



Policy on Safeguarding

Genell Support Designated Safeguarding Officers:

Lyana Sinclair-Russell
E: lyana@genell.co.uk
alysha@genell.co.uk

Sam Kingston
Sam@genell.co.uk

Alysha Hackett
E:

M: 07791404634

M: 07791958002

M: 07544351766

Genell Support On-Call Team (Out of Hours):

(17:00 to 09:00 Mon - Fri) and (17:00 Fri to 09:00 Mon)

Call the person who is On Call on the day or Sam Kingston on 07791958002

Lyana Sinclair-Russell, Director – lyana@genell.co.uk

Sam Kingston – Nominated Individual, Director - Sam@genell.co.uk

Alysha – Registered Manager – alysha@genell.co.uk

All team members within Genell Support have Safeguarding Training and all team leaders and above have Designated Safeguard Lead training, Lyana Sinclair Russell is advanced trained and would therefore be the overall safeguarding lead.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this Safeguarding Policy is to ensure that appropriate action is taken when a young person is suspected of either being abused or at risk from parents, guardians, support workers, visitors, other responsible adults, or other young people.
- 1.2 The Genell Support Safeguarding Policy recognises that the safety and protection of young people is paramount and has priority over all other interests. The purpose of this policy is to protect any young people who receive our services.
- 1.3 This policy refers to all young people regardless of nationality, culture, or religion. If the young person has learning disabilities or is a care leaver, their needs may extend to their 21st birthday (Section 9 Young people Act 2004).
- 1.4 To support Genell Support in meeting its statutory safeguarding obligations.
- 1.5 To meet the legal requirements of the activities that we provide, Genell Support adhere to the following legislation:
 - Autism Act 2009

Policy issue date: March 2026

Policy review date: March 2027

- The Care Act 2014
- Care Quality Commission (Registration Requirements) Regulations 200
- The Care Quality Commission (Registration) and (Additional Functions) and Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

- The Care Quality Commission (Registration and Membership) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Young Persons Act 1933
- Civil Contingences Act 2004
- Companies Act 2006
- Control of Substances hazardous to Health regulations 2002
- The Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2013
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The Electricity at Work regulations 1989
- Employment Rights Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Equality Act 2010: Chapter 1 (protected characteristics) Chapter 2 (prohibited conduct) and Chapter 3 (services and public functions)
- Food Safety Act 1990
- The Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) regulations 1998
- The General Data Protection Regulation
- The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014
- The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- Health & Care Professions Council – legal framework
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) 2002
- Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service complaints (England) regulations 2009
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) 2002
- Medical Act 1983
- Medicines Act 1968
- The Human Medicines Regulations 2012
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice
- Mental Health Act 1983
- Mental Health Act 2007
- Code of Practice (Mental Health Act 1983)
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- The Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973
- The Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) Regulations 2007
- The Pharmacy Order 2010 HSCA 18

- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 – links to The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (Disclosure and Barring Service Transfer of Functions) Order 2012
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- RIDDOR
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002

2. Scope

2.1 The following roles may be affected by this policy:

- All team members
- Volunteers
- Anyone working on behalf of our organisation
- Management and Directors
- Students, Trainees, Apprentices, Work Experience
- Contractors
- Agency Team members

2.2 The following people may be affected by this policy:

- Young people we support

2.3 The following stakeholders may be affected by this policy:

- Family
- Commissioners
- NHS and external health professionals
- Local Authority

3. Objectives

3.1 The objective of Genell Support is to have a coordinated approach to safeguarding and to ensure that Genell Support procedures dovetail with policies and procedures published by the Local Safeguarding Partners of Genell Support whose contact details we have appended to this policy.

3.2 To ensure that the voice of the young person is heard and that a person-centred approach is always taken.

4. Policy

4.1 Statement of Intent:

Genell Support recognises the vulnerability of young people and believes it is always unacceptable for a young person to experience abuse of any kind. It wholly supports the principle that the welfare of the young person is paramount and accepts the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Genell Support understands that young people can be under threat, and/or abused by parents/family, other children and young people, carers, support team members and others, and that everyone who works with young people has a responsibility for keeping them safe. Genell Support will ensure that

it works in partnership with other agencies, young people, and their families so that they receive the right help, at the right time and with everyone who comes into contact with them, understanding that they all have a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information, and taking prompt action. Additionally, Genell Support believes that all young people, regardless of ethnicity, gender, culture, sexual orientation, disability, faith, or religious belief, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

4.2 Young people with additional complex needs

Genell Support recognises that disabled young people and those with additional complex needs are at increased risk of abuse. Furthermore, it understands that some young people have increased vulnerability because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, their communication needs, or other issues and that threats can take a variety of different forms including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups, trafficking, online abuse, sexual exploitation, and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. All necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the rights of all young people are respected and that opportunities for abuse to occur are minimised.

4.3 Genell Support will seek to keep young people safe by:

- Empowering young people, and listening, respecting, and responding in a compassionate but effective way.
- Ensuring a person-centred approach to service planning and delivery and keeping the young person in focus when making decisions about their lives.
- Ensuring that all team members read and understand this policy.
- Providing mandatory safeguarding training to team members to enable them to recognise signs of abuse and follow appropriate procedures when dealing with safeguarding concerns.
- Adopting robust safer recruitment, selection and vetting procedures.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with team members, volunteers, parents, carers, and relevant agencies.
- Requiring all team members to follow the reporting and recording procedures in every case of suspected or disclosed abuse.
- Ensuring that all team members with a duty of care for young people, will be provided with appropriate guidance, training, and support to enable them to fully implement this policy.
- Providing effective management and support systems so that all team members know who to contact within Genell Support in the event of safeguarding concerns arising.
- Working within the relevant Children's Safeguarding Partnership guidance and procedures.
- Ensuring policy and practice remains current and up to date and dovetails with local Children's Safeguarding Partnership procedures.

