



Safeguarding and Prevent Policy and Procedure

Brighter Foundations

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Policy Statement

Brighter Foundations is a therapeutic organisation who offer therapeutic services to children, parents/carers and professionals. Brighter Foundations is committed to protecting all children under 18 years old from harm. Everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe from harm and to practise in a way that protects them.

Brighter Foundations believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

Brighter Foundations recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable, safe from abuse.

Brighter Foundations will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, Rachel Lyon will have the role of nominated child protection lead)
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through policies, procedures and working within the ethical framework of our registering body.
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [*more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/for-organisations/*]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families e.g., via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern

- using safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that Brighter Foundations has a policy and procedure to help deal effectively with any bullying that may arise
- ensuring that Brighter Foundations have effective complaints procedure in place
- ensuring that Brighter Foundations provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance

Safeguarding Procedure

This document outlines the procedures that will be followed when there is a concern about a child and how a concern or allegation is reported in line with statutory guidance and legislation.

Safeguarding is defined as

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

Child Protection is defined as;

- The activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

Brighter Foundations is committed to safeguarding children;

- to provide a safe environment for children and young people
- to promote the welfare and safety of children and young people and ensure robust systems are in place to protect children and young people from harm
- to create a culture which recognises and understands the importance of safeguarding
- to ensure appropriate systems are in place to keep children and young people safe
- to identify instances in which there are grounds for concern about a child's welfare, and to take timely and appropriate action to keep them safe
- to identify and report when young people are at risk of exploitation, grooming or radicalisation

- to provide guidance on reporting suspected abuse and ensure a systematic process for responding to an incident, allegation, or disclosure
- to support victims of abuse in line with their child protection plan

What is Child Abuse

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although 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 child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Indicators of Abuse

There are a number of warning indicators which might suggest that a child may be being abused or neglected. It is recognised that warning signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect can vary from child to child and a warning sign does not automatically mean a child is being abused. Set out below are some examples of signs which may be indicators of abuse taken from Government non-statutory guidance 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' (these examples are not exhaustive).

Physical Abuse:

- children with frequent injuries
- children with unexplained or unusual fractures or broken bones
- children with unexplained bruises or blots, burns or scalds or bite marks

Emotional Abuse:

- children who are excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong
- parents or carers who humiliate their child, for example, by name-calling or making negative comparisons
- parents or carers blaming their problems on their child

Sexual Abuse:

- children who display knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age
- children who use sexual language or have sexual knowledge that you would not expect them to have
- children with physical sexual health problems, including soreness in the genital and anal areas, sexually transmitted infections, or underage pregnancy

Sexual Exploitation:

- children who have older friends (boyfriends/girlfriends)

- children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- children who regularly miss therapy appointments or have attendance issues at school

Neglect:

- children who do not have adequate clothing e.g. not having a winter coat
- children who are hungry or dirty
- children who are often angry, aggressive, or self-harm
- children who are not taken to medical appointments when unwell

PREVENT

National PREVENT Strategy

The government's national PREVENT strategy is to ensure that any people who are identified as being vulnerable or at risk of radicalisation are referred to the Prevent programme. Once referred to Prevent, the police will de-conflict the referral and ensure it is not malicious or misguided and will decide on the appropriate pathway depending on whether the individual is already within a criminal space. This could include the referral being passed to the appropriate Channel Panel. Channel is a multiagency panel, who seek to assess the individual and provide guidance on appropriate forward support. It is important to remember Channel is a voluntary programme, so the person at risk must consent to this intervention for it to happen.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities under Section 26 to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. It is a duty for all specified organisations to ensure they have a workforce who are appropriately trained to identify, treat, or refer all patients, staff and students who may be at risk of radicalisation.

The main aim of the Prevent programme is to stop people becoming terrorists and/or supporting terrorism by:

- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring they are given adequate support
- Working with partner sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation

Brighter Foundations acknowledges its duty to recognise and prevent children from being drawn into terrorism. In compliance with this duty Brighter Foundations where applicable will:

- Adhere to and promote the national PREVENT Strategy
- carry out assessments to determine the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology (including the risk of online radicalisation)

- promote fundamental British values
- undertake the online general awareness training module at <https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal#awareness-course>
- be committed to multi-agency working where required
- provide appropriate support and guidance for all vulnerable people in relation to them being at risk of radicalisation
- ensure those at risk of radicalisation are referred to the PREVENT programme for the appropriate support and guidance

What are the signs of radicalisation?

It is often not one specific cause which would put a person at risk of radicalisation, but the below list is some of the more frequent reasons why people have followed a specific path to radicalisation:

- feelings of loss or bereavement
- social isolation
- confusion over personal identity
- experience of discrimination, inequality or harassment leading to a sense of grievance
- family breakdown or community tensions
- having family members or friends who are already radicalised

What triggers a PREVENT referral?

There are many reasons why someone may be at risk of radicalisation and some of the signs to look out for are listed below, but of course this is not an exhaustive list:

- out of character changes in behaviour, dress and beliefs
- changes in their friendship groups or associating with people who hold extremist views
- digital interaction with inappropriate online sites
- changes in use of social media with increased secrecy
- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- advocating extremist messages
- glorifying violence
- accessing extremist literature and imagery

In most instances, it would require a client to divulge some of the above behaviours, however, I will remain vigilant to recognise the potential signs of radicalisation and to act appropriately in both recording and reporting the concern.

