



Safeguarding Children Policy

STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which the children in our care are protected from abuse and harm.

STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD will respond promptly and appropriately to all incidents or concerns of abuse that may occur. STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD'S child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD'S designated Child Protection Officer (CPO) is DENO DAVIE. The CPO coordinates child protection issues and liaises with external agencies (eg Social Care, the LSCB and Ofsted).

Forms of 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 a child from harm. The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. These types of abuse are more often found in combination than alone.

- **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 or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. 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, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts, or non-contact activities such as showing children pornographic materials, sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. Neglect can involve a failure to:
 - provide adequate food, clothing and shelter
 - protect a child from physical and emotional harm
 - ensure adequate supervision
 - allow access to medical treatment.

If abuse is suspected or disclosed

Where 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 talk to them
- Listen to the child but not question them
- Give reassurance that the staff member will take action
- Record the incident as soon as possible (see below).

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

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directly. If they will not do so, we will explain that STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD is obliged to and the incident will be logged accordingly.

Logging an incident

All information about the suspected abuse or disclosure will be recorded as soon as possible after the event. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident 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, it is essential to use the child's own words.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the CPO who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral. If other staff feel that the incident has not been adequately followed up, they may call Social Care themselves.

Allegations against staff

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

- The allegation will be recorded in the **Accident and Incident Log**. 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 STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD will act upon the advice.
- Following advice from the LADO, it may be necessary to suspend the member of staff pending full investigation of the allegation.

Promoting awareness among staff

STRETCH-N-GROW CHESHIRE LTD will promote awareness of child abuse issues throughout its staff training. The Club

will ensure that:

- Its designated CPO has relevant experience and receives appropriate training
- Safe recruitment practices are followed for all staff
- All staff have a copy of the **Safeguarding Children** policy, understand its contents and are vigilant to signs of abuse or neglect
- All staff are aware of their statutory requirements with regard to the disclosure or discovery of child abuse
- Staff are familiar with the 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' flowchart
- Staff are familiar with the Safeguarding File which is kept at the Head Office.



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Contact numbers

Social Care: 0161 219 2889

Out of hours contact: 0300 123 5022

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer): lado@cheshireeast.gov.uk **01606 288934**

Ofsted: 0300 123 1231 [\[if the holiday club is registered with Ofsted\]](#)

Police: 01244 350000 If the phone lines are out of order and there is no automated message that guides you through to the service you wish to reach, contact the below phone numbers.

If you have a safeguarding concern and need to speak to a Social Worker immediately:

- 07784 492174
- 07814 369297
- 07966 305353

NSPCC: 0808 800 500

POLICY OWNER	Adopted by Stretch-n-Grow
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW	Deno Davie
To be reviewed: September 2023	Operations Director
POLICY REVIEW	ANNUAL
	Signed: Tanya Davie