***TCES Home Learning***

***Safeguarding Children***

***Policy and Procedures***

**Contents**

[Part One Safeguarding 3](#_Toc49890119)

[Introduction 3](#_Toc49890120)

[Policy Legislation 4](#_Toc49890121)

[Definitions 5](#_Toc49890122)

[The Policy 6](#_Toc49890123)

[Roles and Responsibilities 8](#_Toc49890124)

[Meeting the TCES Safeguarding Objectives 15](#_Toc49890125)

[Standards 16](#_Toc49890126)

[Areas of Safeguarding Focus / Safeguarding Themes 17](#_Toc49890127)

[Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 17](#_Toc49890128)

[Migrant children and those seeking asylum in the UK 17](#_Toc49890129)

[Contextual Safeguarding 18](#_Toc49890130)

[Peer on Peer Abuse 18](#_Toc49890131)

[E-Safety 18](#_Toc49890132)

[Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 19](#_Toc49890133)

[Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) 21](#_Toc49890134)

[Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) 22](#_Toc49890135)

[Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines 23](#_Toc49890136)

[Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children 24](#_Toc49890137)

[Honour Based Violence (HBV) 24](#_Toc49890138)

[Domestic Abuse/Violence 25](#_Toc49890139)

[Forced Marriage 26](#_Toc49890140)

[Belief in ‘possession’ or ‘witchcraft’ 26](#_Toc49890141)

[Child Abduction 27](#_Toc49890142)

[Child Victims of Trafficking 27](#_Toc49890143)

[Child Pregnancy 28](#_Toc49890144)

[Prevent Duty– Anti-Radicalisation and Extremism 28](#_Toc49890145)

[Upskirting 29](#_Toc49890146)

[Missing Children from Education (CME) 30](#_Toc49890147)

[Allegations Against Staff 30](#_Toc49890148)

[Part Two Child Protection 32](#_Toc49890149)

[Section I - Child Protection Procedures 33](#_Toc49890150)

[Section II - Identifying Abuse 42](#_Toc49890151)

[Section III - Specific Types of Abuse 43](#_Toc49890152)

[Part Three: Safer Recruitment (Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure) 51](#_Toc49890153)

[Introduction 51](#_Toc49890154)

[Temporary Staff Recruitment Procedures 54](#_Toc49890155)

[Stage 1 Choosing Candidates 54](#_Toc49890156)

[Stage 2 Pre- Interview & Interview 55](#_Toc49890157)

[Stage 3 post Interview 55](#_Toc49890158)

[Appendix 1 Key Contacts 56](#_Toc49890159)

[Appendix 2 Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - FLOW CHART 57](#_Toc49890160)

[Appendix 3 Guidelines on Safe Working Practice 58](#_Toc49890161)

[Appendix 4 Guidelines on Safe Working Practice for Staff 60](#_Toc49890162)

[Appendix 5 Flowchart of the Recruitment Process 73](#_Toc49890163)

[Appendix 6 Forms used during the Recruitment Process 74](#_Toc49890164)

# Part One Safeguarding

# Introduction

This Safeguarding Children policy embodies the philosophy and ethos of the TCES Home Learning Service and the principles of ‘Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018’. This policy is written in conjunction with the TCES e-safety/acceptable use/ICT policy and that the safety and protection of children and young people educated and cared for by TCES are at all time of paramount importance.

Safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing needs to run through the company like the lettering through a stick of rock. It is an attitude of mind, a belief system and a way of thinking that holds the wellbeing of our children at the forefront of every action, with their safety and protection at all times of paramount importance. Keeping resolutely in mind the twin goals of safeguarding and the promotion of wellbeing informs and shapes our ways of working and will often help to resolve the many conflicts and dilemmas that can occur.

Policies and systems such as safe recruitment, behaviour management, child protection and whistleblowing procedures arise out of that belief system and are used to promote and sustain it. They are not an end in themselves but are essential tools and need to be kept ‘live’ to support the culture and to help maintain a commitment to best practice and legal requirement. They help clarify the actions we must take in some defined circumstances and may be useful reminders in areas where we have become hazy or are uncertain of what is expected of us. Ultimately, it is our belief that a commitment to safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing will work to the equal safety and wellbeing of all staff whose aim is to promote good education outcomes and future life experiences for young people.

We hope too that all of you who join with us in our commitment to safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing will find your own lives enriched by the experience.”

**Thomas Keaney**

**CEO**

**TCES**

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed on a yearly basis by the Senior Management Team and the company Management Development and is signed off accordingly by the CEO (recorded and indicated as per the back page of this policy – **The TCES Policy Sign off**.)

The Safeguarding Policy is available in hard copy on request and on the Home Learning Service web site.

# Policy Legislation

The policy is based on the DfE statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018).

This policy is also based on the following legislation:

* [The Children Act 1989](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents) **(**[and 2004 amendment](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents)**),** which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
* ['Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation - procedural information', Home Office (October 2015)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information)
* [The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/53)
* [Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable s Act 2006](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/schedule/4)
* [The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers’, DfE (2015)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty)
* [The Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/1547/contents/made) [and Childcare Act 2006](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/contents)

* [The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/794/contents/made)
* [Guidance for Safer Working Practices for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings’ (October 2015)](https://www.saferrecruitmentconsortium.org/GSWP%20Oct%202015.pdf)
* [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused’, DfE (March 2015)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)
* [Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (July 2018)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice)
* The London Child Protection Procedures (as signed up to by Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP)).
* Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) local procedures.

# Definitions

"Children" includes everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means:

* protecting children from maltreatment;
* preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development;
* ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
* taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Child protection is part of this definition and refers to activities undertaken to prevent children suffering, or being likely to suffer, significant harm.

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. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or

children. Abuse is often categorised in to 3 types of harm; physical, sexual or emotional. Further definitions can be found within [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)**.**

Neglect is a form of abuse and 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 material 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 care-givers)
* Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

The Policy

It is the policy of the Home Learning Service to create and maintain a culture of vigilance in safeguarding children and young people and an active commitment to the promotion of their general wellbeing. This is promoted through the maintenance of robust and rigorous recruitment and working practices, education and learning modules, child protection systems and multi-agency working.

It is therefore the responsibility of all staff to play an active role in safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing and to promote the same in others. All staff must actively work to ensure children are protected from possible harm. They must provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that helps to promote young people’s social, physical, emotional and moral development as an integral part of their educational progress.

**The aims of this safeguarding policy are**:

* To support children’s development in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence;
* To raise staff awareness of all their own personal and professional responsibilities in safeguarding children and in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse;
* To contribute to a systematic means of monitoring children known or thought to be at risk of harm and to develop and implement a structured procedure which will be followed in all cases of suspected abuse;
* To promote good levels of communication between all members of staff;
* To develop and promote effective working relationships with others, especially parents/carers, Local Authorities, the Police, Children’s Social Services and other partnership agencies;
* To ensure that all adults who have access to children have been checked as to their suitability and to maintain effective supervision where it is required;
* To uphold the ethos of safeguarding children and promoting their wellbeing and to work within the framework of the overall company policy.

**Procedures**

Our procedures for safeguarding children are in line with current DfE statutory guidance, the London Child Protection Procedures and Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership local safeguarding arrangements.

We will ensure that:

* We have a designated safeguarding lead (DSLs) and a deputy (where required) available to staff, pupils/students and external agencies available who undertake regular training in child protection; this training takes place more regularly than the recommended two years.
* All staff including DSL’s will be updated annually on any additional guidance issued on safeguarding to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.
* All members of staff will be appropriately briefed, trained and supported in implementing this safeguarding policy as well as the requirements of the London Child Protection Procedures.
* All members of staff are supported to develop their understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse;
* All members of staff know how to respond to a child who discloses abuse;
* All parents/carers are made aware of the responsibilities of staff members with regard to child protection procedures;
* Our procedures will be regularly reviewed and updated;
* All staff are fully vetted according to our safer recruitment procedures before commencing work with children
* All new members of staff will be given a copy of this Safeguarding policy and procedures as part of their induction. They will all be required to read and sign to confirm they understand these documents and their responsibilities contained therein.

**Supporting Children**

* We recognise that a child who is abused or witnesses violence may find it difficult to develop and maintain a sense of self-worth.
* We recognise that a child in these circumstances may feel helpless and humiliated and may feel self-blame.
* We accept that research shows that the behaviour of a child in these circumstances may range from that which is perceived to be normal to aggressive or withdrawn.
* We will support all children by:
  + Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment.
  + Liaising and working together with all other support services and those agencies involved in the safeguarding of children.
  + Notifying Children’s Social Care as soon as there is a significant safeguarding concern.
  + Providing continuing support to a child about whom there have been concerns where relevant

**Supporting Staff**

* The Home Learning Service recognise that staff who become involved with a child who has suffered harm, or appears likely to suffer harm, may find the situation stressful and upsetting.
* We will support such staff by providing an opportunity to talk through their concerns with the DSL and to seek further support where needed, in consultation with Human Resources (HR).
* We offer an Employee Assistance Programme that all staff can access, which offers free, confidential advice and assistance including counseling.

**Prevention of harm**

* We recognise that we can play a significant part in the prevention of harm to children and young people by providing them with good lines of communication with trusted adults and an ethos of safeguarding and protection as outlined in the Munro review, 2011.
* We will therefore:
  + Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.
  + Ensure that all children know there are adults whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.
  + Include curriculum opportunities which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from harm and to know to whom they should turn for help should they feel at risk/threatened or under unwelcome pressure.

**Confidentiality**

* The Home Learning Service recognises that all matters relating to Child Protection are confidential.
* The DSL or their deputy will only disclose information about a child to other members of staff on a ‘need to know’ basis.
* We have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.
* We cannot and must not promise a child to keep secrets.
* We will always share information within the parameters of the guidance: *Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (July 2018)*

Roles and Responsibilities

At the Home Learning Service, we are committed to safeguarding children and young people and we expect everyone who works within our service to share this commitment.

All staff take welfare concerns seriously and encourage children and young people to talk to us about anything that worries them.

All staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues but may notice behaviours that may be of concern.

Where staff have a mental health concern about a child, they should raise the issue by informing the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy in the usual way.

Staff recognise that when a child has a social worker, it is an indicator that the child may be more at risk than most pupils. For example, this may mean that they are more vulnerable to further harm, as well as facing educational barriers to attendance, learning, behaviour and poor mental health.

We take these needs into account when making plans to support pupils/students who have a social worker.

We will always act in the best interest of the child.

**TCES Head of Safeguarding** **will ensure that:**

* The safeguarding policy is in place and is reviewed annually, is available publicly via our website and has been written in line with Local Authority guidance and the requirements of Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership policies and procedures
* The Home Learning Service contributes to inter-agency working in line with [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)
* A senior member of staff from the Home Learning Service is designated to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection
* All staff receive a safeguarding induction and are provided with a copy of this policy and the staff code of conduct
* All staff undertake appropriate child protection training that is updated annually
* Procedures are in place for dealing with allegations against members of staff and volunteers in line with statutory guidance
* Safer recruitment practices are followed in line with the requirements of the London Child Protection Procedures.
* They remedy, without delay, any weakness with regards to our safeguarding arrangements that are brought to their attention

At each termly meeting the Head of Safeguarding will receive a safeguarding report that will record the training that has taken place, the number of staff attending and any outstanding training requirements for the Home Learning Service. It will also record all safeguarding activity that has taken place, for example, meetings attended, reports written, training or induction given. It will not identify individual pupils.

**Our Head of Home Learning will ensure that*:***

* the policies and procedures adopted by the TCES Head of Safeguarding are fully implemented and followed by all staff
* sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance of strategy discussions and other necessary meetings, e.g. child protection conferences and core meetings (where applicable)/
* all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice with regards to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with our Whistleblowing Policy
* all pupils are provided with opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn about safeguarding, including keeping themselves safe online
* relevant staff have completed Safer Recruitment training
* the procedure for managing allegations against staff is known to staff.
* they operate the procedure for managing allegations effectively and refer relevant concerns to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
* a member of the senior leadership team is appointed to deal with allegations against staff in the absence of the Head of Home Learning
* there is the provision of a “an orderly, warm, supportive and above all safe environment” for children to engage constructively with the learning process;
* parents/carers are aware that the full texts of the child protection and associated policies are available on request. The safeguarding policy is available on our website;
* they can act as deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (where required) in relation to child protection and ensure that appropriate action is taken on concerns or allegations of abuse or suspicion of harm, including the support needed for both children and staff;
* they oversee the encouragement and support of children in contributing to the development of good safeguarding structures, including diversity and equal opportunities, behaviour policy and behaviour management procedures, anti-bullying and diversity and equal opportunities policies and feedback and complaints mechanisms;
* they develop and maintain of good liaison and support for inter-agency working;
* they ensure that high professional standards are maintained in all essential and required record keeping, reporting and information sharing;
* they provide termly reports to the Head of Safeguarding and Proprietor (where requested) that cover information on the following; whole service/project matters, staff training and development (CPD), curriculum matters, child protection issues and all other issues or developments in relation to all aspects of safeguarding and wellbeing;
* they liaise with the Head of Safeguarding and Proprietor (where requested) regarding the annual review of all policies and procedures relating to Home Learning Service provision and the information to be given to the LA/MASH on how the company’s safeguarding duties have been fulfilled;

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

The DSL is a senior member of staff, from the leadership team who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection in within the Home Learning Service. The DSL will carry out their role in accordance with the responsibilities outlined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729914/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children-2018.pdf)**.**

The DSL will provide advice and support to other staff on child welfare and child protection matters. Any concern for a child’s safety or welfare will be recorded in writing and given to the DSL.

The DSL and/or a deputy will always be available for staff to discuss any safeguarding concerns. If in exceptional circumstances, a DSL is not available in person, we will ensure that one is available via telephone and any other relevant media.

The DSL will be aware of pupils/students who have a social worker and help promote educational outcomes by sharing the information about the welfare, safeguarding and child protection issues with teachers and the Home Learning Service leadership staff.

The DSL will represent the Home Learning Service at child protection conferences and core meetings. Through appropriate training, knowledge and experience, our DSL will liaise with Children’s Services and other agencies where necessary, and make referrals of suspected abuse to Children’s Services, take part in strategy discussions and other interagency meetings and contribute to the assessment of children.

The DSL will maintain written records and child protection files ensuring that they are kept confidential and stored securely.

The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedure they need to follow. They will ensure that all staff, volunteers and regular visitors have received appropriate child protection information during induction and that appropriate training needs are identified.

The DSL will also be the lead for ‘Early Help’ support (where applicable).

**Administration and Policy - the Proprietor will ensure that:**

* that Service’s policies prioritise the safeguarding of children and promote their wellbeing and involve children and others in their development;
* staff files are kept at Central Services in accordance with the recruitment, vetting and HR/Employment policies and a single central record is kept of all staff appointments, including agency supply workers, that provides secure evidence that their identity, qualifications and criminal records, eligibility to work with children and young people and eligibility to work in the UK and references (two references, one from the last employer), for teaching staff that they have not been prohibited from teaching, overseas checks for those staff who have worked outside the UK and EEC and a check for medical fitness have all been checked and their employment history has been verified (full CV with tight chronology);
* any gaps must be investigated during the interview process and responses kept on file; this record to be held available for inspection or audit.
* clear policies are in place and are consistently adhered to regarding internet and ICT use (including copyright laws), the use of photographs of children, one to one working situations, transporting children and work experience placements;
* contact details of parents/carers are kept up to date and protocols established for when contact must be made or is recommended as good practice
* clear information is given to children and parents/carers on the education provision, including timetabling, procedures, contact details, requirements for information sharing, complaints and feedback mechanisms and TCES Home Learning’s expectations of children and parents/carers and what they may expect in return;
* children have clear access to and understand their right to use a formal complaint system and to be supported in making any complaint;
* parents/carers are given copies of the complaints letter and understand their rights and the children’s right to use a formal complaint system and to be supported in making any complaint.
* there is a clear policy on curriculum planning and curriculum development that promotes good learning skills and all-round development
* the service is monitored to ensure that no child is discriminated against due to age, gender, race, culture, religion, language, disability or sexual orientation;
* there are clear procedures for unauthorised absence, or where a child goes missing from the care of a member of staff;
* written parental consent is obtained for the administration of emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises;
* written records are kept of any injury or illness that occurs, with details of any treatment given. All treatment must comply with the TCES policy on First Aid;
* written parental consent is obtained for all Home Learning sessions.
* accurate, detailed records are maintained of all ‘critical incidents’, including actions taken, and copied on the same working day to Central Services; any follow-up action or consequences must be similarly recorded and copied to Central Services.
* all staff members have an up-to-date copy of the staff handbook that sets out clearly the expectations the company has of them in regard to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare, as well as other matters relating to their TCES employment.