4.4 Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Good communication is essential for any organisation. In Genell Support, every effort will be made to assure individuals that, should they have concerns, they will be listened to and taken seriously. It is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Officers to ensure that information is available to, and is exchanged between, all those involved in this organisation and its activities.

Young people have a right to information, especially any information that could make life safer for them. Genell Support will act to ensure that they have information about how, and with whom, they can share their concerns, complaints, and anxieties. When sharing information, team members will be sensitive to the level of understanding and maturity, as well as to the level of responsibility of the people with whom they are sharing.

We understand that some information is confidential and should only be shared on a strictly need-to-know basis. Genell Support will ensure that team members follow the guidelines: Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers (July 2018).

Genell Support will ensure that team members understand that 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.

4.5 Safer Recruitment

Genell Support will adopt a consistent and thorough process of safe recruitment to ensure that those recruited are suitable. This includes ensuring that safer recruitment and selection procedures are adopted which deter, reject, or identify people who might abuse young people or are otherwise unsuitable to work with them. Genell Support will not sub-contract to any organisation which has not been part of a safer recruitment process.

Genell Support will ensure that the level of DBS check required for the role will be confirmed. The HR Manager will ensure that clearance is obtained before the applicant commences employment. As an employer of team members working with vulnerable young people, Genell Support has a responsibility to refer concerns to the Disclosure and Barring Service in accordance with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Designated Safeguarding Officers must report any relevant concerns to the Local Area Designated Officer.

4.6 Best Practice

Genell Support will adhere to HM Government's 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) and will follow, within the scope of its role and responsibilities, NICE guidance NG76 and CG89 in addition to other best practice documents cited in this policy and procedure.

4.7 Accountabilities and Responsibilities

Individual team members have a responsibility to report and record any concerns, and not to make decisions themselves as to whether abuse has or has not occurred. Doing nothing is never an option. If we know or suspect that a young person is being abused, we will do something about it and ensure that our work is properly recorded.

The Directors at Genell Support will:

- Be responsible for the effectiveness of this policy and related procedures and for ensuring that sufficient resources are available to support its implementation.
- Delegate responsibility for ensuring that this policy is integrated into the governance structure of Genell Support and reviewed as and when necessary, but at least annually.

- Appoint two Designated Safeguarding Officers to undertake a lead role for safeguarding young people, including being involved in Serious Case Reviews with local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships, and agreeing action plans for shortfalls or improvements in process.
- The Designated Safeguarding Officers will review concerns identified, standardise process and learning, and report to the persons responsible for reviewing safeguarding incidents, ensuring that the appropriate people are informed both internally and externally.

Support Managers at Genell Support will:

- Immediately notify one of the Genell Support Designated Safeguarding Officers of any safeguarding concerns.
- Notify the one or both the Genell Support Designated Safeguarding Officers of the outcome of any safeguarding meetings not attended by the Officer.
- Ensure they remain up to date on Safeguarding Children's Partnership processes within their own locality.
- Notify the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) in line with LADO notification reporting requirements.

The Designated Safeguarding Officers at Genell Support will:

- Contact DBS in line with statutory reporting requirements.
- Ensure that all team members are aware of their responsibilities in accordance with this policy and all other associated documents.
- Monitor compliance with this policy within their area of responsibility.
- Provide support to team members involved in any safeguarding incidents.
- Ensure that team members fully complete their mandatory safeguarding training.
- Ensure that the services provided are compliant with Genell Support safeguarding procedures as well as the local Safeguarding Children's Partnership processes.

5. Procedures

5.1 Recognising Young people who May Need Early Help

Genell Support should ensure that team members understand the requirement to be alert to the potential need for early help as stated in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) for a young person who:

- Is disabled and/or has specific additional needs.
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Support Plan).
- Is a young carer.
- Is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups.
- Is frequently missing/goes missing.
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation.
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited.
- Is in a family circumstance presenting challenges, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse.
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves.
- Has returned home to their family.
- Is a privately fostered young person.

Additionally, team members should be aware of any new or emerging threats which include online abuse, grooming, sexual exploitation and radicalisation as well as having the ability to identify symptoms and triggers of abuse or neglect.

5.2 Local Procedures

All team members, including contracted or agency team members working with young people, will familiarise themselves with the safeguarding policies, procedures and guidelines and work within them. Genell Support will ensure that all team members within the organisation are aware and understand the safeguarding policies and reporting procedures.

Contact for **under 18s**

Cambridgeshire LADO

LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

01223 727967

We will ensure that any concerns are raised within 24 hours as per LADO expectations.

