

Erne East Community Partnership

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY STATEMENT

We in Erne East Community Partnership (OAK Healthy Living Centre) are committed to practice, which protects children from harm. This applies to all programmes and activities under Erne East Community Partnership. Staff and volunteers in this organisation accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues that cause children harm. If staff have a reasonable concern that a child may be at risk of suffering abuse/neglect we have the right to pass information on to the Gate Way Team without parental knowledge/consent.

For the purpose of this Child Protection policy, the definitions and indicators of child abuse have been taken from the 'Regional Child Protection Policies and Procedures at <https://www.proceduresonline.com/sbni>

Physical abuse – the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering.

Indicators may include (this list is not exhaustive)

- Bruises or scratches in places difficult to mark
- Fractures, broken bones
- Becoming withdrawn or aggressive, unusual behaviour; shaking shouting
- Behaviour changes- hitting, pinching, throwing, and kicking.

Emotional abuse – the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

Indicators may include (this list is not exhaustive)

- Sudden speech disorders
- Wetting or soiling
- Frequent vomiting
- Rocking, thumb sucking
- Fear of change
- Chronic running away.

Sexual abuse – involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities.

Indicators may include: (this list is not exhaustive)

- Inappropriate sexual awareness, behaviour or language
- Fearful watchfulness
- Torn or blood stained clothing or underwear
- Anorexia/ bulimia.

Neglect – the persistent failure to meet a child's physical, emotional and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm.

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Indicators may include: (this list is not exhaustive)

- Exposure to danger, lack of supervision
- Inadequate/inappropriate clothing
- Poor hygiene
- Untreated illnesses
- Lack of peer relationships
- Compulsive stealing/begging.

We will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- Ensuring all members of staff undertake an Access NI check. All tutors and volunteers who are in direct contact with children or vulnerable adults as part of the organisation activities have undertaken Access Ni checks prior to contact with children.
- Making the welfare of children paramount and protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through a code of behaviour for all staff and volunteers (this will be provided separately)
- Sharing relevant information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers and continually inform them of what we do and what they can expect from us.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies that need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Adhering to strict procedures in recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers.
- Provisions of effective management for staff and volunteers through support, supervision and training.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Management team to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

This policy was adopted by Erne East Community Partnership Management Committee .

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Signed: *Michael Mowen*
(On behalf of the organisation)

Position: ...Manager

Date;16/08/2021.....

Reviewed on:

Date:

Date:

Date:

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CHILD PROTECTION: CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Erne East Community Partnership views the welfare of children of paramount importance. Committee members, staff, volunteers and Management associated with the Club will:

- Listen to children and fully investigate any concerns expressed by children
- Never dismiss any comment by a child however trivial it may seem
- Value and respect children as individuals
- Involve children in decision making, as appropriate
- Provide a nurturing environment for children including giving encouragement and praise to children

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Guidelines for Staff/Volunteers and Management

It is important for the protection of all concerned that staff, volunteers, children and young people have guidelines on what is expected, and what is not accepted, with respect of their behaviour.

Guidelines for staff and volunteers should include the following:

- ◆ Staff, volunteers or management should not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children. Meetings with individual children or young people should take place as openly as possible. If privacy is needed, the door should be left open and other staff, volunteers or tutors informed of the meeting.
- ◆ Staffs, volunteers or management are advised not to make unnecessary physical contact with children and young people. However, there may be occasions when physical contact is unavoidable, such as providing comfort and reassurance for a distressed child, or physical support, for example, in contact sports such as gymnastics. In all cases, physical contact should only take place with the consent of the child or young person.
- ◆ It is not good practice to take children alone in a car on journeys, however short. Where this is unavoidable, it should be with the full knowledge and consent of the parents, and someone in charge of the organisation.
- ◆ Staff and volunteers should not meet with children outside organised activities, unless it is with the knowledge and consent of parents and the person in charge of the organisation.
- ◆ Leader's who are involved in relationships with other staff, or other members, should ensure that their personal relationships do not affect their leadership role within the organisation.
- ◆ Staff, volunteers and management should never:
 - Engage in sexually provocative or rough physical games, including horseplay – apart from structured sports activities

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- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments about, or to, a child, even in fun
- Let allegations a child makes go without being addressed and recorded
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do themselves

Sharing information about Child Protection and Good Practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers

Children and young people

Under the UN Convention on the Right of the Child, children have a right to information, especially any information that could make life better and safer for them.