**Staff Responsibilities – as supported by the Head of Home Learning and DSL (where relevant)**

* all staff members must be familiar with the company’s policies and procedures and are fully committed to the principles and good practice guidelines, as defined in the ‘Safeguarding Children’ policy objectives
* there is a firm commitment within the Home Learning Service to promote equalities issues and to ensure that no child is discriminated against due to age, gender, race, culture, religion, language, disability or sexual orientation;
* there is a programme of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in place for all staff to include the formal processes of Child Protection training and professional supervision and appraisal;
* child protection responsibilities are clear to all staff members within the Home Learning Service and they know whom to go to with any concerns, including any issues around colleagues’ behaviour or practice; **(See Part Two: Child Protection)**
  + all staff are made aware that inappropriate behaviour towards children is unacceptable. This includes:
    - any form of sexual conduct, including sexually suggestive comments;
    - engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games;
    - giving children inappropriate drugs or other inappropriate substances;
    - lending or borrowing of money or property;
    - giving or receiving gifts;
    - exclusive or secretive relationships;
    - giving of home /personal mobile numbers or home address details to children.
    - taking children to a staff member’s home
    - ‘Friending’ or ‘following’ a child on any form of social media or gaming.
* it is an offence for a person over 18 (eg teacher/TA) to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect of the child, even if the relationship is consensual and even if they do not work directly with them *[Sexual Offences Act 2003]*;
* If they are found to have acted inappropriately towards a child, they may be referred to the DBS.
  + there is a commitment to support the needs of ‘looked after’ children in attending care reviews and case conferences where requested. These needs are usually met by the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children;
  + there is an understanding and commitment to good multi-agency working and information sharing, including the need for open debate and challenge;
  + staff understand and are committed to the company model of behaviour management and receive training in ways of managing difficult behaviour;
  + staff understand and comply with the company’s policy on physical intervention and restraint; **(see TCES policy on ‘Behaviour Management’ and ‘Managing Allegations against Staff’)**
* staff have a clear understanding of what constitutes safe practice and feel supported both in raising concerns about poor or unsafe practice and in having their own practice challenged by others;
* concerns about poor or unsafe practice are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner and in accordance with the company’s whistleblowing policy and commitment to openness of practice;
* staff are prepared in advance for children to bring up personal problems within the virtual classroom or at home. Issues such as domestic violence and abuse can be difficult to broach directly, however discussions about personal safety and keeping safe can reinforce the message that any kind of violence is unacceptable. Raising these issues may lead children to bring up problems and concerns of their own. This is an opportunity to acknowledge that it is okay for young people to talk about their own problems and to signpost sources of help;
* staff are trained to recognise and understand the boundaries and limitations of confidentiality in the context of their own safety and of child protection;
* staff are supported effectively and protected from danger and/or the risk of violence.

***NOTE: for more detailed information in any of the above areas,***

***please refer to the list of associated policies***

**The Human Resources department is responsible for:**

* Ensuring that all agency workers have had all appropriate checks carried out on them by their agency prior to commencing work with the Home Learning Service and that written confirmation of these checks have been received by the HR department from the agency prior to arriving at the Home Learning Service.
* Ensuring that the Home Learning Service has confirmed the identity of the agency worker upon arrival at the Home Learning Service by viewing and keeping on file original photographic ID such as a passport
* That all permanent employees have had all appropriate pre-employment checks carried out prior to commencing work for the Service. These include but are not limited to;
  + A minimum of two satisfactory written references
  + A satisfactory DBS check and a check of the DBS Barred Children List
  + If appropriate, Police checks from any country where a candidate has lived overseas
  + Qualifications, specifically those relating to Qualified Teachers
  + Identity checks – proof of Identity, proof of Date of Birth, Proof of current address, proof of eligibility to work in the UK

Meeting the TCES Safeguarding Objectives

Meeting the objectives of safeguarding children requires personal commitment and the support of systems designed to:

* prevent unsuitable people from working with children and young people;
* promote safe working practice and challenge poor or unsafe practice;
* identify instances where there are grounds for concern about a child or young person’s welfare and initiate or take appropriate action to keep them safe;
* create a culture of openness, tolerance and respect for self and others;
* promote personal growth and active learning, with staff and child ownership of the process, through their direct involvement in and contribution to curriculum matters and the Home Learning Service’s development, including related policies and procedures;
* contribute to safe and effective partnership working between all those involved with providing services for children and young people.

Children and young people within the Home Learning Service are actively encouraged and helped to understandwhat acceptable behaviour is, to show mutual respect for self and others, learn how to stay safe from harm and to speak out if they have any worries or concerns. They are also given encouragement and reassurance that any concerns they have will be listened to and taken seriously.

Creating a safe and enabling environment requires openness of practice, a culture of vigilance and a clear focus on the culture and shared responsibility and commitment to wellbeing by the following:

* Safe working practice and recruitment, vetting and Baring Service Checks, nd employment procedures;
* Health and Safety, Risk Assessment and Risk Management;
* Behaviour policy and Guidelines to Managing Challenging Behaviour;
* Anti-bullying and Diversity and Equal Opportunities policies and ethos;
* Child Welfare/Child Protection Policies and Procedures;
* Complaints and feedback mechanisms and procedures;
* Philosophy and ethos;
* Behaviour Policy/Code of conduct/education and behaviour contracts;
* Whistleblowing, Equal Opportunities, Anti-bullying and Diversity and Equal Opportunities policies and ethos;
* Feedback mechanisms and Complaints Procedure;
* Curriculum planning and curriculum development;
* Work experience, education visits and extra-curricular planning;
* Commitment to the principles of the ‘Every Child Matters’ agenda;
* Taking all reasonable measures to ensure that risks of harm to children’s welfare are minimised; and
* Taking all appropriate actions to address concerns about the welfare of a child, or children, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies.

Standards

The Home Learning Service recognises the unique status of children and young people and seeks to ensure that they are treated respectfully as individuals. Relationships between staff also need to be based on mutual respect and dignity, with a focus on active support, openness of practice, good teamwork, the sharing of practical skills and knowledge and good role-modelling for children and each other:

* It is important that we maintain vigilance in safeguarding children and a focus on the strategies and good practice requirements for ensuring the promotion of their wellbeing.
* We need to ensure that all our recruitment, management and working practices are in line with safeguarding principles and good practice, that all staff are familiar with the policies and procedures and that they receive the necessary guidance, supervision and training to enable them to contribute creatively and effectively to the provision of a safe and enabling, high quality education experience for every child.
* We need to develop those aspects of the curriculum that support healthy growth and development in emotional and social as well as educational skills and that encourage children to ‘speak out’ if they have issues that are troubling them.
* We need also to ensure that we react promptly, fairly and effectively in any instance of concern regarding safeguarding or child protection, recognising that staff and children alike may find the process anxiety-provoking or threatening and are likely to need support.
* Clear information must also be given to children, parents/carers and partner organisations on our complaints procedures and our child protection, publication scheme and information sharing responsibilities and obligations.

There are designated staff with specific responsibility for child protection. Nevertheless, everyone working within the Home Learning Service is expected to fulfil the wider requirements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. All members of staff must accept that in all instances the welfare of the child is paramount.

Areas of Safeguarding Focus / Safeguarding Themes

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We recognise that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can face additional safeguarding challenges and these are discussed in staff training. These additional barriers can include:

* Assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child’s disability without further exploration
* Children with SEND can be disproportionately impacted by things like bullying- without outwardly showing any signs
* Communication barriers and difficulties in overcoming these barriers.

Safeguards for disabled children are essentially the same as for non-disabled children and should include ensuring and enabling them to:

* Make their wishes and feelings known;
* Receive appropriate personal, health and social education, including sex education;
* Raise concerns;
* Have a means of communication and a range of adults with whom they can communicate.
* Disabled children must receive the same level of protection from harm as other children and the same procedures be followed.

Migrant children and those seeking asylum in the UK

The number of migrant children in the UK has increased in recent years. Some move here with family/relatives or other adults and some arrive unaccompanied.

* These children may be vulnerable for a variety of reasons, which may include:
* Insecurity about their legal status, place of residence and carers;
* Separation from significant family members, sometimes against their will;
* Cultural and language difficulties;
* Trauma connected with previous experiences in countries of origin and the circumstances of their departure, including child abuse, being forced to become child soldiers or subjected to female genital mutilation;
* The child may have been moved illegally and be under severe pressure to give a false account of themselves, or to keep secrets;
* Evidence shows that unaccompanied children or those accompanied by someone who is not their parent are particularly vulnerable.
* The possibility that some of these children may be privately fostered should also be borne in mind and if suspected, referred to the relevant Children’s Social Care team.

Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people’s experiences of harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Contextual Safeguarding therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse in a range of social contexts.

Parents/Carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people’s experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent child relationships.

Peer on Peer Abuse

Peer on Peer Abuse is when children abuse other children. This can include but is not limited to bullying (including cyber bullying); sexual violence and sexual harassment; physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm. Sexting and initiating hazing type violence and rituals.

E-Safety

Online safety is taken very seriously at TCES Home Learning and robust systems are in place to ensure appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place and all staff are aware safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. All online learning sessions should take place via Microsoft Teams (this is a secure platform where outsiders should not be able to access the session) and tutors are advised that all lessons must be recorded and that a parent/carer must be present in the pupil’s home throughout allocated learning hours.

The main areas of risk for our service users can be summarised as follows:

Content

* exposure to inappropriate content, including online pornography, ignoring age ratings in games (exposure to violence associated with often racist language), substance abuse
* lifestyle websites, for example pro-anorexia/self-harm/suicide sites
* hate sites
* content validation: how to check authenticity and accuracy of online content

Contact

* grooming
* cyber-bullying in all forms
* identity theft (including ‘frape’ (hacking Facebook profiles) and sharing passwords

Conduct

* privacy issues, including disclosure of personal information
* digital footprint and online reputation
* health and well-being (amount of time spent online (internet or gaming))
* sexting (sending and receiving of personally intimate images) also referred to as SGII (self generated indecent images)
* copyright (little care or consideration for intellectual property and ownership – such as music and film) (Ref Ofsted 2013)

***For full information – see TCES e-Safety/Acceptable Use/ICT Policy***

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK.

FGM typically takes place between birth and around 15 years old; however, it is believed that the majority of cases happen between the ages of 5 and 8.

Risk factors for FGM include:

* low level of integration into UK society
* mother or a sister who has undergone FGM
* girls who are withdrawn from PSHE
* visiting female elder from the country of origin
* being taken on a long holiday to the country of origin
* talk about a ‘special’ procedure to become a woman

Symptoms of FGM

FGM may be likely if there is a visiting female elder, there is talk of a special procedure or celebration to become a woman, or parents wish to take their daughter out-of-school to visit an ‘at-risk’ country (especially before the summer holidays), or parents who wish to withdraw their children from learning about FGM. Staff should not assume that FGM only happens outside the UK.

Indications that FGM may have already taken place may include:

* difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may even look uncomfortable.
* spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating.
* spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
* frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems.
* prolonged or repeated absences from school or college, especially with noticeable behaviour changes (e.g. withdrawal or depression) on the girl’s return
* reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations.
* confiding in a professional without being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
* talking about pain or discomfort between her legs

The Home Learning Service aims to create an ‘open environment’ where children feel comfortable and safe to discuss the problems they are facing – an environment where FGM can be discussed openly, and support and counselling are provided routinely. Children need to know that they will be listened to and their concerns taken seriously.

**We create an ‘open’ and supportive environment by:**

* circulating materials about FGM for staff including information about supportive agencies e.g. details of the NSPCC’s Helpline and Child Line services, Careline, National Domestic Violence Helpline and appropriate black and minority ethnic women’s s
* ensuring that access is made available for children perceived to be at risk should children need to seek advice from the above organisations or other relevant s discreetly;
* informing/raising awareness about issues around FGM with colleagues – as well as including appropriate training in continuing professional development;
* ensuring that the DSL is well versed in the issues around FGM; referring children to relevant agencies as appropriate;
* encouraging young people to access appropriate advice, information and support
* introducing FGM into the school curriculum within relevant classes,

Staff should:

* talk about FGM in a professional and sensitive manner;
* explain that FGM is illegal in the UK and that those at risk will be protected by the law;
* recognise and respect individual’s wishes where possible, but child welfare must be paramount. FGM is child abuse and against the law. If a member of staff believes that the girl is at risk of FGM, or has already undergone FGM, the police and social services must be informed even if this is against the girl’s wishes. If you do take action against the child’s wishes, staff must inform them of the reasons why;
* activate local safeguarding procedures (with support from the DSL), using existing national and local protocols for multi-agency liaison with the police and children’s or adults’ social care;
* ensure that the girl is informed of the long-term health consequences of FGM to encourage her to seek and accept medical assistance;
* refer the child, with their consent, to appropriate medical help, counselling and local and national support s
* ensure that safeguarding and protection is considered for any female family members (alongside the DSL).

Staff should not:

* treat such allegations merely as a domestic issue;
* ignore what the child has told them or dismiss out of hand the need for immediate protection;
* decide that it is not their responsibility to follow up the allegation;
* approach the child’s family or those with influence within the community, in advance of any enquiries by the police, adult or children’s social care, either by telephone or letter.

Remember:

* The child may not wish to be referred to a social worker, police officer or anyone from her own community.
* Consult the DSL who will get support from the FGM Unit, local police, child protection team or domestic violence unit.
* Speaking to the Child’s parents about the action you are taking may place the Child at risk of emotional and/or physical harm. Therefore, do not approach the family as they may deny the allegations, expedite any travel arrangements and hasten their plans to carry out the procedure.

**FGM Mandatory Reporting Duty**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon **teachers** along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining children, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at - [*Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information)

Teachers **must** personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also still consider and discuss any such case with the school or college’s designated safeguarding lead and involve children’s social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures.

***For full information please read in conjunction with HM Government: multi-agency practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation.***

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

It should be noted that there are no typical families where sexual abuse occurs but there are some factors that occur in such families more frequently. These are:

* + - Poor or confused parent/child relationships (especially with mothers);
    - Parents unavailable (especially mothers) through absence, illness or **\***depression;
    - Families with a step father or **\***where the mother has a succession of male partners;
    - Violence between the adults, **\***especially of a male partner towards the mother

*\*These are also known key factors in situations of abuse between siblings, or by*

*a child or young person towards another child or children.*

* Children under 16 years of age cannot provide lawful consent to any sexual activity, though in practice many are involved in sexual contact to which, as individuals, they may have agreed.

# 

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Indicators of child sexual exploitation may include:

• Acquisition of money, clothes, mobile phones, etc. without plausible explanation;

• Gang-association and/or isolation from peers/social networks;

• Exclusion or unexplained absences from school, college or work;

• Leaving home/care without explanation and persistently going missing or returning late;

• Excessive receipt of texts/phone calls;

• Returning home under the influence of drugs/alcohol;

• Inappropriate sexualised behaviour for age/sexually transmitted infections;

• Evidence of/suspicions of physical or sexual assault;

• Relationships with controlling or significantly older individuals or s;

• Multiple callers (unknown adults or peers);

• Frequenting areas known for sex work;

• Concerning use of internet or other social media;

• Increasing secretiveness around behaviours; and

• Self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

Potential vulnerabilities include:

Although the following vulnerabilities increase the risk of child sexual exploitation, it must be remembered that not all children with these indicators will be exploited. Child sexual exploitation can occur without any of these issues.

• Having a prior experience of neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse;

• Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic abuse or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example);

• Recent bereavement or loss;

• Social isolation or social difficulties;

• Absence of a safe environment to explore sexuality;

• Economic vulnerability;

• Homelessness or insecure accommodation status;

• Connections with other children and young people who are being sexually exploited;

• Family members or other connections involved in adult sex work;

• Having a physical or learning disability;

• Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories); and

• Sexual identity.

**For further information see ‘**[**Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners) **(February 2017)**

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines

CCE is where an individual or takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or (c) through violence or the threat of violence.

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. CCE does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Some of the following can be indicators of CCE:

• children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;

• children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation;

• children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being;

• children who misuse drugs and alcohol;

• children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late; and

• children who regularly miss school or education or do not take part in education.

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs (primarily crack cocaine and heroin) into one or more importing areas [within the UK], using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”.’

Exploitation is an integral part of the county lines offending model with children exploited to move [and store] drugs and money. Offenders will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons to ensure compliance of victims.

Children can easily become trapped by this type of exploitation as county lines gangs create drug debts and can threaten serious violence and kidnap towards victims (and their families) if they attempt to leave the county lines network.

**Further information on the signs of a child’s involvement in county lines is available in guidance published by the Home Office which can be found at:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines)**)**

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children

The initial response to a disclosure is important and should be reported directly to a DSL.

It is essential that children are reassured they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported. It should also be noted that incidents of this type can occur online and offline as well as being both physical and verbal. These are never acceptable.

* Significant harm may be caused to children by the abusive behaviour of other children, however a distinction may need to be drawn between behaviour best dealt with by relevant anti-bullying policies through schools if they attend the same school and more complex behaviour where both perpetrator and victim may need specialist help;
* Advice must be sought from the child protection agencies if there is any doubt;
* Where behaviour is sexual, a child protection referral must be made to explore the reasons for the behaviour, as it may indicate abuse suffered elsewhere by the perpetrator and possibly the victim. The Police will be involved where a crime has been committed of rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault.
* Where sexualised behaviour is identified, a child may need to be placed on a treatment programme, but will still need to be educated in a school setting, in these cases a full risk assessment must be carried out, the management of such situations will need to take into account the likely impact on the whole school, the curriculum as well as on individuals. Advice should be sought from the DSL and/or the Head of Safeguarding for the TCES when undertaking risk assessments on individuals in receipt of services from the Home Learning Service.

***For further information on this area, please reference School’s statutory guidance: [Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges)***

***[between children in schools and colleges](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges) (December 2017)***

Honour Based Violence (HBV)

The definition of HBV is ‘A crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. ‘There is no specific offence of HBV. It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. and can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social s to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence. There is no, and cannot be, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

Staff should not:

* treat such allegations merely as a domestic issue;
* ignore what the child has told them or dismiss out of hand the need for immediate protection;
* decide that it is not their responsibility to follow up the allegation;
* approach the child’s family or those with influence within the community, in advance of any enquiries by the police, adult or children’s social care, either by telephone or letter.

Staff should:

Contact The Honour Network, which is a confidential helpline providing emotional and practical support and advice for victims and survivors (male & female) of forced marriage and/or honour based violence and abuse. It provides advice and support to potential victims in crisis and professional agencies.

**Helpline:** 0800 5999 247

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Domestic Abuse/Violence

The definition of Domestic Abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children. In some cases, a child may blame themselves for the abuse or may have had to leave the family home as a result.

Barriers to disclosure for children include

* Protectiveness of their mother;
* Protectiveness of their abusing parent;
* Being fearful of the consequence of sharing family 'secrets' with anyone. This may include fears that it will cause further violence to their mother and/or themselves;
* Being threatened by the abusing parent;
* Fearfulness of being taken into care;
* Fearfulness of losing their friends and school;
* Fearfulness of exposing the family to dishonour, shame or embarrassment;
* Fearfulness that their mother (and they themselves) may be deported.

Staff should not press the child for answers but instead SHOULD

* approach the subject with a child with a framing question so that the subject is not suddenly and awkwardly introduced,
* explain that the disclosure cannot be kept confidential and that the information will be shared with social care
* Listen and believe what the child says
* Reassure the child that the abuse is not their fault, and it is not their responsibility to stop it from happening

Parents/Carers can be given several telephone numbers, including local police community safety units, local domestic violence advocacy services Childline number (0800 1111), and the NSPCC Child Protection Helpline (0808 800

Forced Marriage

Education settings often wrongly feel it is not their place to tackle the issue of forced marriage, however forced marriage is recognised as a form of domestic violence and a serious abuse of human rights.

It is not sanctioned within any culture or religion and is not the same as an arranged marriage in which both spouses can choose whether or not to accept the arrangement.

In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent and some element of duress is involved, including physical and emotional pressure.

Education staff should be alert to potential warning signs and consider (whilst being careful not to assume) whether forced marriage may be the reason.

These warning signs can include:

* a sudden drop in performance;
* truancy;
* conflicts with parents over continued or further education;
* excessive parental restrictions and control;
* history of domestic violence in the family;
* extended absence through sickness or overseas commitments;
* depressive behaviour including self-harming;
* history of siblings leaving education early and marrying early.

This is not an exhaustive list and if staff have concerns they should consult with their DSL.

Further information can be obtained from the Community Liaison Unit (CLU) at the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) – 020 7008 0135/0230/8706 or 020 7008 1500 (out of hours emergency) or the Child Protection Policy Team at the DfES - 01325 392037.

Belief in ‘possession’ or ‘witchcraft’

Belief in ‘possession’ or ‘witchcraft’ is widespread and not confined to particular countries, cultures, religions or immigrant communities.

Children involved can suffer damage to physical and mental health, capacity to learn, ability to form relationships and self-esteem.

A child/ren may be viewed as different or difficult, and this attributed to their being ‘possessed’ or involved in ‘witchcraft’. Attempts to ‘exorcise’ the child may be made, that may involve severe beatings, burning, starvation, cutting or stabbing and/or isolation. This usually occurs within the child’s household.

Staff should look for possible indicators and apply basic safeguarding principles including liaison with the DSL so as to be able to identify those at risk of this type of abuse.

Child Abduction

It is an offence for a parent or guardian to take or send their child out of the UK without appropriate consent. Child abduction may arise in situations where a child is the victim of a forced marriage or is forced into prostitution. It is more likely to arise however, when parents of a child divorce or separate.

When staff become aware that parents have separated and there are issues regarding child custody, they should seek information as to whether there are any conditions covering the child’s custody e.g. do both parents have parental responsibility, is there a court order (such as a Child Arrangements Order or a Prohibited Steps Order), and whether there are any legal restrictions on either partner collecting the child from school.

Any concerns or allegations of child abduction or the threat of child abduction should immediately be brought to the attention of the DSL and be the subject of an urgent child protection referral.

Child Victims of Trafficking

Trafficking is defined as ‘the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat, or use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of sexual or commercial exploitation or domestic servitude’ (AFRUCA/ NSPCC).

Trafficking in people involves crimes, spanning a variety of countries and involving an increasing number of victims, who can experience considerable suffering.

There are many factors that may indicate that a child has been trafficked, which can include:

* going missing, or missing for periods of time;
* a history with missing links and unexplained moves ;
* attending for a term or so before disappearing (schools need to look out for patterns of registration and de-registration);
* has limited freedom of movement, is withdrawn or refuses to talk;
* is known to beg for money; has no money/other financial resources, but has a mobile phone or is driven around by an older male/boyfriend;
* shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, signs of sexual behaviour or language and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted disease;
* has not been registered with or attended a GP practice;

Child protection procedures should always be applied where there is suspicion that a child may be being trafficked and Police / Children’s Services must be informed;

For helpful additional guidance see the Trafficking Toolkit. (www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits)

Child Pregnancy

The legal age for consent to sexual intercourse is 16. Assumptions should not be made that teenage pregnancies at any age are as a result of consensual sexual intercourse;

In all cases of a child’s pregnancy becoming apparent to staff, consideration should be given to referring the matter to the MASH in accordance with the referral procedures stated above;

Staff who have regular contact with pregnant teenagers have a responsibility to consider the welfare of both the prospective mother and her baby.

Prevent Duty– Anti-Radicalisation and Extremism

Effective from 1 July 2015, we have a duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism.

The Home Learning Service promotes fundamental British values as part of broader requirements through our curriculum relating to the quality of education and to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children.

At the Home Learning Service, we understand that being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

Staff will be alert to changes in children’s behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the DSL making a Prevent referral.

We ensure that the Home Learning Service provides a safe environment (online or face to face) in which our children can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas. We understand that the Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues, however we are mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues.

All staff undergo relevant training on radicalisation and extremism (including Prevent training) to give them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist s. Staff will seek further guidance from their DSL who will, if necessary, make a referral to the Channel Programme.

* Our E-safety / Acceptable Use / ICT Policy is robust and sets out clear guidelines on internet use and appropriate levels of filtering on staff computers.
* The Prevent lead in the Home Learning Service is the DSL. Please see TCES Prevent Duty Statement on TCES website

**How to spot the signs of somebody being radicalised:**

The following are some signs that could mean somebody could be at risk of radicalisation or is going through a radicalisation process:

Physical changes:

* Sudden or gradual change in physical appearance
* Sudden or unexpectedly wearing religious attire
* Getting tattoos displaying various messages
* Unexpectedly shaving their head (skinhead)
* Possesses unexplained gifts and clothing (groomers will sometimes use gifts such as mobile phones and clothing to bribe a young person)

Social changes:

* Cuts ties with their friends, family or community
* Starts to become socially withdrawn
* Becoming dependent on social media and the internet
* Begins to associate with others who hold radical views
* Bullies or demonises other people freely
* Visits extremist websites, networks and blogs

Emotional and verbal changes:

* Advocates violence or criminal behaviour
* Exhibits erratic behaviour such as paranoia and delusion
* Speaks about seeking revenge
* Starts to exhibit extreme religious intolerance
* Demonstrates sympathy to radical s
* Displays hatred or intolerance of other people or communities because they are different

**Things to consider before assuming that somebody has been radicalised:**

Not everybody will share the same view or opinion. Holding a different view – religious, social or political, does not mean that somebody is radical. The concern is when somebody with an extreme view acts or intends to actupon their view(s) in a way that is harmful to themselves or others. Even if they do not intend to act upon their view, extreme views that are based on lies and misguidance can be extremely damaging to somebody’s mental health.

You should always use your professional judgment about somebody and if in any doubt seek advice.

Upskirting

The Voyeurism Offences Act, which was commonly known as the Upskirting Bill, was introduced on 21 June 2018. It came into force on 12 April 2019.

* Upskirting is a highly intrusive practice, which typically involves someone taking a picture under another person’s clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear).
* Transportation services have reported a rise in the offence however, it can occur anywhere and involve any gender.
* The new law will capture instances where the purpose of the behaviour is to obtain sexual gratification, or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm.
* The perpetrator can face up to two years imprisonment if found guilty of the offence.
* The law protects those who are victims of the offence from being named in the media
* Staff must report any concerns that a student/pupil has experienced this to the DSL.

Missing Children from Education (CME)

The Home Learning Service has an Admissions Policy in place detailing what to do if a child is missing from education.

All staff should look out for potential indicators of abuse or neglect such as triggers;

* Repeat occasions of absence.
* FGM signs
* Traveling to conflict zones – prevent (radicalisation)
* Force marriage
* Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
* Criminal Exploitation – county lines

**Staff must report all children missing from education for 10 consecutive days to the DSL who will inform social care**

***For detailed information in relation to child missing from education***

***please see the TCES Admissions and Attendance Policy’***

Allegations Against Staff

We aim to provide a safe and supportive environment which secures the wellbeing and very best outcome for our children. We do, however recognised that sometimes allegations of abuse are made.

We recognise that allegations, when they occur, are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that some allegations are genuine and that there are adults who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children.

We take all possible steps to safeguard our children and to ensure that the adults at the Home Learning Service are safe to work with children. we recognise the possibility that adults working in the Home Learning Service may harm children, including governors, volunteers, supply teachers and agency staff. We will always ensure that procedures outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and Chapter 7 of the London Child Protection Procedures are adhered to and will seek appropriate advice from the relevant LADO in the area that the individual who is working or volunteering with children is working / volunteering.

The Merton LADO (which is the relevant LADO for allegations relating to the Home Learning Service staff (John Shelley) can be contacted to request a consultation or to make a referral via email: lado@merton.gov.uk or by phone on: 0208 5453187 / 07814642728.

Allegations that require a LADO consultations include allegations where an individual working or volunteering with children has:

* behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child
* possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
* behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates that they pose a risk of harm to children.
* behaved in a way in their personal life that raises safeguarding concerns. These concerns do not directly relate to a child

The member of staff receiving the information should inform the Head of Home Learning immediately. This includes concerns relating to agency and supply staff.

An allegation made against the Head of Home Learning should be reported to the TCES Head of Safeguarding immediately (or CEO in their absence).

If an allegation is made against the CEO, the Head of Home Learning or relevant staff member should contact the LADO directly and seek advice.

Any staff who does not feel confident to raise their concerns within the Home Learning Service or the TCES should contact LADO directly on: 0208 5453187 / 07814642728

General guidance can be found at- Advice on whistleblowing and The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call: 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

# Part Two Child Protection

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare of children. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

**Staff must be aware that:**

* It is not the responsibility of staff to investigate allegations or suspected cases of abuse
* Procedures are in place for dealing with allegations against staff members and full details of these can be found in the Home Learning Service’s Dealing with Allegations Against Staff policy.
* Staff must not take any action beyond that agreed in the procedures established by the Home Learning Service or the TCES and the relevant Children’s Services.
* Staff cannot promise a child complete confidentiality - instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe
* The Home Learning Service must ensure that parents are aware that the full texts of the Child Protection and associated policies are available on request;

**Training**

All staff within the Home Learning Service receive Safeguarding, including Child Protection, training and updates as appropriatethat equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection; this training will be refreshed at yearly intervals as a minimum.

The DSL for the Home Learning Service and TCES ’s Head of Safeguarding and the CEO will refresh their training at annual intervals, to be able to discharge their duties competently, and this training will include inter-agency working. In addition, all staff will be given an annual update to ensure that they are fully informed on updated guidance and safeguarding practice.

Certificates will be placed on individual staff files on completion of any training provided.

Section I - Child Protection Procedures

**Guidance on Dealing with Child Protection Welfare Concerns - Good Practice Guidelines**

* It is essential that any child abuse issues are not trivialised or exaggerated and that the proper steps are followed.
* Please be aware that words and actions may be open to misinterpretation and therefore you should take great care to avoid situations in which your own words or actions could be misunderstood.
* You are responsible for ensuring that abusive peer activities such as bullying do not occur or are actively addressed.
* All steps must be taken to ensure that the Home Learning Service’s practices are safe for children, young people, staff and visitors. Any concerns that you may have should be dealt with or reported swiftly.

**You may become aware of possible abuse/child welfare concerns in various ways.**  **You may:**

* see it happening;
* suspect or have concerns because of signs such as those listed in ‘Identifying abuse’
* have concerns reported to you by a child or third party.

**It is particularly important** to respond appropriately and to remember always that the best interests of the child or young person - and the need for any abuse to stop - come before the interests of anyone else, including those in the Home Learning Service or the TCES or a potential abuser. Any member of staff with an issue or concern relating to Child Protection should immediately discuss it with a senior member of staff. It should also be made clear to children that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in respect of child protection issues.

***NOTE: See ‘Listening to Children’ – Section II***

**Procedures - Designated Safeguarding Lead**

There is a DSL based in the Home Learning Service and a deputy to act in their absence (see key contact details). Should they both be absent or unavailable, the matter must be referred to the TCES Head of Safeguarding. Whilst new staff are awaiting their DSL training, the TCES Head of Safeguarding will hold the role of DSL.

The DSL Role includes:

* referring cases of suspected abuse to social care
* referring to the Head of Safeguarding if an allegation is against a member of staff
* work with HR to refer cases where a person is dismissed due to risk/harm to a child to the DBS
* refer cases where a crime has been committed to the police
* liaise with the TCES ’s Head of Safeguarding where S47 and/or police investigations are in process
* act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies.

**Immediate Action**

There is a difference between immediate danger and concern for a child. If a child is in immediate danger or at risk of harm a referral should be made to Children’s Services and/or the police immediately (anyone can make a referral).

Concern for a child must be raise with the Home Learning Service’s DSL.

Where a concern is reported to/identified by a member of staff, the first priority is to establish whether the child is in need of medical attention and/or protection:

* If urgent action is required, medical assistance should be obtained if needed and an immediate referral made to the MASH and/or the police;
* If a child is in need of protection, police can initiate a police protection order (PPO) in cases of emergency, while MASH can apply to a court for an emergency protection order (EPO);
* The law also allows staff to take all reasonable steps to offer immediate protection to a child at risk of harm e.g., from a violent or incapacitated parent.

**Action by Person Initially Identifying/Receiving a Concern or allegation**

Any member of staff receiving details of a concern or allegation should:

* respond with tact and care (remembering to keep an open mind);
* listen and treat the concern seriously, avoiding expressions of shock or disbelief ;
* communicate as appropriate to the age and understanding and any communication or language difficulties of the child/person reporting;
* allow the child to tell their own story. Research has shown that this initial telling can be the best therapy if they are able to 'talk it out';
* avoid leading questions;
* avoid expressions of sympathy that may pre-judge issues of potential abuse;
* avoid any promise of confidentiality but reassure the child/young person that the information will only be passed to those who ‘need to know’.

**Staff should be aware that**:

* the way in which you talk to a child can have an effect on the evidence which is put forward if there are subsequent criminal proceedings;
* while information must be gathered as accurately and thoroughly as possible when recording an allegation made by a child or young person, it is important to attempt to minimise the number of times they have to repeat themselves;
* the Home Learning Service staff are only the first in a series of people who will talk to them in the course of an investigation. Having to repeat themselves unnecessarily may be traumatic for the child or young person. While child protection procedures are being followed, the needs of the child/young person may be overlooked and the procedure itself may be experienced by them as abusive.

If a child chooses to tell a member of staff about possible abuse, there are a number of things that can be done to support the child:

* stay calm and be available to listen;
* listen with the utmost care to what the child is saying, and check with them that you have heard what they have said correctly;
* question normally without pressurising;
* don’t put words in the child’s mouth but note the main points carefully;
* reassure the child and let them know that they were right to inform us;
* inform the child that the information will have to be passed on.

The person receiving the concern **should not**:

* interrupt the child/person reporting when he/she is recalling significant events;
* make assumptions or interpretations;
* make suggestions or offer alternative explanations; this could be construed as ‘coaching’ or attempting to dismiss or minimize what is being said;
* use leading questions e.g., ‘Did they do …. to you?’ or ‘What did they do next?’ Use open questions only, such as ‘What happened?’ or ‘Do you have anything else to tell me?’
* **DO NOT** attempt to investigate any suspicion of abuse. Only sufficient information should be sought to clarify whether a concern should be referred to Children’s Services and that decision lies with the DSL.
* Do not criticise an alleged abuser. The child may love him/her and be very protective of the relationship or confused about their own role in the abuse. There may also be the possibility of reconciliation;
* Do not ask the child to repeat it all for another member of staff.

The person receiving a concern **should**:

* record in writing the information (if applicable, in the child’s own words), including times, dates, place of incident(s), persons present and what was said;
* make a note of any accompanying non-verbal behaviour and how the information was imparted;
* be careful to differentiate between fact, observation, allegation and opinion;
* sign and date the written record.

**Staff should be aware** that the notes you make may be disclosed in any subsequent prosecution. You may also be called to give evidence in court proceedings and may be asked to refer to your notes.

**Any member of staff identifying or receiving details of a concern, must immediately**:

* report the matter to the DSL their deputy or appropriate substitute;
* make a written record of decisions made and action taken.
* **Always act in the best interest of the child.**

**Initial Action by the DSL**

* obtain written details, signed and dated, from the person who initially identified or received the concern (not from the child/person reporting the concern) and signed and dated by that person;
* countersign and date the written details;
* record any information about times, dates and location of incident(s) and details of any potential witnesses;
* **DO NOT** attempt to investigate. Inappropriate questioning could jeopardise a child protection or criminal investigation and may cause immediate distress to the young person/child.

**Initial Consideration of Concern**

The member of staff identifying or receiving the concern and the DSL should:

* Discuss the concern and all available information in order to decide on the most appropriate course of action;
* lf there is any doubt about the action to be taken, the DSL should seek advice internally from the TCES ’s Head of Safeguarding.

**Consent**

* In general, any concerns about a child’s welfare should be discussed with the family and, where possible, agreement sought to make a referral to Children’s Services, provided this does not increase the risk of harm to the child or lead to the potential withdrawal of a statement or destruction of evidence.
* The child’s views should also be considered in deciding whether to inform the family, particularly where he or she is sufficiently mature to make an informed judgment, with the same provisos of due care.
* Where there is doubt about involving the child’s family, the DSL should clarify with the Children’s Services (and TCES ’s Head of Safeguarding where appropriate) whether, and if so when and by whom, the parents/carers should be told about the referral and what action to take where consent is refused. It will not be necessary to disclose personal details of the child and family unless the advice confirms that a referral is needed. In either case, the DSL must keep a record of the advice received and who provided it.
* Action to ensure the safety of children must respect the rights, privacy and dignity of parents/carers as far as possible without jeopardising the child/ren’s safety, recognising the stress that such interventions can cause and seeking to ensure that families are supported and services to support parenting/care are put in place.

**Referral to the relevant Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

Where the DSL / Head of Safeguarding decide that a concern needs to be referred to a MASH in the relevant Local Autority, he/she should provide as much information as possible about the nature of the suspicions, the child and the family, including:

* Full names, date of birth and gender;
* Family address;
* Name(s) of person(s) with parental responsibility or primary carer(s);
* Names and dates of birth of other household members, if known;
* Any need for an interpreter, signer or other form of communication;
* Any special needs;
* Any current and previous concerns, significant events or involvement of other agencies in the child’s life;
* Developmental needs and parents’/carers’ ability to respond to these needs.

**lf urgent action or referral is required, the collation of such information must not be allowed to cause delay**

* The DSL must telephone the MASH where the child lives or is at the time.
* The referral should be made immediately if urgent action is required but within the same day as the allegation was reported regardless. The DSL should agree with the person receiving the referral what the child and parents/carers should be told and by whom.
* Where the referral is taken by a member of the MASH administration team, the DSL should seek to discuss the issue with someone from MASH
* The referral should be confirmed in writing within 24 hours. The MASH should then acknowledge the written referral within one working day of receipt.
* The DSL must record the decisions taken and reasons, together with the names of those involved in making those decisions. This record needs to be timed, dated and signed by all parties.

**It should always be remembered that** formal referrals from professionals cannot be treated as anonymous, and a parent/carer will ultimately become aware of the identity of the referrer.

**Concerns Identified or Reported out of Office Hours**

* If a concern is identified or reported outside normal office hours, the DSL should contact the Local Authority Emergency Duty Team or the local police station. Written confirmation of the referral should be sent to the MASH the next working day.

**Action After Referral**

* Following referral, the MASH should, within one working day, consider the next course of action, record their decision on a referral and information record and notify the DSL.

**Outcome of referral to MASH or subsequently to the Child Protection team:**

The decision by MASH or Child Protection team will be either:

* No further action
* A recommendation for an ‘Early Help’ intervention
* The DSL should record the reasons for this decision and discuss who is best placed to inform the child, if age appropriate and/or parent/carer;
* A Social Worker to conduct an assessment (pursuant to s.17 of the Children Act 1989)
* This assessment may require further information from and discussion with the Home Learning Service. The outcome will be recorded on an assessment record;
* Strategy discussion/meeting - an immediate multi-agency strategy discussion should take place where the information clearly indicates that the child has suffered or is at risk of significant harm.

**Children’s Services (Social Work) Assessment**

The outcome of an assessment will be either:

* No further action
* A recommendation for an ‘Early Help’ intervention
* The DSL should record the reasons for this decision and discuss who is best placed to inform the child, if age appropriate and/or parent/carer;
* The child is in need of additional services - this may require a ‘CIN’ plan in which education is likely to be asked to assist;
* A strategy discussion/meeting where the child has suffered or is believed to be at risk of significant harm.

**Strategy Discussion / Meeting**

If a strategy discussion/meeting is required, it may take the form of a meeting or a series of telephone calls. This should be convened by the relevant Local Authority, who will consider involving the following:

* Representative from the appropriate police child protection unit(s) (usually the Child Abuse Investigation Team or ‘CAIT’);
* DSL and/or other member of staff with knowledge of child;
* Social worker for the child;
* Other authorities/agencies as appropriate in cross border cases;
* Other authorities/agencies as appropriate e.g., health.

The strategy discussion/meeting should consider:

* the information provided about the circumstances and context of the concern;
* whether any child or children is/are likely to be at risk;
* whether it is necessary to review any previous concerns;
* whether it is necessary to interview any child(ren), including ex-children of the school or any other schools;
* the response to the child’s parents/carers and to the child (if age appropriate);
* appropriate support for the child and family.

The strategy discussion/meeting should decide whether there should be:

* enquiries by the Local Authority Children’s Services under section 47 or section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and in accordance with local child protection procedures;
* related police investigations into possible criminal offences;
* no further action.

If the strategy discussion/meeting concludes that there should be an investigation by police and/or the Local Authority Children’s Services, timescales and dates for future meetings should be agreed and tasks allocated.

If the decision of the strategy discussion/meeting is that there should be no further action under child protection procedures, the concerns may be referred to alternative agencies, including the school, for consideration of providing services to the child and family as part of an ‘Early Help’ intervention.

Minutes of the strategy discussion/meeting should be given to those taking part either immediately or as soon as possible thereafter. The DSL and/or other member of staff involved in the discussion/meeting should make a note of any actions required by the Home Learning Service / TCES .

**Notification of Interested Persons**

The Police or a strategy discussion may decide that child protection enquiries or criminal investigation would be hindered by an approach to parties at an early stage or that certain information should not be divulged to them. The DSL should agree who is to be informed, by whom and what information should be given.

**Action by Staff during Child Protection and/or Criminal Investigation**

* The MASH and/or the Police may ask for assistance, including the release of relevant information in order to assist their enquiries/investigation.
* Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on organisations to assist a borough exercising its duty to provide support and services to children in need.
* Section 47 places a duty on organisations to assist boroughs making enquiries into cases of children believed to have suffered or be at risk of significant harm.
* The DSL should check that the MASH and/or Police have requested consent for the information to be shared when a request is received for any personal or sensitive information about the child, other children or members of staff.

Consent will not be needed where:

* it is likely to increase the risk of harm to a child or other person;
* consent is refused but the child welfare concerns override the duty of confidentiality;
* seeking consent is likely to impede a criminal investigation. The DSL should monitor the progress of the case, by seeking regular updates from the Police and/or the MASH .
* The DSL should keep a record of all information collected, decisions made and actions taken. This record will include minutes of any strategy discussions/meetings attended. It should be noted that all records may need to be disclosed under the rules on disclosure in criminal investigations.
* Where the DSL is unsure about the legality of sharing information with any agency, advice should be sought from the TCES Head of Safeguarding who will provide advice or seek the relevant legal advice.

**Challenging Responses to Concerns/Allegations**

If at any stage a member of staff believes that a child protection concern is not being dealt with properly, he/she should report their concerns to the TCES Head of Safeguarding / CEO (where appropriate) and to challenge the response given to those concerns if they remain unsatisfied.

**Media**

Child protection issues, including allegations against staff, may attract local and/or national media attention, depending on the seriousness of the matter or particular issues of interest at the time. This needs to be managed in a sensitive manner in order to minimise any distress to those involved.

Where a matter has attracted or is likely to attract media attention, advice must be sought from the Proprietor, who will consult with the borough press office and other agencies as appropriate e.g. the Police, the MASH, etc. No staff member may make an informal or formal response to a media enquiry without the express permission of the Proprietor.

**Record Keeping**

It is essential that accurate records are kept where there are any concerns about the welfare of a child (eg referrals, conference minutes, reports). These must be kept securely and separately from a child’s educational records. These are exempted from the list of records which are available for examination by parents or children, unless subject to a Court order. *[but see below -* ***‘It should be noted that: …’****].*

Staff must keep the DSL informed of:

* poor attendance and punctuality (where relevant);
* concerns about appearance and dress (where relevant);
* marked changes in, or unusual behaviour;
* concerns about health and emotional wellbeing;
* unexplained deterioration in educational progress;
* discussions with parents about concerns relating to their child;
* concerns about home conditions or situation;
* concerns about child on child abuse (including bullying);
* concerns such as unknown adult(s) meeting a child regularly after school, or issues raised by a child about involvement in illegal drug use, crime or street gangs.

This recording system must be regularly maintained by the DSL. When a child no longer receives a service from TCES Home Learning, the records must be sent under separate cover to the relevant Local Authority or school (where appropriate). Photocopies of the records may be retained until receipt is confirmed by the child’s new school.

All information written about children, or allegations made by children, must be kept to objective comments, verbatim accounts and factual information.

**Keeping Parents/Carers Informed:**

The Children Act 1989 (2004) and Human Rights Act 1998 have changed the way referrals to the MASH are made. Parents/carers now have a right to know that their child is being referred, unless it is reasonable to assume that this will place the child, or a member of staff, in danger or lead to the destruction of evidence.

Parents/carers or a guardian may bring an action for damages against a borough on behalf of a child/young person. The child when an adult may also do this in their own right, within three years of the injury coming to their attention, or longer if a court grants leave. Child records must therefore be kept for nine years after the child has left the education setting.

Data protection legislation gives parents/carers and former children the right to see their records. Although child protection information is exempt from this requirement, if a parent/carer or former child asked to see notes registering any child protection concerns, it is likely that a borough would be obliged to show them, unless to do so would cause individual harm to the parent/carer or former child, except where the case had involved a criminal prosecution, care order or other legal prohibition.

Although this may raise concerns about issues being raised again years after they appear to have been dealt with, it is fair to say that in most instances of good practice, where concerns have been investigated and properly addressed at the time, it is unlikely that they will be revisited years later, unless the child, when an adult, feels that the response was inadequate, biased or unfair.

**The following sections focus on:**

* **‘**Identifying Abuse’ Section II,
* ‘Specific Types of Abuse’ Section III

Section II - Identifying Abuse

**Definition**

**Child abuse** can be defined as harm intended, inflicted or knowingly not prevented on a person under the age of 18 years by another in a position of power in relation to that child or young person. This power may be in the form of physical strength, age, status or authority. It can happen to any child regardless of their age, gender, race, religion or ability.

**Children are most commonly abused by someone known to them or close to them** within a relationship of trust, responsibility or authority such as a relative, neighbour, family friend, teacher, leader, peer member or acquaintance. They may then be placed under considerable pressure not to reveal what has been happening and may feel guilty and responsible for their involvement.

**Looked After Children** may be at particular risk, both in terms of their life experiences and vulnerability and in the difficulties, they may have in recognising, or alerting people to, forms of abuse occurring in their lives. These children and young people require vigilance and staff must be alert to behaviour that is ‘unusual’ or a warning sign for any child, such as self-harm, absconding, repeated illness or non-attendance. It is essential that staff do not allow the fact that the child is Looked After to be an excuse for non-action.

Staff must also be aware that:

* it is not their responsibility to investigate suspected cases of abuse;
* any action they take must be in line with the child protection procedures;
* they cannot promise a child complete confidentiality – it must be explained that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe.

***NB: when dealing with child protection issues the word ‘disclosure’ is often used inappropriately. Always remember that any child protection issue reported by a child or young person remains an allegation or concern until it is substantiated***

**Grave concern/At risk**

This is not a distinct category but is dealt with separately. It covers a number of situations where a child may be vulnerable and at risk; children whose situations do not currently fit the above categories but where social and medical assessments indicate that they are at serious risk of abuse. Grave concern may be felt where a child shows symptoms of stress and distress and any of the following circumstances may apply:

* there is a known abuser in the family;
* another child in the family is known to have been abused;
* there is an adult in the family with a history of violent behaviour;
* the parents are involved with pornography to an unusual degree;
* the child is exposed to potential risk or exploitation via the Internet eg pornographic material or chat rooms.

***It is important to remember that a child or young person may experience more than one type of abuse, from more than one person who is abusing them and that any act of abuse may encompass more than one of the above categories.***

Section III - Specific Types of Abuse

Types of abuse and neglect are defined as:

**Abuse:** 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. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

**Physical abuse**: 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**: 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**: 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 Sexual abuse can take place online and technology can often be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

**Neglect**: 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 care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child’s basic emotional needs.

Staff should be alert to the more specific types of abuse that exist and which may provide an explanation for any signs and symptoms that give rise to concerns.

**Abusive images of children & information communication technology (ICT)**

The internet has become a significant means of distributing abusive images of children and as technology develops, the internet and its range of content services can be accessed through various devices; There is a growing concern that children may be abused through:

* Taking, downloading and/or distribution of images of abuse of child/ren;
* Allowing /encouraging a child to have exposure to inappropriate material via ICT e.g. adult pornography and/or extreme forms of obscene material;
* Children engaging in text bullying and use of mobile camera phones to capture violent assaults of other children/young people for circulation;
* Images of abuse of children may be found in the possession of those who use them for personal use or distributed to children as part of the grooming process;
* Internet chat rooms, discussion forums and bulletin boards are used as a means of contacting children with a view to grooming them for inappropriate/abusive relationships. Subsequent communication may be via email, text message, instant messaging or mobile phone;
* For the purposes of child protection, potentially abusive images of children can be divided into:
  + Unlawful material;
  + Material, which although lawful, would give cause for concern and indicate that the person possessing it may pose a risk to children.

**Unlawful material**

* An abusive image of a child under the age of 18 years old includes images in photographs, films, negatives, video tape, data stored on computers that can be converted into a photograph and ‘pseudo-photographs’ (images made by computers graphics, or other means, which appear to be a photograph). This also covers electronic images used by video phones and texting;
* It is for a court to decide what is ‘indecent’ by application of recognised standards of propriety;
* Possession of such material is an offence. Taking, showing or distributing such material amounts to a more serious offence.

**Lawful material**

* Lawful material falls outside the above definition but may involve children in an indecent or sexual context. This could include pictures, cartoons, literature or sound recordings e.g. books, magazines, audio cassettes, tapes, CDs.
* The Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) can provide advice generally on matters of abusive images of children to other agencies.
* Abusive images involving children in an indecent or sexual context may be found in the possession of those who use them for personal use or distributed or used with children as part of the grooming process.

**Use of the Internet**

The internet has become a significant tool in the distribution of abusive images of children, enabling ready access to such material. It may be downloaded and printed off in picture form or stored electronically on the hard drive of a computer, CD Rom, USB etc. Some adults use it to establish contact with children with a view to grooming them for inappropriate or abusive relationships. This may be accomplished through ‘chat rooms’ or contact by e-mail and may constitute an offence under The Sexual Offences Act 2003.

* Children may be encouraged to access abusive images of children themselves through using apparently innocent words in an internet search engine.
* As part of their role in preventing abuse and neglect, LSCBs or local safeguarding arrangements may offer activities to raise awareness about safe use of the internet and be a key partner in the development and delivery of training and education programmes with the Child Education and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). See [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/)
* CEOP has also set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for young people. It contains games and up to date information on having fun, staying in control and being safer online as well as details on how to report problems. See [www.ceop.gov.uk/children](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/children) and young\_people.asp.
* Staff should inform Police if they are aware that:
* a child has been the recipient of any suspicious contact through the internet or in receipt of pornographic material, as described above;
* a person may be in possession of abusive images of children or have placed/accessed abusive images of children on the internet;
* a child may have been inappropriately contacted or approached, directly or via the internet;
  + any individual involved in the creation, distribution or possession of abusive images of children may also be actively involved in their abuse. Police are expected to check whether anyone involved has access to children, including family and work settings, or is known to the MASH ;
  + a strategy discussion must be held whenever it is suspected a parent or carer of children or someone with access to children in other contexts:
* is in possession of child abusive images of children; and/or has taken, shown or distributed child abusive images of children; and/or has used the internet to make inappropriate approaches to children.

***For full details and guidance please read TCES E-Safety Policy***

Non-compliance in child protection/violence towards staff

* A feature in some serious case reviews has been the lack of co-operation and/or hostile attitude of parents/carers towards professionals. When there are child welfare or protection issues, a failure to engage with the family may have serious implications and non-intervention is not an option. This can lead to difficulties for all professionals working with the various family members.
* In some instances there will be a known history of actual violence.
* Where non co-operation, hostility or violence is an issue, it is important to appreciate the significance for a child living in the family i.e., it will enhance the parent/carer’s power and control and the child may fear reprisals if s/he were to speak to professionals.
* Workers may feel extremely vulnerable when visiting hostile families, especially those who challenge effectively and are perceived as a threat.
* Professionals may end up putting more effort into dealing with the resistance than addressing the real problems for the child/ren.
* It is good practice wherever possible:
* to be clear from the outset about what is known about the family and parents/carers, so as to assess both risks and potential strategies;
* to establish trust through active engagement, acknowledgement that the family may see things differently and demonstrating a respect for their views, whilst confronting inappropriate attitudes.
* Hostility and violence towards staff is a multi-agency issue, involving potential risks to staff of other agencies.
* If one agency has information that a parent/carer is known to be violent it has a responsibility to alert other agencies of the risks posed by that person.
* The MASH should then convene a multi-agency meeting to share strategic approaches across agencies in forming an action plan, in accordance with information sharing arrangements.
* All decisions and communications must be recorded clearly and shared.
* Where there are actual threats or incidents of violence the incidents must be reported immediately and local procedures followed for ‘Violence at work’ in relation to supervision, support, recording and reporting incidents to the Police.

Drug and Alcohol Using Parents

* Children of parents who abuse drugs or alcohol may be at risk of harm either directly, eg access to dangerous substances, or from a lack of boundaries, parental warmth and support and discipline.
* 70% of children taken into care have parents who are suspected of substance abuse.
* Not all parents who misuse drugs or alcohol mistreat their children, however it is known that there is an increased risk of violence in families where parent/carers abuse substances and the children who are most vulnerable are those whose parents are violent, aggressive, neglectful or rejecting.
* Any concerns of this nature should be brought to the attention of the DSL and discussed with the MASH to decide whether a referral needs to be made.

Fabricated or induced illness

* Fabricated or induced illness (FII) in a child is a condition whereby a child suffers harm through the deliberate action of her/his main carer and which is duplicitously attributed by the adult to another cause.
* There are 3 main and not mutually exclusive ways of the carer fabricating or inducing illness in a child:
  + Fabrication of signs and symptoms and fabrication of past medical history;
  + Fabrication of signs and symptoms and falsification of hospital charts, records, letters, documents and specimens of bodily fluids;
  + Induction of illness by a variety of means.
  + Harm to the child may be caused through unnecessary or invasive medical treatment, which may be harmful and possibly dangerous, based on symptoms that are falsely described or deliberately manufactured by the carer and lack independent corroboration.
  + The child may additionally suffer emotional harm through limitations placed on her/his development and social interaction e.g. overprotection, limitation of exploration and learning, prevention from participation.

Parental control issues

* When children come to the attention of Police or others because of behaviour problems, this may indicate vulnerability, poor supervision or neglect.
* The Child Safety Order (CSO) is a compulsory intervention available below the significant harm threshold, designed to assist the child improve her/his behaviour and is likely to be used alongside other methods of intervention with the family. The borough can apply for a CSO where:
  + - A child has committed an act which would have been an offence if s/he were aged 10 or above;
    - It is necessary to prevent such an act;
    - The child has caused harassment, distress or harm to others.
    - A Parenting Order can be made alongside a CSO or when a CSO is breached. This is designed to engage with and support parents, whilst helping them to develop their ability to undertake parental responsibilities.
    - Involvement of family members in prostitution does not necessarily mean children will suffer significant harm and the risks to the children in these circumstances come from the following potential sources:
      * Exposure of the child to unsuitable adults and sexual activity / materials, especially if the parent works from home;
      * Being left alone whilst the parent is working;
      * Being left with responsibility for younger siblings;
      * Inconsistent care – e.g. if the parent is imprisoned;
      * Factors associated with drug or alcohol misuse and/or mental health difficulty.

**Parental learning disability**

* Parental ‘Learning disabilities’ or ‘learning difficulties’ refers to adults who are, or may become parents/carers for children and who meet the 3 core criteria which describe an individual as ‘learning disabled’ i.e.
  + Significant impairment of intellectual functioning;
  + Significant impairment of adaptive/social functioning, i.e., how an individual cope with every-day demands of community living;
  + Age of onset before adulthood: in order for an individual to be considered as ‘learning disabled’, impairment of intellectual adaptive/ social functioning usually needs to have been present before the age of 18 years.
* As with any parent, the ability of those who have a learning disability to provide a reasonable standard of care will depend on their own individual abilities, circumstances and the individual needs of the particular child.
* Learning disabled parents may also experience additional stressors e.g., having a disabled child, domestic violence, poor physical or mental health, substance misuse, social isolation, poor housing, poverty and a history of growing up in care. Such stressors, when combined with parental learning disability, are more likely to lead to concerns about the care of children.
* Parents with a learning disability may therefore need positive ‘whole family’ support to develop sufficient understanding, resources, skills and experience to meet the needs of their child.
* With effective, sustained support over time adjusted to meet the changing developmental needs of a growing family, learning disabled parents are potentially able to provide good enough care (see [www.scie.org.uk/publications/briefings/briefing14/](http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/briefings/briefing14/) or recent research cited at [www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/](http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/) NorahFry/
* Children of parents with learning disabilities may assume some level of responsibility of looking after their parent and/or siblings, one or more of whom may also be learning disabled.
* Individuals who may pose a risk to children sometimes target parents with learning disabilities. In these situations, the children could be vulnerable to neglect and/or other forms of abuse.

**Parental physical and sensory disability**

* Though there is no evidence to suggest that physical or sensory disability should be a child protection issue, research does indicate that parents who have such impairments can experience great difficulty in performing a range of domestic and child care tasks.
* Individual/personal factors, levels of support from family, poverty and the degree of social exclusion all impact upon an individual’s ability to offer ‘good enough’ parenting.
* If a disabled parent cannot fulfil their role as parent to their own and others’ satisfaction, it may affect their self-esteem and self image and in turn generate feelings of anxiety, frustration and guilt.
* Impact has been observed on a child/ren’s growth, development, behaviour and/or mental/physical health, including alcohol/substance misuse and self- harming behaviour.
* For further practical guidance, see: SCIE’s briefing paper number 13 February 2005 ’Helping parents with a physical or sensory impairment in their role as parents’ [www.scie.org.uk](http://www.scie.org.uk/).

**Self harm**

* Self-harm, self-mutilation, eating disorders, suicide threats and gestures by a child must always be taken seriously and may be indicative of a serious mental or emotional disturbance.
* The possibility that self-harm, including a serious eating disorder, has been caused or triggered by any form of abuse or chronic neglect should not be overlooked.
* This may justify a referral to the MASH for an assessment as a child in need and/or in need of protection. A staff member who is in doubt about the required response should seek advice from the DSL.
* Consideration must also be given to protect children who engage in high risk behaviour which may cause serious self-injury such as drug or substance misuse, running away, partaking in daring behaviour such as running in front of cars etc, all of which may indicate underlying behavioural or emotional difficulties or abuse.

It is good practice, when a child or young person is known to have either made a suicide attempt or been involved in self harming behaviour, to undertake a multi-disciplinary risk assessment, along with an assessment of need.

**Social exclusion**

Many families are multiply disadvantaged and face chronic poverty and social isolation. Additionally, they may experience problems associated with living in disadvantaged areas, eg high crime rates and poor services, as well as limited employment opportunities. Many lack a wage earner. Racism and racial harassment may provide further stress to families in these circumstances.

Poverty may mean the children live in crowded or unsuitable accommodation, have poor diets, health problems or a disability, are vulnerable to accidents and may lack ready access to educational and leisure facilities.

Children may be indirectly affected through the association of this social exclusion with parental depression, learning disability and long-term health problems.

Referrals to the MASH should be made if the cumulative impact of the child’s circumstances indicates that s/he is a child in need or is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm.

**Temporary accommodation and transient lifestyles**

Placement in temporary accommodation, often at a distance from previous support networks, can lead to individuals and families becoming disengaged from services and support systems.

Families who have experienced homelessness and are placed in temporary accommodation by boroughs may have very transient lifestyles.

Families in which children are harmed may move home frequently and avoid contact with caring agencies, so that no single agency has a complete picture of the family.

Along with other indicators of potential risk, the following circumstances associated with some mobile families are a cause for concern:

* Child/ren not consistently registered with a GP;
* Child/ren attending hospital Emergency Departments frequently for treatment, rather than engaging with primary health services;
* Child/ren missing from a school roll, or persistently not attending;
* Information ‘patch worked’ across a network of agencies with no single agency holding the whole picture of a family history.
* Where there are outstanding child welfare concerns, unusual extended non-school attendance may indicate that the family has moved out of the area.

**Young Carers**

A ‘young carer’ is an individual aged under 18 who has a responsibility for providing primary or secondary care on a regular basis for a relative, often a single parent, or very occasionally a friend, whose needs may arise from:

* Physical or sensory disability;
* Learning disability or mental health related difficulty;
* Chronic or terminal illness;
* Misuse of drugs or alcohol.

Young carers are frequently involved in shopping, cooking, cleaning, ironing, washing clothes, budgeting the household income and nursing responsibilities including provision of intimate personal care, as well as emotional support.

This situation often leads a the young person’s needs being overlooked and may on occasions give rise to abusive experiences, which a young carer is reluctant to address for fear of intervention and breakup of the relationship.

If there is any concern that a young carer is at serious risk of neglect, abuse or harm, this must be referred to the MASH and if appropriate, a strategy discussion held.

**Useful Websites and Source Materials for further information**

* Safeguarding Children Board websites:
  + London - [www.londoncouncils.gov.uk](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk)
  + Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)
* HM Government: multi-agency practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation.
* ‘Safeguarding Children Involved in Prostitution’ - May 2000 DoH
* The HBV network www.karmanirvana.org.uk
* Internet Watch Foundation [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk) invites users to report illegal Web sites New Web site from the Information Commissioner
* GDP
* Internet proficiency through online games for KS2, with a free teacher’s pack
* ThinkuKnow.co.uk
* Parentzone.org.uk
* CEOP has also set up its own website which has been designed and written specifically for young people. It contains games and up to date information on having fun, staying in control and being safer online as well as details on how to report problems [www.ceop.gov.uk/children](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/children) and young\_people.asp.

# Part Three: Safer Recruitment (Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure)

# Introduction

For TCES , the welfare of children is paramount. To this end we operate a safer recruitment procedure which is detailed below.

**Staff selection criteria**

Our selection criteria are based on the following:

1. Experience
2. Knowledge
3. Skills and Ability
4. Personality/Social Skills
5. Other factors relevant to the specific position

**Permanent Staff Recruitment Procedure**

**Stage 1 Recruitment Preparation**

1. Planning

The Head of Home Learning should complete a recruitment request form with details for the role requesting to be filled, and once it is authorised, collaborate with the HR department to decide a timetable for the recruitment process of the role required. The job description, person specification and other documents to be sent to applicants should be reviewed and updated as necessary. It should be ensured that the application form seeks all relevant information and includes relevant statements about references etc. The application form should also include the disclosure of any criminal convictions and a question relating to whether the candidate currently has a DBS disclosure.

1. Vacancy Advertisement - *Adverts*

Any adverts to be placed should be sent to the HR department, where it will be put into our standard format and published on nominated websites, or through papers. The standard format includes the statement of commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and a statement to say full references and an Enhanced DBS Disclosure will be carried out on the successful applicant.

*Agencies -* If the role is to be advertised through agencies, then those suitable agencies on the approved agency list will be contacted by the HR department and provided with the timetable, job description and person specification and asked to source suitable candidates.

1. Applications on receipt

All applications should be scrutinised with any anomalies or gaps in employment noted to explore if the candidate is considered for the short-list.

1. Once all the applications have been scrutinised a short-list should be drawn up of the most suitable candidates

Stage 2 Pre- Interview & Interview

1. Seeking References

References should be sought directly from the referees of all the short-listed candidates. Specific questions should be asked which are covered in the TCES proforma reference form. A statement about the liability for accuracy should be included on all outgoing requests.

1. Receipt of References

Each reference should be checked against the information provided on the application form and scrutinised. Any discrepancy, issue or concern should be noted and taken up with the applicant at interview (if possible).

1. Interview arrangements

A panel of interviewers should be arranged with available times and dates agreed. The panel should consist of at least two people who have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training and the authority to appoint and for more senior roles the panel should consist of 3-4 people. The panel should meet before the interviews and agree the interview format, issues and questions, assessment criteria and standards.

1. Invitation to Interview

Once the available times have been set, candidates should be contacted to arrange a mutually suitable time for interview. Once this is agreed an interview pack should be sent to the candidate. This pack should include

* An invitation to interview including the list of documents to bring
* The list of ID specifying that 3 forms of ID are required with at least 1 of; photographic ID, proof of Date of Birth and proof of address (dated within the last 3 months)
* Job description and person specification
* Details on the company and specific site
* A map and directions of how to get to the interview location
* Policy on employment of ex-offenders
* Policy on Diversity and Equal Opportunities

1. Interview

At the start of the interview the identity and qualifications of the candidates should be verified by scrutiny of the appropriate original documents. Copies of the original documents should be taken and placed on file. The interview should explore the candidate’s suitability for working with children as well as their suitability for the post. TCES has a two-section interview with the first stage being standard questions regarding suitability of the candidate to work with children and young peoples. This section specifies that the application form should be scrutinised as a check for gaps in employment and any gaps should have the reason for them written on the form including any breaks for raising a family. The first part of Section 1 asks the candidate to confirm that they are physically and mentally fit to perform the role, and to confirm that they are able to fully understand all questions put to them in the interview process both verbally and in written form, or if there if anything that would affect their ability to do so.

It also informs them that they will be required to complete a medical questionnaire and may be required to complete a medical with a medical professional if successful. Another question asks for confirmation that the candidate has understood the need for disclosing any criminal history and the full list of possible sanctions must be read out and the candidate asked to confirm that they have understood the list and have disclosed anything on the list. It is at this stage that any previous convictions, cautions, reprimands, warning, police arrests or Schedule 5 notices including those with no further action taken. It is the TCES policy that any non-disclosure at interview of any such information as a potential case of gross misconduct and may lead to the termination of the contract of employment at a later date. A further question asks if there is any other information that the candidate should disclose which could affect the candidate’s employment or reflect badly on the company. It is the TCES policy that any non-disclosure at interview of any such information as a potential case of gross misconduct and may lead to the termination of the contract of employment at a later date

If appropriate after the interview the candidate should be asked for details to enable to HR department to carry out a DBS disclosure application.

The second part of the Interview consists of skill based questions specific to the role and separately tasks such as a literacy and numeracy test or written question on curriculum or finances may be set depending on the role.

Finally a confirmation of outcome form is completed with feedback from the interview, confirmation of whether the candidate was successful or not, and if so the starting salary to be offered.

Stage 3 post Interview

1. Conditional offer of employment

The Recruiting Manager should inform the HR department as soon as a decision is reached on the candidate and should send over the interview documentation. The HR department will then make a conditional offer of employment to the suitable candidate following discussions with the recruiting manager and receipt of the interview summary sheet. The offer of appointment is made conditional on the satisfactory completion of the following pre-appointment checks and should be tailored specifically according to which checks are outstanding.

* References – Should be obtained and scrutinised as quickly as possible if not obtained before the interview
* Identity -Three forms of ID should be verified in person if not verified at interview, and should include photographic ID, proof of date of birth and proof of address as required for a DBS disclosure application. Any queries on this should be directed to the HR department.
* Qualifications -Any required qualifications should be verified by original certificates if not verified at interview.
* Permission to work in the UK– Proof of permission to work in the UK should be sort from non-EEA (European Economic Area) candidates. See Appendix A. Any queries on acceptable proof of permission to work in the UK should be directed to the HR department.
* DBS Disclosure – A satisfactory Enhanced DBS disclosure should be received for all those working directly with children. The guidance states that If the candidate’s worked in a school in England within the last 3 months they can start work providing all other checks are complete and that the candidate is appropriately supervised, however it is the policy that TCES will only employ a permanent employee once a TCES DBS has been received, or if the candidate is on the update service and a TCES DBS has been applied for
* Children’s barred list – previously List 99– A check will be carried out by the HR department to ensure the candidate is not prohibited from taking up the post. This will be printed and filed. The Children’s Barred list will be checked as part of an Enhanced DBS disclosure.
* Prohibition from Teaching - For candidates applying for a teaching post, a check through the TRA for teachers or others who have been prohibited from teaching is carried out.
* Prohibition from work in Education - All candidates are checked to ensure they are not prohibited from working in education by carrying out a check of the Gov.uk website
* S128 Directive - All staff appointed to work in a management role are checked to ensure there is not a S128 directive against them. This is done by carrying out a DBS with a barred list and by checking the TRA site as per the ‘Prohibition from management of independent schools: checking for directions’ guidance from the DfE
* Declaration of Association - All staff are asked to sign a declaration of Association where they confirm that to the best of their knowledge they do not reside with anyone who has been convicted or accused of any safeguarding offences or concerns and that should this change, they will notify the TCES immediately.
* Health– The medical questionnaire - Application form appendix A, will be completed by any successful applicants and will be scrutinised to ensure the candidate is medically fit for the post.
* QTS– As an independent School TCES do not have to employ only teachers with QTS or QTLS, however all qualifications of teachers should be checked, and those with QTS are checked on the TRA Secure Access database as a confirmation of these qualifications.
* Statutory induction -Evidence of this should be shown by teachers who obtained QTS after 7 May 1999 and is checked against the TRA Secure Access site
* A suitable overseas check is carried out on those candidates that have lived overseas as deemed necessary by a risk assessment which must be carried out by the HR department

1. Induction

All new staff should have an induction plan that covers, in the first instance Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Child Protection, Behaviour Management, Confidentiality and the Emergency Reporting Structure.

The full induction should be carried out over a number of weeks and should include full training and CPD plans.

# Temporary Staff Recruitment Procedures

## Stage 1 Choosing Candidates

1. Planning

The Head of Service should collaborate with the HR department to confirm that the role is in the budget and then to decide a timetable for the recruitment process of the role required. The job description, person specification and other documents to be sent to applicants and agencies should be reviewed and updated as necessary.

1. Vacancy Advertisement

The role is given to the internal recruitment agency Teaching Talent and Agencies on the approved agency list for the relevant area should be contacted and provided with the timetable and relevant documentation and asked to source candidates.

1. CVs on receipt

All CVs received should be scrutinised with any anomalies or gaps in employment noted to explore if the candidate is considered for the short-list*. If the post is urgent then as much information as possible should be found out on the possible candidates from the agency.*

1. Once all the applications have been scrutinised a short-list should be drawn up of the most suitable candidates

## Stage 2 Pre- Interview & Interview

*NB – For urgent placements the suitable candidate will need to be chosen from discussion with approved agencies. To be an approved agency the correct form must have been completed by the agency and the rates for staff, plus any possible buy-out fees must have been agreed under guidance of the HR Department.*

1. Interview arrangements

A panel of interviewers should be arranged with available times and dates agreed. The panel should consist of at least two people who have undertaken the Safer Recruitment training and have the authority to appoint and for more senior roles should consist of 3-4 people. The panel should meet before the interviews and agree the interview format, issues and questions, assessment criteria and standards.

1. Invitation to Interview

Once the available times have been set, each candidate’s relevant agency should be contacted by HR to arrange a mutually suitable time for interview. The agency should be reminded that candidates must bring as a minimum, photographic ID with them.

1. Interview

At the start of the interview the identity and qualifications of the candidates should be verified by scrutiny of the appropriate original documents. Copies of the original documents should be taken and placed on file. The interview should explore the candidate’s suitability for working with children as well as their suitability for the post.

## Stage 3 post Interview

1. Conditional offer of temporary employment

The Head of Service should inform the agency as soon as a decision is reached on the candidate. The Head of Service will contact the agency and ask them to complete the agency vetting form for the worker. This form asks the agency to confirm all the relevant vetting checks have been completed on the worker. All completed forms are sent to the HR Department. No temporary worker involved with children can start work until this form is complete and authorised by Central Services. This vetting covers all the same checks as expected on a permanent member of staff.

1. Upon arrival of the chosen candidate on their first day, their photographic should be checked. Each candidate should have an induction that covers Health and Safety, Child Protection, Behaviour Management, Confidentiality and the Emergency Reporting Structure.

**Disability Equality Scheme**

In reviewing this policy we have taken into account consideration of any potential implications of the Disability Equality Scheme.

### 

### Appendix 1 Key Contacts

**TCES Head of Safeguarding:**

Suzi Mellis

Tel: 020 8543 7878

[suzi.mellis@tces.org.uk](mailto:suzi.mellis@tces.org.uk)

**Home Learning Service Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Matthew Cooley

Tel: 02085437878 / 07736 275108

[Matthew.cooley@tces.org.uk](mailto:Matthew.cooley@tces.org.uk)

**Home Learning Service Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Victoria Halliburton

Tel:  02085437878 / 07702910213

[Victoria.halliburton@tces.org.uk](mailto:Victoria.halliburton@tces.org.uk)

**Merton MASH**

020 8545 4226 or 020 8545 4227 (Out of hours: 020 8770 5000).

**CHILDLINE: 0800 11 11**

### Appendix 2 Safeguarding Policy and Procedures - FLOW CHART

You must inform the school’s Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy(s) or the company wide safeguarding Lead in their absence (see below) immediately and seek their guidance*.* You must make direct contact with one of the above options – leaving messages is not acceptable.

***Procedure to follow when you have reason to suspect that a child or young person is suffering, or likely to suffer, some form of significant harm, or when an allegation of abuse has been made:***

If at any time a pupil gives you information about being harmed, or the prospect of being harmed, you must tell them that the information he or she has given to you will have to be shared with more senior members of staff and **cannot be kept confidential*.*** They are likely to need your support with this.

**Record immediately** what the pupil has said and in their own words. If possible, this should be with another suitable adult present, but NOT the person against whom an allegation has been made.

**Listen carefully, do not ask leading or probing questions but allow them to be clear over what has happened.**

The Home Learning Service DSLs (above) MUST:

* **Immediately contact Immediately contact** Suzi Mellis, TCES Head of Safeguarding 020 8543 7878 **and state urgent CP matter.**

Following discussion with the above and if agreed, contact the appropriate Children’s Services MASH

* Allegation regarding external person in position of trust: (non TCES) contact the LADO department in the borough where the individual is working / volunteering.
* Allegation regarding TCES staff: contact the LADO in the borough where the school/service is based.
* Agree with MASH the contacting of parents

Contact the Local Authority SEN Officer

If the allegation is against a TCES Group Head Teacher / Head of Home Learning please contact Thomas Keaney, Schools Proprietor

If the allegation is against the Schools Proprietor, please contact your local LADO

Cc in Suzi Mellis all correspondence relating to Child Protection issues for auditing purposes.

**The Home Learning Service DSL must provide the following notifications within the timescales given below:**

* A written report to **the MASH** and the **TCES Head of Safeguarding** at the earliest opportunity on the day of the allegation.
* It is a statutory duty to inform the **Secretary of State** and **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** within one month of the person leaving the Home Learning Service if a person ceases to work for the Home Learning Service and there are grounds for believing s/he may be unsuitable to work with children or committed serious misconduct.

**Remember:** If at any time you have concerns about a pupil, and especially if you suspect that they are suffering, or likely to suffer, some form of significant harm, **you must tell the DSL named above immediately and record your concerns clearly and in writing.**

**Not to do so would be considered a disciplinary offence.**

***Please note carefully***: **Any allegation of child abuse against any member of TCES staff,** including an allegation against yourself, **must be treated with the utmost seriousness and passed immediately to a DSL or the TCES Head of Safeguarding**

#### Any allegation made against a member of staff, irrespective of the outcome, will automatically result in the member of staff attending a support meeting with the HR Manager and/ or Schools Proprietor at Central Services offices.

Amended 08/08/14

#### 

### Appendix 3 Guidelines on Safe Working Practice

The following guidelines are provided as examples of both good and bad practice that occur. Staff are encouraged to read the guidelines and to discuss with senior staff, colleagues, children and others as a means of raising awareness in safeguarding matters and encouraging staff and child involvement in the development and understanding of safe ways of working. You may wish to develop these guidelines together and add examples of your own, to be shared with others as this is clearly not an exhaustive list.

**Examples of Good Practice**

All staff are expected to adhere to the following principles and actions:

* Treat all children and young people equally and with respect and dignity;
* Recognise the developmental needs and capacity of each child/young person;
* Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism;
* Always put the welfare of the child first, the child’s welfare being paramount;
* Promote fairness, confront and challenge bullying behaviours;
* Be acutely aware of the power that a staff member develops with children and avoid any intimacy (sexual or otherwise);
* Avoid unnecessary physical contact with children (face to face tuition). Where any form of physical contact or support is required it should be provided openly and with the consent of the child;
* If you accidentally hurt a child or young person, he/she seems distressed in any manner, appears to be sexually aroused by your actions and/or if the child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done, report any such incidents as soon as possible to another colleague and the DSL and keep a written record. Parents/carers should also be informed of the incident;
* Be an excellent role model. This includes not smoking in the company of children/ young people and reasonable standards of behaviour in respect of discussing alcohol or recreational drugs use.

**Examples of Poor Practice**

The following are regarded as examples of poor practice and are to be avoided:

* unnecessarily spending time alone with a child/young person away from others;
* taking a child/young person alone in a car on journeys, however short;
* taking a child/ren to a staff member’s home;
* Giving a child/ren a staff member’s home phone number;
* allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form;
* allowing children/young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged;
* making sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun;
* reducing a child to tears as a form of control;
* allowing allegations made by a child/young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon;
* using personal phones to make calls to parents/carers/children
* Taking photos or other media of children on personal equipment including camera phones
* where it is impractical/impossible to avoid certain situations, e.g. transporting a child in your car, this should be done with the full understanding and consent of the parent/carer and the child/young person involved. The reasons for it should be documented and made available to the relevant people concerned. The DSL should be notified.

It is not always easy to distinguish poor practice from abuse. It is therefore NOT the responsibility of staff or others to make judgements about whether or not abuse is taking place. It is, however, their responsibility to identify poor practice and possible abuse, and to act if they have concerns about the welfare of the child/ren.

### Appendix 4 Guidelines on Safe Working Practice for Staff

**Introduction**

Our aim is to provide a safe environment which secures the wellbeing of children in receipt of a service from our organisation. We do, however, recognise

that sometimes allegations of abuse are made. We recognise that allegations, when they occur, are distressing and difficult for all concerned. We also recognise that some allegations are genuine and that there are individuals who deliberately seek to harm or abuse children or vulnerable adults.

For all staff, the most important consideration is to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people with whom you come into contact. Any allegations of abuse must be taken seriously. It is important to remember that the best interests of the child or young person - and the need for the abuse to stop - come before the interests of TCES, the Home Learning Service, their school or a potential abuser.

**Abuse of Trust**

We know that some people seek access to children in order to abuse, and that abused children very often do not disclose the abuse at the time. We also know that some of the allegations of abuse made against staff are substantiated, and there continue to be a number of cases every year in which teachers and other staff are convicted of criminal offences involving the abuse of children.

**All staff need to know that:**

Inappropriate behaviour with or towards children is unacceptable. This includes:

* any form of sexual conduct, including sexually suggestive comments;
* engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games;
* giving children inappropriate drugs or other inappropriate substances;
* lending or borrowing of money or property;
* giving or receiving gifts;
* exclusive or secretive relationships;
* giving of home numbers/personal mobile numbers or home address details to children;
* taking children/project users to a staff member’s home
* it is an offence for a person over 18, such as a teacher/TA, to have a sexual relationship with a child under 18 where that person is in a position of trust in respect of the child, even if the relationship is consensual and even if they do not work directly with them [Sexual Offences Act 2003];
* others who work with children and young people, such as drivers or workplace supervisors, are also expected to maintain standards of conduct comparable to those prescribed for colleagues in paid employment.

**Procedures**

**Action by Person to whom a Concern or Allegation is Reported**

All allegations or suspicions of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect by staff, including the use of restraint, other than permitted by law or guidance issued by Government and professional bodies and in line with TCES policy, will be considered under child protection procedures initially and steps taken to ensure the welfare of the child/ren concerned.

**As with any other welfare concern, the first priority is to:**

* establish whether the child is in need of medical attention and/or protection;
* If urgent action is required, medical assistance will be obtained if needed/an immediate referral made to the MASH and/or police.

**Any member of staff receiving details of a suspicion or allegation should:**

* act with tact and care (always remembering to keep an open mind);
* listen and treat the concern seriously;
* communicate as appropriate to the age, understanding and any communication or language difficulties of the child/person reporting;
* avoid leading questions;
* avoid expressions of sympathy that may pre-judge issues of potential abuse;
* avoid any promise of confidentiality, but reassure the child/person reporting the concern that information will only be passed to those who ‘need to know’;
* be aware that the way in which they talk to a child can have an effect on the evidence which is put forward if there are subsequent criminal proceedings.

**Managing the Process**

The person receiving the concern or allegation **should not**:

* interrupt the child/person reporting when he/she is recalling significant events;
* make assumptions or interpretations;
* make suggestions or offer alternative explanations. This could be construed as pre-judging, ‘coaching’ or acting to defend a colleague;
* use leading questions eg ‘Did they do …. to you?’ Use open questions only, such as ‘What happened?’ and ‘Is there anything else you want to tell me?’

**DO NOT** attempt to investigate any allegation or suspicion of abusive behaviour yourself but assure the child/person reporting it to you that what they have said to you will be passed on to someone whose job it is to deal with it.

The person receiving the concern or allegation **should**:

* make a written record of the information (if applicable, in the child’s own words), including the time, date and place of incident(s), persons present and what was said;
* sign and date the written record;
* if any personal views are expressed about the information given, these must be recorded separately and clearly identified as such, signed and dated;
* report the matter immediately to the DSL or their deputy;
* if the concern/allegation is against the DSL, report the matter to their deputy and the company wide safeguarding lead (Head of Safeguarding)
* If the concern/allegation is against the CEO / a DSL, this must be reported to the Head of Safeguarding and the HR manager, who will consult with the MASH on how to proceed.

**Initial Action by the DSL or their deputy**

On being informed of the concern/allegation, the DSL should:

* obtain written details of the concern/allegation, signed and dated by the person receiving (not the child/person making the allegation) and being careful to differentiate between fact, supposition and feeling;
* countersign and date the written details;
* record any information about times, dates and location of incident(s) and names of any potential witnesses;
* record any discussions about the child and/or member of staff, decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions.

**The DSL or their deputy should not interview the member of staff, child or any potential witnesses.**

* No attempt should be made to investigate an allegation as inappropriate questioning could jeopardise a child protection or criminal investigation.
* Advice should be sought from the Head of Safeguarding, who may seek further advice from the MASH if there is any doubt.

**In the event of an allegation being received outside normal office hours**:

* the Head of Safeguarding should consult Social Services’ Emergency Duty Team or the local Police. Written confirmation of a referral should be sent to the MASH during the next working day.

**Trivial Allegations**

* The DSL will need to use their professional judgment to identify at the outset an allegation which is trivial in nature.
* It will then be appropriate for it to be dealt with at that level.
* It is important to record the reasons for this judgment and how the matter was dealt with, e.g. notifying the parent/carer. The child or person making the allegation may also consider the incident significant enough to report the matter directly to the MASH and/or Police or to some other agency such as Childline.
* The Head of Safeguarding should be contacted if there is any doubt, and in all cases a written record must be made of the incident and copied to Central Services within 1 working day.

**Initial Consideration**

* The Home Learning Service DSL and the Head of Safeguarding should conduct an urgent initial consideration of the information available in order to decide on the most appropriate course of action.
* If there is any doubt about action to be taken, advice can be sought from the MASH.

**Allegations Reported Directly to the MASH and/or Police**

* Where an allegation is reported directly to the MASH /Police, the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding must be informed. A strategy meeting should then take place.

**Notification of Interested Persons**

* The Police or a strategy meeting discussion may decide that child protection enquiries or criminal investigation would be hindered by an approach to parties at an early stage or that certain information should not be divulged to them. The Home Learning Service DSL and Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding must therefore ensure that there is no objection by the Police before contacting any parties.
* Subject to there being no objection, the DSL will inform the:
* child or parent/carer making the allegation and explain the likely course of action;
* parent/carer of the child who is the alleged victim and explain the likely course of action;
* accused member of staff and explain the likely course of action.
* the Home Learning Service DSL and Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding should consider whether to consult the LSBC or local safeguarding arrangements as to how best to inform the child and/or parent/carer.
* If the member of staff is employed through an agency, the Director of the Agency should be informed of the concern/allegation provided there is no objection from the Police.
* Where the Police do object to any persons being notified, the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding should arrange to be informed as to when this can take/has taken place.

**Suspension**

When an allegation against a member of staff is made, and deemed serious enough, the member of staff may be suspended without prejudice pending further enquiries during the initial consideration stages. During this time the member of staff will receive full pay and any company benefits they may be entitled to. During suspension any contact with children is prohibited and may lead to further disciplinary procedures. Contact with other employees must be arranged and authorised by Central Services.

***For further details on the Disciplinary process please refer to the Disciplinary Proceedings section of this policy, or to the Disciplinary and Grievance policy.***

**Record Keeping**

The Home Learning Service DSL and the company wide safeguarding lead(s) keeps a written record of any decisions made, the reasons for those decisions and any action(s) taken, both formal and informal; records to be in the agreed company format and copied to Central Services within 1 working day.

**Action Following Initial Consideration**

There will be four possible outcomes of the initial consideration:

* Inappropriate behaviour/Poor practice
  + The allegation may represent inappropriate behaviour or poor practice by a member of staff which needs to be considered under possible training needs, supervision and/or disciplinary procedures.
  + Alleged inappropriate behaviour that might have a sexual motive however must be referred under child protection procedures.
  + Demonstrably False/No case to answer
  + Where, after initial consideration, the immediate circumstances of the allegation clearly show that it would not be possible for the allegation to be true, it will be appropriate for the DSL to deal with the matter at local level. ***NOTE:*** *See ‘Action where Allegations are without foundation’*
  + Care must be taken however, to ensure that a child is not confused as to dates, times, locations or identity of member of staff.

**NOTE:** An obviously false allegation may be a strong indicator of abuse elsewhere that requires further exploration. Consideration should be given to a ‘child in need’ referral in these circumstances.

**Significant Harm/Abuse**

* If it is determined that a child has suffered, or is believed to be at risk of, significant harm, an immediate referral must be made to the MASH .
* Where there is any doubt, advice should be sought from the MASH or the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding.

**Criminal Offence**

* If the alleged behaviour might constitute a criminal offence, an immediate referral must be made to the MASH and/or the police.

**Reasonable Force**

* Where the allegation relates to the use of reasonable force to restrain a child, it may be appropriate for the DSL to deal with the matter at local level. A full report must be made and a copy sent to Central Services within 1 working day.
* Where there is an allegation of assault beyond the use of reasonable force, a referral must be made to the MASH.

**In all instances,** advice may be sought from the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding or the MASH and a full report must be made, to the agreed format, and copied to Central Services within 1 working day of the incident.

**Action where Allegations are without Foundation (Demonstrably False)**

Where an allegation is shown beyond doubt to be demonstrably false, e.g. where there are objective witnesses to say that an incident could not have occurred, or the person accused was not present at the time, the Home Learning Service DSL, in consultation with the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding and Human Resources Manager, must:

* inform the member of staff orally and in writing of the allegation and that there is no cause for further action to be taken under disciplinary or child protection procedures. The member of staff may be accompanied by a trade union representative or friend;
* consider whether counselling and/or informal professional advice to the member of staff is appropriate and how this might be provided;
* inform the parents/carers of the child/ren of the allegation and the outcome in writing;
* consider appropriate counselling and support for the child or children who made the allegation(s) and, where appropriate, their parents/carers;
* consider the advisability or otherwise of the member of staff concerned having to work with that child again, and how that may be affected and supported;
* In particular consider what follow up action should be taken in regard to a person or child who has made an allegation that is shown to be false or unfounded, especially if it is shown to have been made maliciously;
* where a person other than the alleged child victim has made the allegation, consider informing the parents/carers and child/en and providing support as appropriate;
* prepare a report giving reasons for concluding that the allegation is without foundation.

**Referral to the MASH**

* Where the Home Learning Service DSL and the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding decide that the allegation needs to be referred, a telephone call should be made to the MASH.
* The referral should be confirmed in writing within 48 hours.
* The MASH should acknowledge the written referral within one working day of receipt. The MASH should therefore be contacted if no acknowledgement has been received within 3 days of the original referral.

It will be the final decision of TCES ’ Senior Management Team (SMT) as to whether any internal disciplinary investigation will be held in abeyance pending the completion of Police and MASH investigations. TCES ’s SMT will consult within a strategy discussion/meeting but the final decision will always rest with TCES .

**Following referral to the MASH**

A strategy discussion, in the form of a meeting, to plan the conduct of the enquiry (where relevant), should be held as soon as possible and at least within 72 hours.

If a strategy meeting is held, consideration should be given to the following persons attending:

* Team Manager, Social Services Child Protection team (and/or Service Manager if appropriate);
* MASH representative if applicable;
* a representative from the appropriate Police Child Protection Unit(s);
* the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding;
* the Home Learning Service DSL (other than in exceptional circumstances);
* Social Worker for the child;
* a representative from Human Resources;
* other authorities/agencies as appropriate e.g., health;
* Senior Manager from relevant agency in the case of supply workers.

The strategy discussion/meeting should consider:

* the information provided by the Home Learning Service about the circumstances and context of the concern/allegation;
* whether any child/ren is/are likely to be at risk;
* whether it is necessary to review any previous concerns/allegations made by the child or made against the same member of staff;
* whether it is necessary to interview any child/ren,

The strategy discussion/meeting should conclude whether there should be:

* enquiries by the MASH under child protection procedures;
* related police investigations into possible criminal offences;
* no further action under child protection procedures.

If the strategy discussion/meeting concludes that there should be an investigation by Police and/or Social Services Child Protection Team, roles, timescales and dates for future meetings should be agreed and tasks allocated.

The Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding should canvas the views of Police and Social Services Child Protection Team about whether:

* the accused member of staff needs to be suspended or, in the case of supply workers, asked to refrain from work (however the final decision will always rest with TCES ’s Proprietor and SMT);
* there are any constraints or limitations on the information that can be provided to the member of staff about the concern/allegation.

Any decision to suspend will rest with the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding if the allegation is against a Head Teacher / Head of Home Learning. Any decision on how to proceed will rest with external agencies if the allegation is against the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding.

The strategy discussion should also consider:

* the response to the child/ren’s parents/carers and to the child/ren;
* appropriate support for the child/ren and parents/carers;
* the response to the accused member of staff;
* appropriate support for the accused member of staff and colleagues;
* the identity of the contact person to keep the member of staff informed of the progress.

**Disciplinary Proceedings**

TCES firmly believes that the fairest way to resolve any problems relating to conduct or performance is to have a well-structured disciplinary procedure. The procedure is designed to help and encourage all employees to achieve and maintain the Company’s standards of conduct, attendance and performance and should be looked upon as a corrective process.

Employees have the following rights in relation to disciplinary action:

* *to be informed of the allegations of misconduct or poor performance to be addressed at any disciplinary hearing*
* *to be accompanied by a work colleague or by a trade union official*
* to appeal against any disciplinary action

**General**

Employees will always be given as much information as possible regarding the allegations of misconduct, or any documentation detailing the shortfall in performance or capability that will form the basis of the disciplinary hearing. Employees will also be given fair and reasonable notice of the date and time of the hearing and whenever possible the disciplinary hearing will be held during normal working hours.

Any disciplinary action will only be taken after a full investigation of the facts, and if it is necessary to suspend employees for this period of time, they will receive their normal rate of pay.

The Company reserves the right to vary the disciplinary procedure dependent on either the seriousness of the allegations of misconduct or capability to be addressed, or if employees only have a short amount of service.

Short service employees or those still within the probationary period, may not be issued with any warnings before dismissal.

NB The Company reserves the right to deduct from pay the cost of any damage or loss to property or goods, which after a disciplinary hearing was found to have been caused by an employees’ negligence or vandalism.

**The Procedure**

In the case of inappropriate conduct towards children, disciplinary action will consist of a minimum of a final written warning and may lead to dismissal for gross misconduct.

Final written warnings will be issued in situations where it is sufficiently serious to warrant only one warning but is not sufficiently serious to justify dismissal.

Employees will be informed in the final written warning that any further misconduct or failure to meet the required standard will result in dismissal.

Dismissal will normally result if an employee still fails to achieve the standard of conduct or performance required by the Company, or for matters of gross misconduct. Employees will be given every opportunity to offer an explanation for any failure to meet the required standards at a final disciplinary hearing. As with all previous stages of the disciplinary procedure employees will be offered the right of a witness and the right to appeal against the decision.

Dismissed employees will be provided, as soon as is reasonably practicable, with the reasons for dismissal, the date on which their employment will terminate and details of how they may appeal.

**Conduct outside working hours**

Normally the Company has no jurisdiction over employee activity outside working hours. Behaviour outside working hours will only become an issue if the activities adversely affect the Company unless it relates to a safeguarding concerns and meets threshold for consultation with the LADO (see previous section).

Adverse publicity, bringing the Company name into disrepute, or actions that result in loss of faith in the Company, resulting in loss of business, or loss of faith in the integrity of the individual, will result in the disciplinary procedure being instigated.

The detriment suffered by the Company will determine the level of misconduct and it will also determine which disciplinary stage is most appropriate to suit the circumstances.

If the actions include inappropriate conduct towards children, criminal offences, or cause extreme embarrassment or serious damage to the Company’s reputation or image, a decision may be taken to terminate the employment.

The Company’s procedures covering disciplinary hearings and appeals still apply.

**Gross misconduct**

Gross misconduct will result in summary dismissal, and employees lose their right to notice or pay in lieu of notice.

Below is a list of offences that are normally regarded as “gross misconduct”. It is not exhaustive, but it describes the kind of offence that can result in summary dismissal:

* Deliberate failure to comply with the published rules of the Company, including those covering safeguarding, child protection, security, health and safety, equal

opportunities, the Internet, etc.

* Deliberate falsification of records.
* The committing of offences against current discrimination legislation whilst acting on behalf of the Company.
* Fighting or assaulting another person.
* Using threatening or offensive language towards children, customers or other employees. Making yourself unfit to work by solvent abuse, drinking alcohol, taking of illegal substances or failing to follow medical instructions on prescribed drugs.
* Being in possession of illegal drugs and substances or alcohol whilst on Company premises.
* Obscene behaviour.
* Behaviour likely to bring the Company into disrepute.
* Conviction on a criminal charge that is relevant to your employment with the Company.
* The misuse including use for personal gain, of confidential information in the course of working for the Company.

**Disciplinary appeal procedure**

At each stage of the disciplinary procedure, employees will be given the right of appeal. If an employee wishes to exercise their right of appeal, they should put their reasons in writing to the CEO within five working days of receiving written confirmation of the disciplinary decision taken against them. The employee will need to explain why they feel the decision is unfair, or inappropriate in relation to the matters addressed at the disciplinary hearing.

If the employee has any new information or evidence to support their appeal, they should give the details in full and include the names of any witnesses they may wish to call to support them in their appeal. This is in order that there will be sufficient time to investigate any additional information before the appeal hearing. Employees are entitled to be accompanied at the appeal hearing by a work colleague or by a trade union official.

Although the purpose of the appeal is to review any disciplinary penalty imposed, it cannot increase the disciplinary penalty.

The decision of the person dealing with the appeal is final.

Details of the full disciplinary procedure can be found in the TCES Disciplinary and grievance policy.

**Referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

Regulated activity providers and personnel suppliers are required by law to refer a person to the DBS where they have:

* harmed a child or vulnerable adult (engaged in relevant conduct)
* pose a risk of harm to vulnerable s including children (satisfied the harm test)
* received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence

Referrals should not be made whilst a member of staff is suspended without prejudice pending an investigation as there would be no evidence at this point to support the thought that a person has engaged in relevant conduct or that the *harm test* as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable s Act 2006, is satisfied.

* Any referral must be made by a member of the SMT by completing the DBS referral Form in consultation with the DBS referral Guidance. The completed and signed DBS Referral form and supporting evidence and documents should be posted to the ISA.
* The DBS will acknowledge the referral by return post within three working days of receipt
* The DBS will commence the decision-making process, and may request additional information or documents
* Following DBS consideration, if the DBS is ‘minded to bar’, the individual will be written to and provided with all the evidence, they will then be given 8 weeks to make representations to the DBS on why they should not be barred. Current employers and bodies or individuals with a registered interest in the individual concerned will be notified that the DBS is ‘minded to bar’.
* Following representation, the individual and any parties with a registered interest in the individual will be notified of the ISA’s decision. If the individual is barred it is an offence for that individual to work in regulated activity with the (s) they are barred from, or for an individual to allow them to work with the relevant (s)

**Learning the lessons**

At the conclusion of any case in which an allegation is substantiated, the Home Learning Service DSL should review the circumstances of the case with the Proprietor/ Head of Safeguarding, HR Advisor and consultants and/or Strategy members to determine whether any improvements can be made to the company’s, or the Home Learning Service’s practice or procedures to help prevent similar occurrences in the future.

**Appendix 5** **Outcomes of LADO Investigation Definitions**

**Substantiated allegations**

There is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation that a child has been harmed or there is a risk of harm.

*If the facts of the incident are found to be true but it is not found that a child has been harmed or there is a risk of harm, then consideration should be given to deciding that the outcome is ‘unsubstantiated’ or ‘unfounded’..*

**Malicious**

There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive. The police should be asked to consider what action may be appropriate in these circumstances.

**False allegations**

There is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation, however, there is no evidence to suggest that there was an deliberate intention to deceive.

False allegations may be an indicator of abuse elsewhere which requires further exploration.  If an allegation is demonstrably false, the employer, in consultation with the LADO, should refer the matter to LA children's social care to determine whether the child is in need of services, or might have been abused by someone else.

**Unsubstantiated allegations**

There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence.

**Unfounded**

The additional definition of ‘unfounded’ can be used to reflect cases where there is no evidence or proper basis which supports the allegation being made. It might also indicate that the person making the allegation misinterpreted the incident or was mistaken about what they saw. Alternatively, they may not have been aware of all the circumstances.

**References in cases where the allegation is false, unsubstantiated or malicious**

Cases in which an allegation was proven to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious should not be included in employer references. A history of repeated concerns or allegations which have all been found to be false, unsubstantiated or malicious should also not be included in any reference.

**Appendix 6 Recruitment Procedure – Permission to work in the UK**

Candidates need to be able to show a valid original of one of the following in order to work in the UK. This should be copied and filed

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** | A passport showing the holder, or a person named in the passport as the child of the holder, is a British citizen or a citizen of the UK and Colonies having the right of abode in the UK. |
| **2.** | A passport or national identity card showing the holder, or a person named in the passport as the child of the holder, is a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland. |
| **3.** | A Registration Certificate or Document Certifying Permanent Residence issued by the Home Office to a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland. |
| **4.** | A Permanent Residence Card issued by the Home Office to the family member of a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland. |
| **5.** | A **current** Biometric Immigration Document (Biometric Residence Permit) issued by the Home Office to the holder indicating that the person named is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK. |
| **6.** | A **current** passport endorsed to show that the holder is exempt from immigration control, is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK, has the right of abode in the UK, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK. |
| **7.** | A **current** Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the named person is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer. |
| **8.** | A **full** birth or adoption certificate issued in the UK which includes the name(s) of at least one of the holder’s parents or adoptive parents, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer. |
| **9.** | A birth or adoption certificate issued in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Ireland, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer. |
| **10.** | A certificate of registration or naturalisation as a British citizen, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer. |

EEA Countries

Nationals of Gibraltar and of countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) do not need permission to take employment here and can be employed on the same basis as UK nationals. EEA countries are as follows:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. If you have any queries on permission to work in the UK, please contact the HR department at Head Office on 020 8543 7878.

### Appendix 6 Forms used during the Recruitment Process

The following documents are the forms used by TCES as part of the recruitment process.

1. Recruitment Request form

This form must be completed in full by the recruiting manager, signed off by the Head Teacher and sent to the HR department. The HR department will check the form and obtain authorisation for the role prior to advertising, or advise the Head Teacher why the role has been denied.

1. Application form

The application form is used in conjunction with candidate’s CVs to ensure we obtain all the information required from all applicants and to make it easier to compare the applicant against the selection criteria as well as to start the safeguarding process by asking each applicant to sign a declaration stating that they are not on List 99, disqualified from work with children, or subject to sanctions imposed by a regulatory body, e.g. the Teaching Regulations Agency and either has no convictions, cautions or bind-overs, or has attached details of their record in a sealed envelope marked confidential.

1. Agency supply staff agreement

This form should be sent to all agencies when agreeing terms. This form must be signed by the agency and returned before the agency can become an approved agency. In addition to this form, in order for an agency to become an approved agency rates for temporary staff, temp to perm staff and buy out rates must have been agreed and signed off by the Proprietor or Teaching Talent Branch Manager. This is to ensure the agencies have robust safe recruitment procedures in place for education staff.

1. Confirmation of vetting checks for supply staff

Before a new temporary member of staff starts with TCES , this form must have been completed by the agency and authorised by the HR Department. This form is used as written confirmation that the agency has carried out sufficient checks on the temporary worker and as such must be kept on file at both Central Services, and by Teaching Talent.

1. Pre-employment checklist

This form is used as a checklist that all the relevant safeguarding checks have been carried out on potential new members of staff, and each step must be completed as the check is carried out. In order for the potential new staff to start work, all the steps must be complete, and the form must be signed off by the HR department and for Senior Staff a member of the SMT.

RECRUITMENT REQUEST FORM  
This form must be completed and authorised prior to any recruitment taking place. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken against the recruiter. Please complete all **bold** sections.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requestor:** |  | **Date sent:** |  | **Date Received**: |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Is this role in the budget:** | YES / NO  (please delete as appropriate) | ***If no a business need case must be written and attached to this request*** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Job Title:** |  | | | **Location:** | | |  | | |
| **Type of**  **Role:**  (please circle) | Permanent | | Supply | Temp to perm | Temp only | | | | **Duration required:** |
| **Type of role:**  (please circle) | New | | Replacement | **Name of person currently in role if applicable**: | | | | | |
| **Justification** –  reason for vacancy |  | | | **Name of Child if Outreach, or if school based** | | | |  | |
| **Required Start Date** |  | | | **Working hours** | |  | | | |
| **Special Instructions relating to role** |  | | | | | | | | |
| **Does the role require a mobile phone, PC, username etc, please specify** | |  | | | | | | | |

Recruitment request from Head Teacher/ Head of Home Learning / SMT

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Signature |  | Date |  |

Recruitment approved by Finance

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Signature |  | Date |  |

Communicated to HR YES/NO

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Salary /rate of pay agreed* |  | | |
| Name |  | Position |  |
| Signature |  | Date |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Agencies advised & Date* |  | | |
| *Role Filled – Date and Agency* |  | *Vetting Checks received by HR* |  |

**TCES Home Learning Tutor Application Form**

TCES Home Learning prioritises ensuring that our tutors are suitably matched to pupils whose needs they are best placed to meet. As such, we ask that you complete this form to assess the compatibility of your skills, knowledge and experience to our pupils’ learning needs and personalities.

Please send your application to [recruitment@tces.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@tces.org.uk) or submit it to the relevant section on our website.

After your application has been reviewed, you may be invited for interview. Rigorous safeguarding and vetting procedures will then be carried out before you are invited to join our team.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Personal details | | | | | | | |
| **Title:** | | **Last Name:** | | | | **First Name:** | |
| **Previous Surnames:** | | **Please confirm the dates of previous surnames used:** | | | | | |
| **Address(s) within the last five years:** | | | | **Month/Year From:** | | | **Month/Year To:** |
|  | | | |  | | |  |
|  | | | |  | | |  |
|  | | | |  | | |  |
| **Home Telephone No:** |  | | **Daytime Telephone No:** | |  | | |
| **Mobile Telephone No:** |  | | **Email address:** | |  | | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Areas you would consider working (direct tuition):** | **Days you are available to work:** | **Times you are available to work:** |
| Central London  North East London  North London  North West London  South East London  South London  South West London  West London  Other (please specify):  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday | Morning  Afternoon  Evening |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Do you hold Qualified Teacher Status/Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills? Provide any further information (such as DfES number) in the box attached. Please know that holding QTS/QTLS is not a requirement for an assignment.** | | |
| QTS/QTLS obtained within the UK, as awarded by the Department for Education | QTS/QTLS obtained outside the UK. Please provide more detail in the box below | I do not hold QTS/QTLS |
| This post is not exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. We only ask applicants to disclose convictions which are not yet spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. If you are not sure whether your convictions are spent, please contact [Nacro](http://www.nacro.org.uk/resettlement-advice-service/support-for-individuals/jobs-and-volunteering/) for further advice.  Do you have any unspent convictions? Yes 🞐 No 🞐  If you have answered yes, you now have **two** options on how to disclose your criminal record.  **Option 1:** Please provide details of your criminal record in the space below.  **Option 2**: You can disclose your record under a separate cover provided that you mark a cross on the line below and attach the details in an envelope stapled to this form. The envelope should be marked **CONFIDENTIAL** and state your name and the details of the post.  I have attached details of my conviction separately\_\_\_\_\_ (Please mark with an X if appropriate.) | | |

Staff applying to work for TCES Home Learning are expected to have a range of skills, some of which they may not have previously applied in a work setting. This section will gather information about the skills, knowledge or experience you may use whilst working with TCES Home Learning and will help us get to know you better. Please complete the below questionnaire as thoroughly as possible.

|  |
| --- |
| **Could you please tell us about yourself and why you are interested in this role?** |
|  |
| **Which skills or knowledge do you have that would be useful for this role?** |
|  |
| **What qualifications/certificates do you hold?** |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **School, College or University** | **Course/Subject** | **Dates** | **Qualifications & grades obtained** | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Employment History** | | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | From (mm/yy) | To (mm/yy) | Full-time or Part-time | Employer | Address | Job Title | Reasons for leaving | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | | | | |
| **Which levels of education do you feel confident to teach? Please select all that apply and give more detail on this in the box below.** | | | | | |
| Early Years Foundation Stage | | | | Primary years | |
| KS1 | | | | KS2 | |
| KS3 | | | | KS4 | |
| KS5 | | | | Further education | |
| **Do you speak any other languages, and would you be willing to incorporate these into lessons? Please specify in the box below.** | | | | | |
| Yes  Languages spoken: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | No | | |
| **Please consider any experience or qualifications you have involving pupils with the following conditions. Select all that apply and provide details of relevant experience or qualifications in the box below.** | | | | | |
| Anxiety | Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) | | | | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) |
| Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) | Depression | | | | Hearing Impairment (HI) |
| Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) | Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI) | | | | Physical Disability (PD) |
| Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (PMLD) | Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD) | | | | Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) |
| Speech Language Communication Needs (SCLN) | Visual Impairment (VI) | | | | Other known learning condition(s) |
| *Please quantify the amount and type of experience and describe relevant and appropriate qualifications to particular conditions.* | | | | | |
| **Please outline any relevant experience working with the following types of pupil. Select all that apply and provide details of relevant experience or qualifications in the box below.** | | | | | |
| Externalising pupil with behavioural issues | | Complex neurodevelopmental needs | | | |
| Child at high risk of sexual exploitation | | Signs of sexually harmful behaviour | | | |
| Eating disorder or showing risks of self-harm | | Internalising pupil / severe social phobia | | | |
| Complex offending/substance misuse issues | | High-dependency child | | | |
| *Please provide additional information regarding the classifications of pupil dealt with.* | | | | | |

**REFEREES**

The company requires a minimum of two relevant, satisfactory references prior to employment.***Please complete the section below in full***

Please give details of your last two employers or of your employers over **the last 5 years**. If your two most recent employers don’t cover at least two years of work history, please provide additional referees to make up this time period.

College leavers should provide the name of a lecturer/tutor/professor, where appropriate. If this is not possible, please give the names of professional persons best able to write a reference in support of your application. *Friends/relatives cannot act as referees.*

**NB: If you are applying for a position where you will be working directly with young people, we generally require two references relating to your previous work in this area.**

References may be taken up before interview. If you are not willing for your current employer to be contacted at this stage, please write NO in the space provided here:

***Please note that we reserve the right to take up references from any previous employer.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant Name: | | |
| Referee 1 | Referee 2 | Referee 3 (optional) |
| **Company Name:** | **Company Name:** | **Company Name:** |
| **Referee’s Name:** | **Referee’s Name:** | **Referee’s Name:** |
| **Position in Company:** | **Position in Company:** | **Position in Company:** |
| **Address:**  **Post code:** | **Address:**  **Post code:** | **Address:**  **Post code:** |
| **Telephone no:** | **Telephone no:** | **Telephone no:** |
| **Email:** | **Email:** | **Email:** |
| **Date employment started:** | **Date employment started:** | **Date employment started:** |
| **Date employment finished:** | **Date employment finished:** | **Date employment finished:** |
| **Position held by you:** | **Position held by you:** | **Position held by you:** |
| **Did you have direct contact with young people in this position? YES/NO**  **(please circle / delete as appropriate)** | **Did you have direct contact with young people in this position? YES/NO**  **(please circle / delete as appropriate)** | **Did you have direct contact with young people in this position? YES/NO**  **(please circle / delete as appropriate)** |

**DECLARATIONS**

**Rehabilitation of Offenders**

In accordance with current legislation you are required to provide the following information, which will be passed on to the Disclosure and Barring Service to check the existence and content of any criminal records including cautions, reprimands and final warnings. Due to the nature of the work for which you are applying the provisions of section 4(2) of the rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 do not apply by virtue of the rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (exemptions) order 1975. This in effect means that you must declare below any previous convictions, including cautions, reprimands and final warnings and including all those which for other purposes are ‘spent’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you have any convictions that are unspent under the rehabilitation of offender’s act 1974? (including cautions, reprimands and final warnings) | Y/N |
| If yes, give details: | |

**DBS Declaration**

All staff in the TCES Group are DBS checked. If you are successful, you will be required to provide relevant evidence of the following details prior to your appointment. Applicants who have lived overseas will need to provide an overseas police record check for any countries you may have previously resided in.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you hold an Enhanced DBS check? | | | | Y/N |
| Number |  | Date of issue |  | |
| Counter Signatory |  | Registered Body |  | |
| Are you currently on the DBS update service? | | | | Y/N |
| Do you give us permission to apply for an Enhanced DBS if successful? (Copies of ID taken at interview will be used to process an Enhanced DBS application in the name of The TCES Group). | | | | Y/N |
| Are you aware of any police enquires undertaken following allegations made against you, which may have a bearing on your suitability for this post? | | | | Y/N |
| Can you confirm that I am not on the Children’s Barred List, disqualified from teaching or working with children, nor under sanctions imposed by a regulatory body | | | | Y/N |

**CONSENT**

I consent to the information that I provide on this application form being checked against all relevant records and I am aware that any ‘spent’ convictions will be disclosed by the DBS. Should I have any convictions, I consent to the The Complete Education Solution (TCES) passing on details of these convictions to any prospective Local Authority.

I am aware that providing false information is an offence and that doing so may lead to my application being rejected, summary dismissal if I have been selected for the post and possible referral to the police.

**Privacy notice**

We process personal data relating to those who apply for job vacancies with us or who send speculative job applications to us. We do this for employment purposes, to assist us in the selection of candidates for employment, and to assist in the running of the business. The personal data may include identifiers such as name, date of birth, personal characteristics such as gender, qualifications, and previous employment history.

We will not share any identifiable information about you with third parties without your consent unless the law allows or requires us to do so. The personal data provided during an application process will be retained for a period of at least six months or, if required by law, for as long as is required.

This privacy notice does not form part of an employment offer or contract between us. If we make an employment offer to you, we will provide further information about our handling of your personal information in an employment context separately.

If you would like to find out more about our data retention policy and how we use your personal data, you want to see a copy of the information about you that we hold or have any questions or issues regarding data protection, please email us with the Subject “Data Protection Request”.

I declare that the information provided on this application form is true and correct. I understand that, should any information prove to be incorrect, this could lead to my application being rejected or, if selected for employment, disciplinary action.

Please also complete and return the Equal Opportunities Form, which we need for monitoring purposes.

**Signature of Candidate: ……………………………………………………………… Date: ……………………..**

NB: If you are returning this form by email, you will be asked to sign your application at the interview.

**Section 7: TCES MONITORING INFORMATION**

We will treat the information provided as strictly confidential and will only use it for monitoring purposes. The information you provide will be used to produce anonymous statistics to help us with equal opportunities

**Vacancy details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Position applied for |  |

How did you find out about this vacancy?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TCES Website |  | Newspaper Advert |  | (Please state which paper) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word of mouth |  | Website Advert |  | (Please state which website) |  |

**Sex** Are you **Age Range** Are you

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Male |  | Female |  | 18-24 |  | 25-35 |  | 35-45 |  | 45-60 |  | 60+ |  |

**Ethnic Origin** How would you describe yourself? (Categories are based on the 2001 census)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| White | British |  | Irish |  |  | | |
|  |  |  | |  | | |
| Other |  | Please give details | |  | | |
| Mixed | White and Black Caribbean |  | White and Black African |  | White and Asian |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | |  | | |
| Other mixed |  | Please give details | |  | | |
| Asian or Asian British | Indian |  | Pakistani |  | Bangladeshi |  | Tamil |  |
|  |  |  | |  | | |
| Other Asian |  | Please give details | |  | | |
| Black or Black British | Caribbean |  | African |  |  | | |
|  |  |  | |  | | |
| Other Black background |  | Please give details | |  | | |
| Chinese or other ethnic | Chinese |  |  | | | | |
|  |  |  | |  | | |
| Any other ethnic |  | Please give details | |  | | |

**Disability** Have you had any of the following difficulties?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Diabetes | Mild |  | Moderate |  | Severe |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dyslexia | Mild |  | Moderate |  | Severe |  |
| Hearing Difficulties | One |  | Both |  |  |  |
| Deafness | Mild |  | Moderate |  | Severe |  |
| Difficulty with speech | Mild |  | Moderate |  | Severe |  |
| Visual difficulties | One |  | Both |  |  |  |
| Blindness | Mild |  | Moderate |  | Severe |  |
| Limited use of arms or Legs | Yes |  | No |  |  |  |
| Use a Wheelchair | Yes |  | No |  |  |  |

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (The disability Discrimination Act defines a disabled person as someone with ‘a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes |  | No |  | Prefer not to say |  |

**Religion**  What is your religion? (Categories are based on the 2001 census)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| None |  | Buddhist |  | Christian |  | Hindu |  | Muslim |  | Jewish |  | Sikh |  |
|  |  |  | | |  | | | | | | | | |
| Other |  | Please give details | | |  | | | | | | | | |

**Sexuality** What is your sexuality? (Categories are based on the 2001 census)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Heterosexual |  | Gay or Lesbian |  | Bisexual |  | Prefer not to say |  |

Appendix A: MEDICAL HISTORY

**The following information will be kept confidential:**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1a. Have you currently, or ever had any of the followingmedical conditions | **YES** | **NO** |
| Heart trouble |  |  |
| Lung Disease |  |  |
| Stomach / bowel trouble |  |  |
| Jaundice / hepatitis |  |  |
| Joint Problems |  |  |
| Headaches / Migraines |  |  |
| Diabetes |  |  |
| Allergies |  |  |
| Severe stress reaction |  |  |
| Serious accident |  |  |
| High blood pressure |  |  |
| Asthma |  |  |
| Hernia or rupture |  |  |
| Kidney / bladder disorder |  |  |
| Back /neck problems |  |  |
| Fits / blackouts / epilepsy |  |  |
| Depression / anxiety |  |  |
| Hearing / sight problems |  |  |
| Skin problems |  |  |
| Surgical operations |  |  |
| