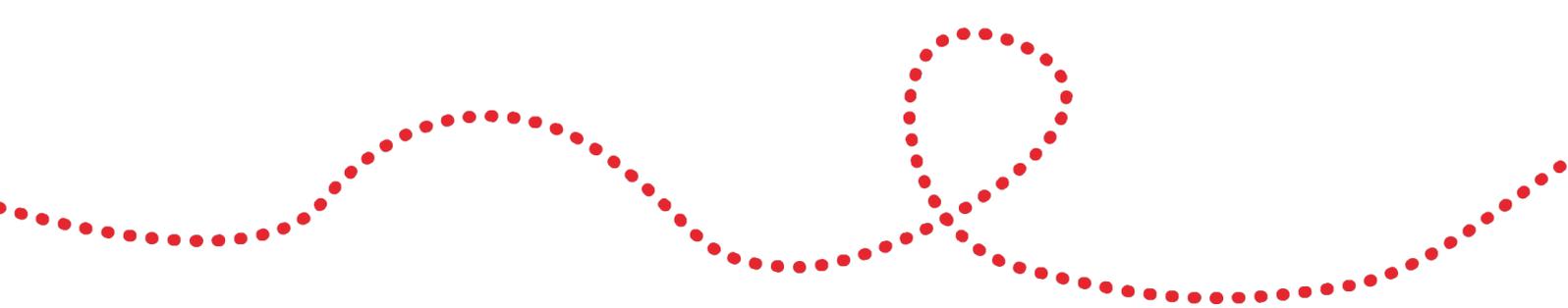
www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

North Yorkshire County Council (follow Social Care link)

www.northyorks.gov.uk

For information about Safeguarding Children, Working Together and What to do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/>



National Help Lines and Websites

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) 0870 000 3344

The UK's national police centre for protecting young people and children from sexual abuse.

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>

Childline (24 hours): 0800 1111

Free and confidential helpline for children & young adults in the UK.

<http://www.childline.org.uk>

Childnet 020 7639 6967

A non-profit organisation working with others to help make the Internet a safe place for children.

<http://www.childnet.com>

Contact-A-Family 020 7608 8700 Helpline 0808 808 3555

Support for families of children with disabilities.

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk>

Cry-sis 08451 228 669 Help line open 9am-10pm 7 days a week.

Help for parents/carers with persistently crying and/or sleepless babies.

<http://www.cry-sis.org.uk>

Family Rights Group 020 7923 2628 Main Office. Helpline 0808 801 0366

Support with child protection procedures. 10-3.30pm Mon-Fri

<http://www.frg.org.uk/index.asp>

Kidscape 020 7730 3300 Helpline 08451 205 204, or ring Childline 0800 1111

Deals with bullying, stranger danger, threats of abuse.

<http://www.kidscape.org.uk>

Lucy Faithfull Foundation 01527 591922

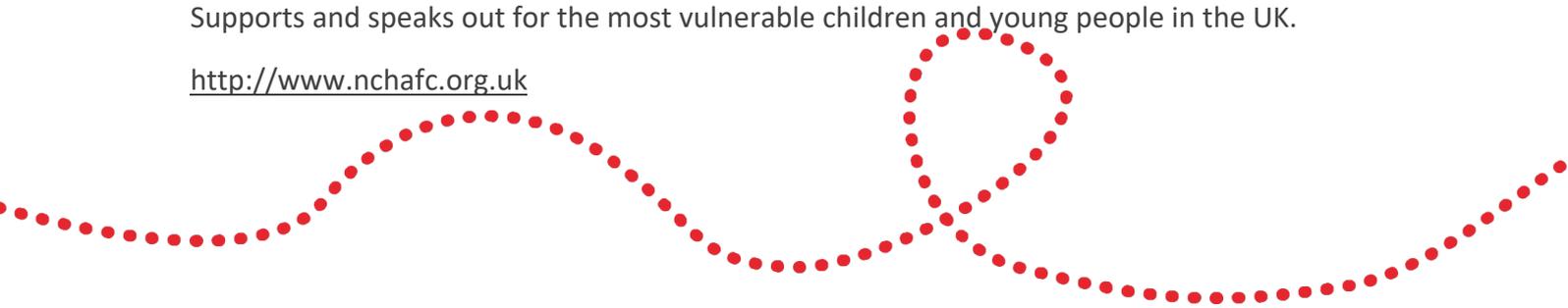
A child protection charity specialising in working with people perpetrating and affected by child sexual abuse.

<http://lucyfaithfull.org/about-us.aspx>

NCH Action for Children 020 7704 7000

Supports and speaks out for the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK.

<http://www.nchafc.org.uk>



Netmums. 01923 639180

Web based parenting organisation to help parents share information and advice.

<http://www.netmums.com> 01923 639180

NSPCC Child Protection Line 0808 800 500

Acts in cases of neglect and abuse of children.

help@nspcc.org.uk

NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood) 0800 085 3330

For adult survivors of incest and abuse.

<http://www.napac.org.uk>

Respond 020 7383 0700. Helpline 0808 808 0700

Sexual abuse and people with learning disabilities.

<http://www.respond.org.uk>

SafeKids.com

Online safety tools for families.

<http://www.safekids.com/>

Think You Know

Online educational resources for children and young people provided by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Women's Aid 0117 944 4411 Freephone 24 hr helpline 0808 2000 247

Emergency accommodation for abused women and children.

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk>

