Safeguarding Children
Policy

GO GO Makers is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse, harm and radicalisation.

The Club will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns regarding the safety of a child that may occur. The Club's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the Manager at Camp or Emma Canning
The CPO coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (eg Social Care, the LSCB and Ofsted).

Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly, or by failing to protect them from harm. Some forms of child abuse and neglect are listed below.

* Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve making the child feel that they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

* Physical abuse can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may be also caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child.

* Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact, or non-contact activities such as showing children sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

* Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. It can involve a failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, to protect a child from physical and emotional harm, to ensure adequate supervision or to allow access to medical treatment.

Signs of possible abuse and neglect might include:

* significant changes in a child's behaviour

* deterioration in a child's general well-being

* unexplained bruising or marks

* comments made by a child which give cause for concern

* inappropriate behaviour displayed by a member of staff, or any other person. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one-to-one attention beyond the requirements of their role, or inappropriate sharing of images.

If abuse is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

* reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out

* listen to the child but not question them

* give reassurance that the staff member will take action

* Contact/speak to their DSL immediately

* record the incident as soon as possible **(see logging an incident).**

If the member of staff speaks to their DSL and the DSL does not believe there is a cause for concern and is not seeking further advice and you feel this is not the right decision, tell the DSL and contact the local authority for advice directly.

If the advice you get from the local authority is to "monitor" and you feel

this decision is again not right, complete a MAC form and it will be investigated for another opinion, email this in ASAP.

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care/get advice directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that GO GO Makers is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

Extremism and radicalization

All childcare settings have a legal duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and being drawn into extremism. There are many reasons why a child might be vulnerable to radicalisation, including:

* feeling alienated or alone

* seeking a sense of identity or individuality

* suffering from mental health issues such as depression

* desire for adventure or wanting to be part of a larger cause

* associating with others who hold extremist beliefs

Signs of radicalisation

Signs that a child might be at risk of radicalisation include:

* changes in behaviour, for example becoming withdrawn or aggressive

* claiming that terrorist attacks and violence are justified

* viewing violent extremist material online

* possessing or sharing violent extremist material

If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk of becoming radicalised, they will record any relevant information or observations on a Logging a concern form, and refer the matter to the DSL.

Child on Child abuse

Children are vulnerable to abuse by their peers/other children. Child on child abuse is taken seriously by staff and will be subject to the same child protection procedures as other forms of abuse. Staff are aware of the potential uses of information technology for bullying and abusive behaviour between young people.

Staff will not dismiss abusive behaviour as normal between young people. The presence of one or more of the following in relationships between children should always trigger concern about the possibility of child-on-child abuse:

- Sexual activity (in primary school-aged children) of any kind, including sexting

- One of the children is significantly more dominant than the other (eg much older)
- One of the children is significantly more vulnerable than the other (eg in terms of disability, confidence, physical strength)
- There has been some use of threats, bribes or coercion to ensure compliance or secrecy. ***If child-on-child abuse is suspected or disclosed***

We will follow the same procedures as set out above for responding to child abuse.

In addition to these types of abuse and neglect, members of staff will also be alert to following specific safeguarding issues:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. Children or young children may be tricked into believing they are in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online. Some indicators of children being sexually exploited are: going missing for periods of time or regularly coming late; regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education; appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions; associating with other young people involved in exploitation; having new possessions; associating with other young people involved in exploitation; having older boyfriends or girlfriends; suffering from sexually transmitted infections; mood swings or changes in emotional wellbeing; drug and alcohol misuse and displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour. A child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type sexual touching. Sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence. It is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if that person holds a position of trust or authority in relation to the young person. Non consexual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim. If the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or his or her family has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given true consent and therefore offences may have been committed. Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the of 18.

Where it comes to our notice that a child under the age of 13 is, or may be, sexually active, whether or not they are a child at Go Go Makers, this will result in an immediate referral.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long term-term health consequences, including metal health problems, difficulties in child birth, causing danger to the child and mother; and/or death.