Where an individual is **over 18**

Online referral form found at safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk

Complete the form within a day and email back to referral.centre-adults@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Call 01733 234 724

5.3 Responding When a Young Person Discloses Abuse

Keep the following considerations in mind when talking to a young person who is disclosing abuse:

- Help the young person to feel as comfortable as possible.
- Reassure the young person that it is not their fault. Let them know that they have not done anything wrong.
- Do not react with shock, anger, disgust. Be calm.
- Do not force a young person to talk. Give the young person time. Let him/her talk to you at their own pace.
- Do not force a young person to show you any injuries.
- Use terms and language that the young person can understand.
- Do not 'interview' the young person.
- Ask appropriate questions.
- Do not ask leading questions.
- Do not teach the young person new terms or words. This is important in relation to any potential subsequent legal action that may follow.
- Be honest with the young person.
- Confirm the young person's feelings - be supportive.
- Remember that the safety of the young person is most important. Keep in mind that a young person might be further abused if they report that they have spoken to someone about the abuse. If you feel that the young person is in danger, you must act immediately.

5.4 Reporting Concerns

Policy issue date: March 2026

Policy review date: March 2027

Concerns can be raised verbally and in writing.

Concerns should be raised and shared with the safeguard lead, Lyana Sinclair Russell. All team members are trained in receiving and raising concerns and are aware of the protocol and action to be taken around this, ensuring the young person or adult is safe is the priority.

Concerns can be raised over the phone 07791958002 to Sam Kingston or via email Sam@genell.co.uk

If there are wider concerns these can be raised with local safeguarding teams as detailed above and also to CQC.

There is a link on their page for public or staff and also other ways to contact;

Care Quality Commission
Citygate
Gallowgate
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4PA
Tel: 03000 616161
Email: enquiries@cqc.org.uk

- If the young person requires immediate medical attention call 999 and request an ambulance. Inform the call handler that the incident involves a child protection concern.
- Call 999 if in immediate danger.
- Report incidents and concerns to a Designated Safeguarding Officer and a Director of Genell Support who will support you to complete the appropriate documentation.
- Report to the young person's social work team.

5.5 Management of Allegations Against People in Positions of Trust

Genell Support will deal with allegations against those who work with young people in a thorough, robust, and comprehensive manner. Genell Support will make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of support, or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with young people who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a young person.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a young person.
- Behaved towards a young person in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to young people.

If an allegation arises it should:

- Be reported immediately to a Designated Safeguarding Officer and a Director of Genell Support.
- Be addressed as quickly as possible with a consistent and thorough investigation. Where it appears that a criminal offence may have been committed, the Police should be contacted immediately by the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- The young person's social work team must be informed immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, of any allegations that come to the attention of Genell Support or that are made to the Police regarding an employee or someone in a position of trust working with, on behalf of, or who is known to, Genell Support

who may have caused harm to a young person. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Officer to ensure that the young person's social work team are notified without delay.

Decision making and responsibilities.

Before any decisions are made there needs to be a fair and thorough investigation.

It may be that the police decide to take the incident further and therefore they will be deciding on this, the company will then also have to make their own decision.

It is the role of the safeguard lead to run a fair investigation.

If there is no police involvement the lead will discuss with LADO / MASH team and they will decide if there is an internal or external investigation, in liaison with the police.

If there is an internal investigation there will be a fact finder, the individual undertaking the fact finder will determine from the information gathered if there is to be disciplinary action taken or no further action. If disciplinary action is to be taken this will be heard by a different individual to who did the fact finder and that person will then make a decision on the outcome of the disciplinary. Where there are difficulties in deciding, this will be discussed with a director who has not been involved in the process or the independent visitor to the home will be asked to review and give their opinion also.

5.6 Referral to DBS

If Genell Support removes an individual (paid worker or unpaid volunteer) from work activity with young people (or would have, had the person not resigned first) because the person poses a risk of harm to young people, it must make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service to consider whether to add the individual to the barred list. Where an individual is a registered practitioner such as a Registered Nurse, they should also be referred to their Registered Body, such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council, irrespective of whether they were working as a registered practitioner for Genell Support.

5.7 Safeguarding young people with additional needs

Research suggests that disabled young people are at increased risk of abuse, and that the presence of multiple disabilities appears to increase the risk of both abuse and neglect. A young person could be considered disabled if he or she has significant problems with communication, comprehension, vision, hearing or physical functioning. A failure to recognise disabled young people's rights can lead to abusive situations and practices.

Organisational culture, custom, and practice can contribute to institutional abuse or harm.

- Genell Support should not underestimate how poor practice can become pervasive in influencing team members to behave inappropriately.
- Support Workers should be given the opportunity to reflect on their practice and promote a positive risk-taking culture to enhance the quality of life for young people.
- Genell Support will ensure that its services will readily seek the views of young people, and other professionals in reviewing their practice.
- Particular attention should be paid to promoting a high level of awareness of the risks of harm, to high standards of practice, and to strengthening the ability of young people to help themselves.

- Make it common practice to enable disabled young people to make their wishes and feelings known in respect of their support and treatment.
- Ensure that disabled young people receive appropriate personal, health and social education (including sex education).
- Make sure that all disabled young people know how to raise concerns and give them access to a range of adults with whom they can communicate. This could mean using interpreters and facilitators who are skilled in using the young person's preferred method of communication.
- Recognise and utilise key sources of support, including team members in schools such as support workers, friends, and family members where appropriate.
- Ensure that there is an explicit commitment to and an understanding of disabled young people's safety and welfare among all providers of services used by disabled young people.
- Develop the safe support services that families want, and a culture of openness and joint working with parents and carers on the part of services.
- Provide guidelines and training for team members on good practice in managing behaviour that challenges families and services; issues around consent to treatment; anti-bullying and inclusion strategies; sexuality and safe sexual behaviour among young people; monitoring and challenging placement arrangements for young people living away from home.
- Where a young person is unable to tell someone of the abuse, they may convey anxiety or distress in some other way, e.g., behaviour or symptoms, and team members must be alert to this.