If I have concerns about a client in relation to them being at risk of radicalisation the following process will apply:

- concerns are documented on the 'Safeguarding Concerns' form
- all meetings, contact and advice received will be documented
- when a client is at risk of radicalisation, a referral will be made to the PREVENT programme
- any immediate concerns for an individual's safety, will be reported to the police
- where possible and safe to do so, consent will be gained for a PREVENT referral
- sharing of information in relation to the individual at risk must be proportionate and necessary

What happens to individuals who have passed the PREVENT stage and have been convicted of a terror related crime?

People who are convicted of terrorist related crimes are known as TACT offenders (Terrorist ACT). The Home Office have started a de-radicalisation programme for offenders within communities, whereby the released individuals are closely monitored and managed by either the Police or a mental health provider and most TACT offenders will have a manager who usually sits within Probation or the Local Authority. All health workers are encouraged to find out who that individual is and work with them to ensure the individual is being safeguarded appropriately.

Whichever agency is leading the care plan for an individual TACT offender, they should ensure the individual is accessing "de-radicalisation" services that the Home Office provides to these individuals on release from prison. This is a relatively new initiative which is growing as more and more TACT offenders are released.

For TACT offenders there are also usually monthly MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) meetings or equivalent meetings which will sit to discuss the cases that are being managed within the local area.

Safeguarding in Specific Circumstances

Female Genital Mutilation ("FGM")

Where there are concerns that FGM has taken place, as well as reporting this to the police, local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Forced Marriage

A 'forced' marriage (as distinct from a consensual 'arranged' marriage) is defined as one conducted without the valid consent of at least one of the parties and where duress is a factor. Duress cannot be justified on religious or cultural grounds. Forced marriages of children may involve non-consensual and/or underage sex, emotional and possibly physical abuse and should be regarded as a child protection issue and referred to Children's Social Care. Forced marriage is primarily, but not exclusively, an issue of abuse against girls and young women, however there is evidence to suggest that 15% of victims are male.

Peer on Peer abuse

Brighter Foundations recognises that children can abuse other children and such behaviours are never viewed simply as 'banter' or as part of growing up. We recognise that peer on peer abuse can take many different forms such as:

- cyber-bullying
- sending or posting sexually suggestive images including nude or semi-nude photographs via mobiles or over the internet by persons aged under 18 (referred to as Youth Produced Sexual Imagery)
- sexual assault
- sexually harmful or problematic behaviour
- gang initiation or hazing type violence

Sexualised behaviours

Where children display sexualised behaviours, the behaviours will be considered in accordance with the children's developmental understanding, age and impact on the alleged victim. Tools such as Brook Traffic Light Tool will be used to assist in determining whether the behaviour is developmental or a cause for concern, this can be found at <https://www.brook.org.uk/education/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool/>. This will assist in ensuring the children receive the right support at the right time either via an Early Help response or referral to Children's Social Care

Gang related violence

Brighter Foundations recognises the risks posed to children in relation to involvement in gang related activity which may be street gang, peer group or organised crime. Young people who are involved in gangs are more likely to suffer harm themselves, through retaliatory violence, displaced retaliation, territorial violence with other gangs or other harm suffered whilst committing a crime. In addition, children may experience violence as part of an initiation or hazing practices.

Brighter Foundations understands that Early Help can be crucial in the early identification of children who may need additional support due to gang related activity and as such will provide an early help response when concerns are raised about indicators of gang activity. If however, information suggests a child may be at risk of significant harm due to gang related activity, a referral will be made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub within Children's Social Care. Where there are concerns that a child or young person may be, or is at risk of becoming involved in gang related activity, a referral will be made to the Multi-Agency Gang (MAG) panel in accordance with Local procedures as part of the safeguarding response.

Youth Generated Sexualised Imagery

Brighter Foundations recognises the impact of online social communication and the issue of sending or posting sexually suggestive images including nude or semi-nude photographs via mobiles or over the internet. Following the Guidance issued by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety in relation to how we respond to incidents. In all cases where an incident of youth produced sexual imagery is reported the following actions will be undertaken:

- the incident should be reported to the person responsible for safeguarding children e.g., Local Safeguarding Office, organisations Child Protection Lead
- parents should be informed at an early stage unless there is good reason to believe that involving parents would put the young person at risk of harm.

Disclosures of abuse will be managed in the following way:

If a child shares they are experiencing abuse, they will be reassured they've done the right thing in telling you.

Ensure they know that abuse is never their fault.

Children will be informed that what has been shared cannot be kept a secret.

Explain that you need to share what they've told you with someone who will be able to help.

What information will be recorded

A factually written record will include, name of the person completing the form, occupation, date and time the form was completed.

What the child said, where the child was, what they were doing, time and date of the disclosure.

Action taken e.g., referral, outcome of referral.

Confidentiality

Children receiving therapeutic services will be informed at the beginning of the work what the limitations are in regard to confidentiality, e.g., if they share someone is hurting them or hurting someone they know.

If this was to happen you would remind the child you will share this information with people who need to know in order to keep them safe.

I have a duty to share any concerns I have about a child, even if the child asks for the information not to be shared.

