Trident Group

a beacon of hope

Safeguarding Children and Families

Department:

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1. Policy Aims

Trident Group are committed to the ethos that 'Safeguarding is Everybody's Business' and will make sure that the safeguarding provisions for children and young people ensure that the staff, volunteers and contractors who come into contact with children, parents and carers in the course of their work will be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and associated actions.

All staff providing direct care or support as part of their role or colleagues who come into contact with with children or families whilst carrying out their role will ensure that:

- the welfare of the child and young person are paramount;
- promoting the welfare of children and young people forms an integral part of all elements of the support and care that they offer;
- all children and young people , whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to be safeguarded from harm or abuse;
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately; and
- all staff (paid/unpaid) working in Trident have a responsibility to report concerns to a Designated Lead Officer for Safeguarding.

The aim of the Safeguarding Children and Families Policy is to promote good practice by:

- providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection
- allowing all staff /volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child safeguarding concerns
- ensuring staff/ volunteers are alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect
- implementing systems and processes that operate with the **best interests** of the child at their heart.
- ensuring opportunities in place for children to express their views and give feedback, ensuring the child's case acknowledged in any assessments and associated safeguarding activities
- communicate in a way that is appropriate to a child's age and level of understaning
- sharing any concerns and information with their Manager and Designated Lead Officer for Safeguarding
- working in collaboration with other professionals and agencies to manage risk and ensure the child's safety, contributing to a reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific plans.

2. Policy Statement

Trident has a duty of care to safeguard all children and young people from harm. All children and young people have a right to be safeguarded, and the needs of children

with physical and learning disabilities, who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. Trident will ensure the safety and protection of all children and young people through adherence to the Children and Families Safeguarding policy and procedure.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989). In this document, as in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 respectively, a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ôChildrenô therefore means óchildren and young peopleô throughout. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate for children and young people, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of mental health, or physical health or development;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective support;
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances, the best outcomes and to enter adulthood successfully.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. Safeguarding action may be needed to protect children from:

- neglect
- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- domestic abuse/sexual violence

In addition, there are further forms of abuse (see Appendix 4);

- bullying, including cyber bullying
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls
- radicalisation and/or extremist behaviour
- criminal exploitation
- child sexual exploitation and trafficking
- the impact of new technologies on sexual behaviour, for example sexting
- issues that may be specific to a local area or population, for example gang activity, knife crime and youth violence
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
- forced marriage
- fabricated or induced illness

- modern slavery
- poor parenting, particularly in relation to babies and young children
- other issues not listed here but that pose a risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults, including pre-birth referrals.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Statutory Assessments under The Children Act 1989

Local Authority Childrenôs Social Care teams as determine which services to provide and what action to take. These assessments include:

- Section 17 assessment of a óchild in needô
- Section 47 enquiry for children suffering, or likely to suffer, **significant harm.**
- Section 20 assessment of accommodation needs
- Section 31A assessment of children on care orders
- Section 17ZA assessment of young carers
- Section 17ZD assessment of parents/carers of disabled children

3.2 Trident Group Board

Due to the nature of the role and responsibilities of Group Board Members they are placed in a Position of Trust and are expected to work in accordance with safeguarding policies and procedures. An Annual Safeguarding Children and Families Report is produced for Board and Key Performance Indicators are reported quarterly.

3.3 Trident Staff and Volunteers

Trident aims to ensure that it builds constructive relationships between individual practitioners, promoted and supported by the commitment of senior managers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and by clear lines of accountability.

Everyone within Trident shares responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, irrespective of individual roles and that they should;

- plan and respond to the needs of children and their families
- understand risk factors and recognise children and young people in need of support and/or safeguarding
- recognise the needs of parents or carers who may need extra support or help and know where to refer for Early Help. óEarly Helpô me emerges at any point in a child's life, from birth, and applies to any problem or need that the family cannot deal with on their own. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals with agreed actions to meet need early and avoid a problem escalating. inclu
- recognise the risks of abuse or neglect to an unborn child
- communicate effectively with children and you safety and welfare

- liaise closely with other agencies, including other health professionals, and share information as appropriate where appropriate, play an active part, through the child protection plan, in keeping the child safe
- contribute to child protection conferences, family group conferences and the formation of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- contribute to planning and sourcing support for children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, for example, children living in households with domestic abuse or parental substance misuse
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