5.8 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

As a result of recent nationwide cases CSE has become a national priority for health and social care. Team members have a significant contribution to make in identifying young people at risk of sexual exploitation. Where there are concerns about the welfare of a young person, Genell Support should:

- Remember the young person's welfare is of paramount importance.
- Make sure support team members are alert to the signs of sexual exploitation.
- Support team members should seek immediate advice from their manager, and Genell Support should refer to the young person's social work team and/or the Police if there is a suspicion that a young person is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger.
- Genell Support should ensure that team members know and understand the organisational and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and processes.
- Information should be shared on a need-to-know basis.

5.9 Domestic Violence and Abuse

There is a strong link between domestic abuse and all types of significant harm to young people. Witnessing domestic violence is a form of emotional abuse to a young person which may result in long-lasting implications for their future wellbeing.

Support team members should follow local safeguarding reporting procedures if they are concerned that a young person is witnessing domestic violence, is at risk of being harmed or is being harmed as a result of domestic violence or abuse.

5.10 Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse/Violence

Young people can be subjected to domestic abuses perpetrated in order to force them into marriage or to 'punish' them for 'bringing dishonour on the family'. Duress cannot be justified on religious or cultural grounds, and forced marriage is an abuse of human rights. Whilst honour-based violence can culminate in the death of the victim, this is not always the case. The young person may be subjected, over a long period, to a variety of different abusive and controlling behaviours ranging in severity. The abuse is often carried out by several members of a family including mothers, and female relatives/community members and may, therefore, increase the young person's sense of powerlessness and be harder for professionals to identify and respond to. Forced marriages of young people must be regarded as a safeguarding issue. Genell Support should not contact the parents in this situation and should make a referral direct to their Designated Safeguarding Officer and follow local safeguarding reporting procedures.

Further advice can be obtained from the Forced Marriage Unit here: www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage

If team members know someone is at risk, they should contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) if team members know someone who has been taken abroad to be forced into marriage. Give as many details as possible, for example:

- Where the young person has gone.
- When the young person was due back.
- When you last heard from the young person.

The FMU will contact the relevant Embassy. If the person is a British National, the Embassy will try to contact the person and help them get back to the UK, if that is what they want.

5.11 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is an illegal practice which affects a girl's genital area, and which can impact on their emotional or physical wellbeing. FGM is a criminal offence and carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. If support team members are aware of any female young people who have had FGM or of any female young people who are at risk of FGM, they must discuss this with their Designated Safeguarding Officer and the young person's social work team.

5.12 Contextual Safeguarding

Genell Support should ensure that team members training includes Contextual Safeguarding. Genell Support will ensure that team members understand that, as well as threats to the welfare of young people from within their families, young people may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and young people can be vulnerable to multiple threats including, but not limited to, exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism which can lead to radicalisation.

Training should highlight that extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered and Genell Support should ensure that team members know how to refer

any concerns to local safeguarding partners and that they understand the correct referral processes.

5.13 Confidentiality

Genell Support should ensure that team members working with young people have read and understand the 'Information sharing - Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2018)' and understand that GDPR should not be a barrier to sharing information. Genell Support should ensure that team members follow the 7 Golden Rules for information sharing as outlined in the document.

5.14 Whistleblowing

Safeguarding young people is complex and can frequently be under review. It is important to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and a culture should be promoted where team members are able to raise concerns and whistle-blow without fear. Please see the Genell Support Policy on Whistleblowing.

5.15 Training

Safeguarding young people must be included within mandatory induction and include familiarisation with safeguarding responsibilities and the procedures to be followed should anyone have any concerns about a young person's safety or welfare. Training must be delivered to the level specified in the 'Safeguarding children and young people: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Team Members Intercollegiate Document' 3rd Edition March 2014 and be in line with any other contractual requirements.

5.16 Consent

Where Genell Support needs to share special category personal data, Genell Support should be aware that the Data Protection Act 2018 includes 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' as a condition that allows practitioners to share information without consent.

Information can be shared legally without consent if Genell Support is unable to or cannot be reasonably expected to gain consent from the individual, or if to gain consent could place a young person at risk.

6. Definitions

6.1 Domestic Violence and Abuse

The UK's cross-government definition of domestic abuse is:

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 abuse can encompass but is not limited to:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial

- Emotional

Controlling behaviour is: A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

6.2 Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of young people and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Statutory guidance says that safeguarding means:

- Protecting young people from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of young people's health or development
- Ensuring that young people are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all young people to have the best outcomes.

6.3 Child or Young Person

Under the Children's Acts 1989 and 2004 respectively, a child (or young person) is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact that a young person has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital, in prison or in a Young Offenders Institution does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children's Act 1989

6.4 Team members

Employment context: A person working under the control or direction of another, under a contract of employment in return for a wage or salary.

6.5 Volunteer

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) defines a 'volunteer' as: "A person who is engaged in any activity which involves spending time, unpaid (except for travelling and other approved out of pocket expenses), doing something which aims to benefit someone (individuals or groups) other than, or in addition to close relatives.

6.6 Child Sexual Exploitation

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.