FGM is a deeply embedded social norm, practised by families for a variety of complex reasons. It is often thought to be essential for a girl to become a proper woman, and to be marriageable. The practice is not required by any religion.

FGM is an unacceptable practice for which there is no justification. It is child abuse and a form of violence against women.

FGM is prevalent in 30 countries. These are concentrated in countries around the Atlantic coast to the horn of Africa, in areas of the middle east like Iraq or Yemen, it has also been documented in communities in Colombia, Iran, Israel, Oman, The United Arab Emirates, The occupied Palestinian Territories, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. It has also been identified in parts of Europe, North America and Australia.

FGM is illegal in the UK. It is estimated that approximately 60,000 girls aged between 0- 14 were born in England and Wales to mothers who had undergone FMG and approximately 103,000 women aged between 15-49 and approximately 24,000 women aged 50 and over who have immigrated to England and Wales are living with the consequences of FGM.

Preventing Radicalisation

The counter-terrorism and security act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities, including local authorities and childcare, education and other children's services providers, in the exercise of their functions, to have due to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ('prevent duty"). Young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, those via the internet and other social media. Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol.

Examples of the ways in which children can be vulnerable to radicalisation and the indicators that might suggest that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation and the indicators that might suggest that an individual might be vulnerable:

- Example indicators than an individual is engaged with an extremist group, cause or ideology include: spending increasing time I the company of other suspected extremists; changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group; their day to day behaviour becoming increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause; loss of interest in their friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology; group or cause; possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far right groups); attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology; or communications with others that suggest identification with a group/cause/ideology

- Example indicators that an individual has an intention to use violence or other illegal means include; clearly identifying another group as threatening what they stand for and blaming that group for all social or political ills; using insulting or derogatory names or labels for another group' speaking about the immense of harm from the other group and the importance of action now; expressing attitudes that justify offending on behalf of the group, cause or ideology; condoning or supporting violence or harm towards others; or plotting or conspiring with others.

- Example indicators that an individual is capable of contributing directly or indirectly to an act of terrorism include; having a history of violence; being criminally versatile and using criminal networks too

support extremist goals; having occupational skills that enable acts of terrorism (such as civil engineering, pharmacology or construction); or having technical expertise that can be deployed 9e.g. It skills, knowledge of chemicals, military training or survival skills).

The examples above are not exhaustive and vulnerability may manifest itself in other ways. There is no single route to terrorism nor is there a simple profile of those who become involved. For this reason, any attempt to derive "a profile" can be misleading.
It must not be assumed that these characteristics and experiences will necessarily lead to individuals becoming terrorists, or that these indicators are the only source of information required to make an appropriate assessment about vulnerability.

Logging an incident

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure, or concern about radicalisation, will be recorded on the Logging a concern form **(the staff member who the child disclosed to must complete the green form themselves)** as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

* date of the disclosure, or the incident, or the observation causing concern
* date and time at which the record was made
* name and date of birth of the child involved
* a factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the child's own words
* name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

Making a Safeguarding Referral for Children:

If abuse is suspected or disclosed

When a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff, that member of staff will:

* reassure the child that they were not to blame and were right to speak out
* listen to the child but not question them
* give reassurance that the staff member will take action
* Contact/speak to their DSL immediately
* record the incident as soon as possible

If the member of staff speaks to their DSL and the DSL does not believe there is a cause for concern and is not seeking further advice and you feel this is not the right decision, tell the DSL and contact the local authority for advice directly.

If the advice you get from the local authority is to “monitor” and you feel this decision is again not right, complete a MAC form and it will be investigated for another opinion, email this in ASAP.

If a member of staff witnesses or suspects abuse, they will record the incident straightaway. If a third party expresses concern that a child is being abused, we will encourage them to contact Social Care/get advice directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that GO GO Makers is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

THE DSL WILL MAKE THE REFERRAL

Before making a referral - please take a look at the Spectrum of Support document to decide whether your concerns require a referral to Children's Social Care.