They should ideally have information about how and with whom they can share their concerns, complaints and anxieties.

Parents

Parents have responsibility for their children's welfare at all times and they should be assured that their children are involved with credible organisations.

They should be aware of the nature of the relationship with adults with whom their children form friendships.

To support this, Erne East Community Partnership will:

- ❖ Distribute our child protection policy and the name of the member of staff to contact in the event of concerns or complaints.
- ❖ Ensure that the Child Protection Policy is displayed prominently at our premises.
- ❖ On request send parents a copy of this information along with any guidelines.
- ❖ A copy will be provided to any staff, volunteer or member of the management committee to enable them to deal with child protection issues.
- ❖ Other appropriate bodies, such as funders, will be provided with a copy of our child protection policy, if appropriate.

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When sharing information we will attempt to be sensitive to the level of understanding and maturity of the people with whom we are sharing. The sharing of policy and procedures with children should be done in a manner appropriate to a child's age.

Sharing Information about Concerns with Agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately

Erne East Community Partnership recognises that we have a responsibility to know about Child Protection and to follow good practice. This includes the development of procedures to follow when concerns arise.

Protecting children from harm requires maximum cooperation between children, their families, communities and professionals.

While we recognise that the information and confirmation of alleged and actual abuse should be left to the appropriate professionals, the concerns of staff will be dealt with appropriately.

We have a designated Responsible Person within our organisation whom has responsibility for dealing with any concerns. This is Micheal Mowen, General Manager. In Micheal's absence responsibility for dealing with concerns is Patricia Flanagan – Health Promotion Coordinator. If anyone has a complaint against the general manager or concerns they wish to address with someone else they can contact the Chairperson of the organisation Anne Mc Adam.

A record book will be held and used to record any incidents or concerns that are presented. This will typically involve recording a note of what is said, or what happened, when and where it occurred, who was present and any action taken as a result.

These records will be kept confidentially in a secure place, with the identified person responsible for safekeeping and access.

In the case of a child disclosing abuse, the following procedure will apply:

- The child will be listened to rather than questioned directly.
He/she will be offered reassurance without making promises.
The child will be taken seriously.

- A child will be allowed to freely recall significant events without interruption
The listener will not overreact
The listener will inform
The listener will explain the next steps that will be taken and who will be contacted

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The Child will not be questioned or interrogated

- The discussion will be recorded accurately as soon as possible after the event, even if that information is difficult to understand or you feel uncomfortable writing it down. It is important that it is recorded as expressed by the child.
- The staff member recording the information should contact the designated person within the organisation who will contact Gateway, and, if appropriate make a direct referral.
- In the event that the designated person is not available, or it is felt inappropriate to approach them, Gateway should be approached directly.
- Any discussion or actions will then be recorded within 24 hours.

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Child Protection Report

Name of Child (Legal)

Other Name (if child is usually known by something other than the above)

Age last Birthday Male Female

Special factors we should be aware of:

Parent's/Guardians name(s):

Home Address:

.....Post Code.....

Home Telephone: Mobile:

Other Contact:

Are you expressing your own concerns (please specify)

.....

Are you passing on concerns of somebody else? (If so, record details)

.....

What has prompted the concerns? (Include dates, times, etc. of any specific incidents)

.....

.....

Physical signs?

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.....

Behavioural signs?

.....

Indirect signs?

.....

Has the child been spoken to? (If so, record details)

...

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Has anyone else been consulted? (If so record details)

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.....

.....

Signed: Print Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Date:

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Recording allegations or suspicions of abuse

In any case where an allegation is made, or someone in our organisation has concerns, a record should be made. It is good practice to draw up a checklist of details to note, and questions you should ask yourself in making such a record.

This should include, for example –

- ◆ Name of child
- ◆ Age
- ◆ Any special factors
- ◆ Parent's name(s)
- ◆ Home address (and phone number, if available).
- ◆ Is the person making the report expressing their own concerns, or passing on those of somebody else?
If so, record details
- ◆ What has promoted the concerns?
Include dates and times of any specific incidents.
- ◆ Any physical signs?
Behavioural signs?
Indirect signs?
- ◆ Has the child been spoken to?
If so, what was said?
- ◆ Has anybody been alleged to be the abuser?
If so, record details
- ◆ Has anyone else been consulted?
If so, record details

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