6.7 Safeguarding Children Partners

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) have now been replaced by "Safeguarding Children Partnerships." Under the new legislation, three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Chief Officers of Police, and Clinical Commissioning Groups) must decide to work together with relevant agencies (as they consider appropriate) to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people in the area.

The geographical footprint for the new arrangements is based on local authority areas. Every Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police Force must be covered by a local safeguarding arrangement.

6.8 Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

6.9 GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA). The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information of individuals within the European Union (EU).

The GDPR forms part of the data protection regime in the UK, together with the new Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). The main provisions of this applied like the GDPR, from 25 May 2018.

6.10 Special Category Personal Data

Under GDPR, special categories of personal data mean data revealing health, racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, etc.

6.11 Raising concerns

If at any point a team member has any concerns about the safety and or wellbeing of a young person, they should raise these with the Designated Safeguarding Officer to ensure that a risk assessment can be discussed, and any mitigation pulled together to ensure young people are kept safe. Team members should also feel comfortable and confident to raise any concerns with the local LADO services.

Key Facts - Professionals

Professionals providing this service should be aware of the following:

- The welfare of the young person is paramount, with safeguarding being everyone's business.
- You must ensure that your team members have received safeguarding training and understand local reporting procedures.
- Genell Support should promote a culture where team members can raise concerns.

Key Facts - People Affected by The Service

People affected by this service should be aware of the following:

- You have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Genell Support will seek your consent to share information about you. However, if we think you are at risk we will respond in your best interests.
- We will only share information on a need-to-know basis.

Further Reading

As well as the information in the 'Underpinning Knowledge' section of the review sheet we recommend that you add to your understanding in this policy area by considering the following materials:

NSPCC Briefing on key changes: Working together to safeguard children 2018:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/revised-guidance-working-together-safeguard-children-2018/>

Honour Based Violence:
https://safe.met.police.uk/crimes_of_honour/get_the_facts.html
 Child maltreatment: when to suspect maltreatment in under 18s. Clinical guideline [cg89] NICE 2009:
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg89>

NSPCC: How safe are our children? The most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK 2017:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2017/how-safe-are-our-children-2017/>

Child sexual exploitation Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation:
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document Appendix 1](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591903/CSE_Guidance_Core_Document_Appendix_1)

Categories and Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect

The following definitions will assist team members to recognise whether a young person is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Where abuse is suspected, a referral should always be made to the local District Council Child Protection Team using local reporting procedures.

Physical Abuse: Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a young person. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms or deliberately induces illness in a young person.

Emotional Abuse: Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a young person such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the young person's emotional development and may involve: Conveying to young people 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 on young people. These may include interactions that are beyond the young person's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the young person participating in normal social interaction; Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another e.g., where there is domestic violence and abuse; Serious bullying, causing young people frequently to feel frightened or in danger; Exploiting and corrupting young people. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a young person, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse: 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 young person 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. Sexual abuse includes non-contact activities, such as involving young people in looking at pornography, including online and with mobile phones, or in the production of pornographic materials, watching sexual activities or encouraging young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a young person in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other young people.

In addition, sexual abuse includes abuse of young people through sexual exploitation. 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 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Neglect: Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the young person's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties or a cluster of such issues. Where there is domestic abuse and violence towards a carer, the needs of the young person may be neglected. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).
- Protect a young person from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers).
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional, social, and educational needs.

Domestic Abuse: Included in the four categories of child abuse and neglect above, are a number of factors relating to the behaviour of the parents and carers which have significant impact on young people, such as domestic violence. Research analysing Serious Case Reviews has demonstrated a significant prevalence of domestic abuse in the history of families with young people who are the subject of Child Protection Plans. Young people can be affected by seeing, hearing, and living with domestic violence and abuse as well as being caught up in any incidents directly, whether to protect someone

or as a target. It should also be noted that the age group of 16 and 17 year olds has been found in recent studies to be increasingly affected by domestic violence in their peer relationships.

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behaviour: A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. **Coercive behaviour** is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Signs of Abuse:

Recognising child abuse is not easy. It is not your responsibility to decide whether abuse has taken place or if a child or young person is at risk of harm from someone. You do, however, have both a responsibility and duty to act in order that the appropriate agencies can investigate and take any necessary action to protect a child or young person. The following information should help you to be more alert to the signs of possible abuse:

Physical Abuse:

Most children and young people will collect cuts and bruises as part of the rough and tumble of daily life. Injuries should always be interpreted considering the young person's medical and social history, developmental stage and the explanation given. Most accidental bruises are seen over bony parts of the body e.g., elbows, knees, shins, and are often on the front of the body. Some young people, however, will have bruising that is more than likely inflicted rather than accidental.