For urgent concerns - if you have an urgent child protection concern, call the Front Door on **01926 414144 or** Mash **02476 788555**

Lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday - 8.30am – 5:30pm (Coventry 5pm)
- Friday - 8.30am – 5:00pm (Coventry 430pm)

You can call Front door/MASH for any advice/guidance

You might be asked then need to complete and return a Multi-Agency Contact Form (MAC) and send via email to the Front Door team:
Please email - TriageHub@Warwickshire.gov.uk

Out of hours - if you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the Emergency Duty Team immediately on **01926 886922 or Coventry** (024) 7683 2222

Emergencies - if you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on **999.**
Non-urgent concerns - complete the Multi Agency Contact Form and send to email address as stated above.

To report a crime or raise a concern about abuse with Warwickshire Police, you can phone non-emergency number on **101**. But if it is an emergency always dial: **999**

Radicalisation For immediate concerns regarding radicalisation, if a member of staff has any concern regarding suspected radicalisation this will be logged on a green form and shared with the School of the child, and referred directly to the Front Door.

If staff are concerned about a vulnerable individual that might be being

drawn into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, then a PREVENT referral form

will be completed and the DSL will contact the PREVENT co-ordinator. For any urgent concerns the DSL will contact the Police using 999

Allegations against staff

If anyone makes an allegation of child abuse against a member of staff:

* The allegation will be recorded on an Incident record form. Any witnesses to the incident should sign and date the entry to confirm it.

* The allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and to Ofsted. The LADO will advise if other agencies (eg police) should be informed, and the Club will act upon their advice. Any telephone reports to the LADO will be followed up in writing within 48 hours.

* Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

* If appropriate the Club will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Training, Promoting awareness among staff and Safe Recruitment

The Club promotes awareness of child abuse and the risk of radicalisation through its staff training. The Club ensures that:

* the DSL has relevant experience and receives appropriate training in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty, and is aware of the Channel Programme and how to access it

* safe recruitment practices are followed for all new staff

* all staff have a copy of this Safeguarding Children policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse, neglect or radicalisation

* all staff are aware of their statutory duties with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse, and concerns about radicalisation

* all staff receive safeguarding training (level 2) and child protection training

* staff are tested on a regular basis with “spot check” questions relating to safeguarding

* staff undertake regular training (annually) in safeguarding

* All Managers are DSL trained

* all staff receive basic training in the Prevent Duty

* all staff have an enhanced dbs check

* the Club’s procedures are in line with the guidance in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)’ and staff are familiar with the guidance in ‘What To Do If You’re Worried A Child Is Being Abused (2015)’.

Use of mobile phones and cameras

Photographs will only be taken of children with their parents’ permission. Only the Camp mobile will be used to take photographs of children at the Club, except with the express permission of the manager. Neither staff nor children may use their mobile phones to take photographs at the Camp. Staff mobile phones are placed in a box on arrival at Camp or in the staff room.

Important Phone Numbers

Contact numbers:

Warwickshire Front Door: 01926 414144

Coventry MASH: 02476 788555

Social Care: Warks 01926 410410

Coventry 02476 252011

Social Care out of hours contact:

Warks 01926 886922

Coventry 02476 832222

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer):

01926 742372 (Warks)

02476 975483 (Coventry)

Coventry LADO: lado@coventry.gov.uk

LADO email: lado@warwickshire.gov.uk

LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board):

01926 742368 Local Authority Prevent Co-ordinator:

01926 412432 or if you are unable to get through/hold of them 01926 412338

Police: 01926 451111 999 (emergency)

Coventry: 0845 1135000 999 (emergency)

Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321

Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764, in confidence, to share your concerns with specially trained officers.

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231

This policy was adopted by GO GO Makers, Emma Canning. To be reviewed February 2025