



Families Growing Together Disclosures by Children Policy and Procedure

This policy refers to disclosures made by children, young people and others.

This policy should be read in conjunction with Safeguarding Children Policy and procedure.

A disclosure refers to; a child or young person making a disclosure of abuse or sharing something that gives you reason to believe that a child or young person is being harmed or is at risk of harm. A disclosure may be given by anyone: the person who has been abused, the abuser, a witness, or by someone else. Disclosures may be received by other means such as letter, text, e-mail or phone.

Procedures for responding to disclosures

- If a child tries to tell me something in confidence it is important they are reminded of my statutory responsibility to share information if anyone is at risk
- The child should be listened to carefully demonstrating acceptance of the information. The child must not be asked leading questions and the worker must not attempt to investigate the allegation.
- The disclosure should be recorded with as much detail as soon as possible afterwards on **Safeguarding Risk Recording Form**
- If the disclosure is about someone in the household, an assessment needs to be made about risk level on **Safeguarding Risk Assessment Form**. I will discuss, assess and evaluate the information with peer social workers and make a decision over what action should be taken such as social service referral, or police contacted. If the assessment concludes there is not a need for statutory involvement then a decision will be made over what other steps are required.
- After the disclosure it is important the child understands that the information needs to be shared. Reassurance should be given and an explanation of what will happen
- If a disclosure happened within a session about someone other than the parent e.g. historical abuse, the parent should be offered support following the session, and offered a review to ensure their and their child's well being.
- All ongoing communication will be recorded and kept on the family's file

Responsibility for Policy Heidi Pannell

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