Important indicators of physical abuse are bruises or injuries that are either unexplained or inconsistent with the explanation given, or visible on the 'soft' parts of the body where accidental injuries are unlikely e.g., cheeks, abdomen, back and buttocks. A delay in seeking medical treatment when it is obviously necessary is also a cause for concern, although this can be more complicated with burns, as these are often delayed in presentation due to blistering taking place. The physical signs of abuse may include:

- Unexplained bruising, marks, or injuries on any part of the body
- Multiple bruises – in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh
- Unexplained bruising in babies or non-mobile young people
- Cigarette burns
- Human bite marks
- Scalds, with upward splash marks

- Multiple burns with a clearly demarcated edge

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate physical abuse:

- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to get changed, for example in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away from home
- Fear of medical help or examination

Emotional Abuse:

Emotional abuse can be difficult to measure, as there are often no outward physical signs. There may be a developmental delay due to a failure to thrive or grow, although this will usually only be evident if the young person puts on weight in other circumstances, for example when hospitalised or away from their parents' care. Even so, young people who appear well cared for may nevertheless be emotionally abused by being taunted, put down or belittled. They may receive little or no love, affection or attention from their parents or carers. Emotional abuse can also take the form of young people not being allowed to mix or play with other young people. Changes in behaviour which can indicate emotional abuse include:

- Neurotic behaviour e.g., sulking, hair twisting, rocking
- Sudden speech disorders
- Fear of making mistakes
- Being unable to play
- Self-harm
- Fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour
- Developmental delay in terms of emotional progress
- Extremes of passivity or aggression

Sexual Abuse:

Adults or other young people who use children or young people to meet their own sexual needs, may abuse both girls and boys of all ages, including infants and toddlers. Usually, in cases of sexual abuse, it is the young person's behaviour that may cause you to become concerned, although physical signs can also be present. In all cases, young people who tell about sexual abuse do so because they want it to stop. It is important, therefore, that they are listened to and taken seriously.

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- Pain or itching in the genital area
- Bruising or bleeding near the genital area
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Vaginal discharge or infection
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate sexual abuse include:

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g., becoming aggressive or withdrawn
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Having nightmares
- Running away from home
- Sexual knowledge which is beyond their age, or developmental level
- Sexual drawings or language
- Bedwetting/daytime soiling
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- Substance or drug misuse
- Suddenly having unexplained sources of money or gifts
- Not allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- Acting in a sexually explicit way towards adults or other young people/peers

Neglect:

Neglect can be a difficult form of abuse to recognise, and yet has some of the most lasting and damaging effects on young people. The physical signs of neglect may include:

- Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other young people
- Poor personal hygiene – constantly dirty or 'smelly'
- Loss of weight, or being constantly underweight
- Inappropriate clothing for the conditions
- Poor parental engagement for school/health needs

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate neglect may include:

- Complaining of being tired all the time
- Not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments
- Having few friends
- Mentioning being left alone or unsupervised

NB: These definitions and indicators are not meant to be definitive, but only serve as a guide to assist you. It is important too, to remember that many young people may exhibit some of these indicators at some time, and that the presence of one or more should not be taken as proof that abuse is occurring. There may well be other reasons for changes in behaviour such as a death, or the birth of a new baby in the family or relationship problems between parents/carers. In assessing whether indicators are related to abuse or not, the authorities will always want to understand them in relation to the young person's development and context.

Abuse and Neglect - General Indicators:

The risk of maltreatment is recognised as being increased when there is:

- Parental or carer drug or alcohol abuse, or mental ill health
- Intra-familial violence or history of violent offending
- Previous child maltreatment in members of the family
- Known maltreatment of animals by the parent or carer
- Vulnerable and unsupported parents or carers
- Pre-existing disability in the young person

(NICE CG89: When to suspect Young person Maltreatment, July 2009)

Babies Under 1 Year

All babies need to be safe, nurtured, and able to thrive. The early care they receive provides the essential foundations for all future physical, social, and emotional development. Whilst most parents do provide the love and care their babies need, sadly too many babies suffer abuse and neglect. The emotional abuse, neglect or physical harm of babies is particularly shocking both because babies are totally dependent on others and because of the relative prevalence of such maltreatment.

45 percent of serious case reviews in England relate to babies under the age of 1 year. In England and Wales, babies are eight times more likely to be killed than older young people. An original analysis conducted for this report estimates, for the first time, the numbers of babies living in vulnerable and complex family situations:

- 19,500 babies under 1 year old are living with a parent who has used Class A drugs in the last year.
- 39,000 babies under 1 year old live in households affected by domestic violence in the last year.
- 93,500 babies under 1 year old live with a parent who is a problem drinker.
- 144,000 babies under 1 year old live with a parent who has a common mental health problem (All babies count campaign, NSPCC, executive summary. Nov 2011).

Appendix 2

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people have been identified throughout the UK, in both rural and urban areas, and in all parts of the world. It affects boys and young men as well as girls and young women from any background and of any ethnicity. It is a type of Sexual Abuse and can have a serious impact on every aspect of the lives of young people involved.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is the organised and deliberate exploitation of a child or young person purely for the sexual gratification of adults.

The sexual exploitation of children or young people is described in the Government's guidance as "involving exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g., food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) because of their performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. It can occur using technology without the child or young person's immediate recognition, e.g., being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the young person have power over them by their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability."

Sexual exploitation results in children and young people suffering harm and causes significant damage to their physical and mental health. It can also have profound and damaging consequences for the young person's family. Parents and carers are often traumatised and under severe stress. Siblings can feel alienated, and their self-esteem affected. Family members can themselves suffer serious threats of abuse, intimidation, and assault at the hands of perpetrators.

There are strong links between young people involved in sexual exploitation and other behaviours such as running away from home or care, bullying, self-harm, teenage pregnancy, truancy, and substance misuse. In addition, some young people are particularly vulnerable, for example, young people with special needs, those in looked after care, those leaving care, migrant young people, unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, forced marriage and those involved in gangs.

Many sexually exploited young people are hidden from public view. They are unlikely to be loitering or soliciting on the streets. Research and practice have helped to move the understanding away from a narrow view of seeing sexual exploitation as a young person standing on a street corner selling sex.

There is also often a presumption that young people are sexually exploited by people they do not know. However, evidence shows that this is often not the case and young people are often sexually exploited by people with whom they feel they have a relationship, e.g., a boyfriend/girlfriend. Due to the nature of the grooming methods used by their abusers, it is very common for young people who are sexually exploited, not to recognise that they are being abused. Team members should be aware that, particularly young people aged 17 and 18, may believe themselves to be acting voluntarily and will need support to work with them so they can recognise that they are being sexually exploited.

Types of CSE

There are three main types of CSE:

- Inappropriate relationships – this usually involves one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person. There is often a significant age gap and the victim may believe they are in a loving relationship.
- 'Boyfriend' model – the perpetrator befriends and grooms the young person into a 'relationship' and then convinces or forces them to have sex with friends or associates. This is sometimes associated with gang activity.
- Organised sexual exploitation – young people are passed through networks where they are forced into sexual activity with multiple men. This often occurs at 'sex parties' and the young people may be used to recruit others into the network.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) can also take place over the internet.

Know the Signs

Even something that seems like normal teenage behaviour could be a sign that a young person is being sexually exploited. Some of the visible signs include:

- Change in physical appearance - new clothes, more/less makeup, poor self-image, weight gain/loss.
- Having increased health/sexual health-related problems.
- Having marks or scars on their body which they try to conceal by refusing to undress or uncover parts of their body.
- Expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorder, challenging behaviour, aggression, appearing drunk or under the influence of drugs/alcohol, suicidal tendencies, looking tired or ill, sleeping during the day).
- Sexually transmitted infections/pregnancy.
- Multiple miscarriages or terminations.
- Indicators of CSE in conjunction with chronic alcohol and drug use.
- Indicators of CSE alongside serious self-harming behaviour.
- Being defensive about where they have been and what they have been doing.
- Volatile/criminal behaviour.
- Use of the internet that causes concern including possible use of webcams.
- Becoming involved in criminality/repeat offending.
- Exclusion and/or unexplained absences from school or not engaged in education or training. Non-school attendance or excluded due to behaviour.
- Sexualised risk-taking including on Internet and mobile phone.
- 'Sexting' (the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones).
- Increased use of online gaming including Xbox.
- Association with gangs.
- Removed from known 'red light' areas by professionals due to suspected CSE.
- Young person under 16 meeting different adults and exchanging or selling sexual activity.
- Being hostile or physically aggressive in their relationship with parents/carers or other family members.
- Getting into cars with unknown adults or associating with known CSE adults.
- Children under 13 engaging in penetrative sex with another over 15 years.

- Associating/developing a sexual relationship with older men or women.
- Reports of being involved in CSE through being seen in hotspots (i.e., in certain flats, recruiting grounds, cars or houses and maybe in the company of known CSE adults).
- Becoming disruptive at home or school or using offensive language.
- Being secretive or withdrawn.
- Older 'boyfriend/girlfriend' or relationship with a controlling adult.
- Physical or emotional abuse by that 'boyfriend/girlfriend' or controlling adult.
- Associating with other sexually exploited young people.
- Regularly coming home late or going missing overnight or longer
- Returning home after long intervals but appearing well cared for.
- Being a victim of honour-based violence.
- Unsuitable or inappropriate accommodation (including street homelessness, staying with adults known to be involved in CSE and living in a place where needs are not met).
- Being involved in witchcraft.
- Isolated from peers and social networks; not mixing with their usual friends.
- Lack of positive relationship with a protective, nurturing adult.
- Living independently and failing to respond to attempts by workers to keep in touch.
- Unusual association with taxi drivers/firms.
- Breakdown of residential placements due to behaviour.
- Having money, mobile phones, credit for mobile phones, sim cards, clothes, jewellery, or other items without a plausible explanation and not given by parents/carers.
- Having multiple mobile phones, sim cards or use of a mobile phone that causes concern, multiple callers, more texts than usual.
- Overtly sexualised dress.
- Disclosure of physical/ sexual assault and then refusing to make or withdrawing a complaint.
- Having possession of hotel keys/key cards or keys to unknown premises.
- Receiving rewards of money or goods for recruiting peers into CSE or just introducing peers to known adults.
- Knowledge of towns and cities they have no previous connection with.
- Being taken to clubs and hotels by adults and engaging in sexual activity.
- Disappearing from the 'system' with no contact or support.
- Being taken abroad by family members (forced marriage).
- Abduction and forced imprisonment.
- Being bought/sold for sexual acts.

Possible Indicators Specific to male young people are:

- Health - physical symptoms (e.g., bruising or sexually transmitted infections); drug or alcohol misuse; self-harm or eating disorders.
- Education - truancy, deterioration of school-work or part-time timetable.
- Emotional and behavioural development - secretive e.g., about internet use; anti-social behaviour; sexualised language; sexually offending behaviour.
- Family and social relationships - associating with other children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation; missing from home or staying out late; getting into cars of unknown people; contact with adults outside normal social group.
- Identity - low self-esteem, poor self-image, or lack of confidence.
- Social presentation - wearing an unusual amount of clothing.

- Income - social activities with no explanation of how funded; possession of abnormal amounts of money, gifts, new mobile phones, credit on mobile phone, number of SIM cards.
- Social integration - frequenting known high-risk areas or going to addresses of concern; seen at public toilets known for 'cottaging'; seen at adult venues.

What are the Vulnerabilities?

The Warning Signs and Vulnerabilities are indicated below:

Once engaged, offenders are likely to employ a series of sequential steps to erode the free will of the victim and trap them into a lifestyle which is not a choice but to which they can see no alternative as it has become all they know. These incremental steps may take the form of:

- Chilling - Generally associating with the young person, supplying them with drink or drugs, listening to them, making them feel good and appearing to be the only one who understands them. Commonly this phase may extend for a protracted period e.g., 12 months.
- Presents - The victim will be provided with gifts e.g., jewellery, electronic items, or money.
- Physical - The offender will begin to ask for them to enter a sexual relationship.
- Pestering - Whether they have had a sexual relationship to date the pressure to do so or to expand it will be increased.
- Threats - To the victim and/or other people e.g., their family.
- Orders - The victim is essentially challenged to refuse what is being demanded of them.
- Force - Whether they consent the victim is physically forced to engage in sexual acts.

The Significance of Attachment

Victims often do not see themselves as such and may defend their abuser. Some will avoid contact with the police and can be the hardest victims to gain the confidence of and protect. If a young person presents with an indicator of CSE, action is required, the earlier the intervention, the better the chances for success.

Attachment between the victim and offender is the key to CSE occurring and continuing, and breaking that attachment is the most effective way to tackle the issue, safeguard the victim and deal with the offender. Attachment arises from the grooming/indoctrination process as the offender creates the cognitive distortions of the victim. They erode pre-existing relationships and bonds and replace them with their own, making them the single most important person in the victim's life. In doing so, they create a position whereby the victim is more likely to give in to their demands and less likely to report them due to the natural processes of the brain. Attachment also explains why the victim will repeatedly return to the offender even after making complaints about them; refuse to pursue complaints that have been made and give false details about persons involved or acts that have occurred.

Important Information About CSE

Sexual exploitation can take many forms, from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship where sex is exchanged for attention, accommodation, or gifts, to serious organised

crime and human trafficking. What marks out exploitation is an imbalance of power within the relationship. The perpetrator always holds power over the victim, increasing the dependence of the victim as the exploitative relationship develops.

Technology can play a part in sexual abuse, for example, through its use to record abuse and share it with other individuals, or as a medium to gain access to young people with the purpose of grooming them. A common factor in all cases is the lack of free choice.

Sexual exploitation has strong links with other forms of crime, for example, domestic violence and abuse, online and offline grooming, the distribution of abusive images of young people, and human trafficking. Many adults involved in prostitution describe difficult childhood experiences that include domestic violence and abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, disrupted schooling, and low educational attainment.

The perpetrators of sexual exploitation are often well organised and use sophisticated tactics. They are known to target areas where young people gather without much adult supervision, e.g., parks or shopping centres or sites on the internet.

Referral

As in all cases, concerns that a young person may be at risk of sexual exploitation should be discussed with a relevant line manager and a Designated Safeguarding Officer and reported to the young person's social work team as soon as practicable.

The wishes and feelings of the young person should be obtained when deciding how to proceed, but team members should be aware that perpetrators may have groomed the young person's responses and that the young person may be denying what is happening.

A young person who is suspected of suffering or being at risk of suffering sexual exploitation, and who may be a Child in Need under the Children's Act 1989, should be referred to the responsible local authority Children's Social Care team using the relevant local safeguarding referral procedures.

The local Safeguarding Children's Partnership will consult and share information concerning incidents or suspicions of sexual exploitation. A decision should be made whether a criminal offence has been committed against a young person.

The young person's individual needs and circumstances must be carefully assessed, including issues of ethnicity, gender, culture, disability, religion, and sexual orientation.

APPENDIX 3

Safeguarding Action Process

In response to a cause for concern, an allegation, or disclosure of abuse:

Make a brief initial record of the details. It is important that the team members receiving a disclosure from a young person listen supportively and record the details using the young person's words. Remember not to ask 'leading' questions, and not to offer confidentiality to the young person as they need to be aware that all that serious concerns must be reported on.

Immediately contact a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and report the circumstances, this DSO now takes responsibility for the safeguarding process.

The DSO taking responsibility for the case must fill in the Safeguarding Referral Form (Appendix 3) and send (email) to the Directors of Genell Support for notification and auditing purposes.

The DSO will ensure that the young person is safe and that adequate team member arrangements are in place.

The DSO will immediately report the safeguarding concern to the relevant local authority emergency duty team, and/or to the young person's Social Worker, or their team manager in his/her absence. All discussions must be recorded, and the Directors of Genell Support informed.

The DSO will seek advice and guidance from the local Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SCP) who will then take the lead in the referral and advise on the course of action to take. The SCP will also co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented within the partnership and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body. The DSO will then record their advice under actions taken on the Safeguarding Advice Form and inform the Directors of Genell Support.

In rare cases where contact with the young person's social worker is difficult to engage, the DSO will contact the local Safeguarding Children's Partnership for advice.

The DSO will ensure the incident report, young person's daily record, and the logbook entries regarding the concern are fully completed and signed.

The DSO will ensure that a copy of the incident report is forwarded to the Directors of Genell Support and the young person's social work team within 24 hours.

The DSO will ensure all decisions agreed in any subsequent strategy meeting are actioned appropriately, and ensure that if any internal investigation is required, this is carried out without delay.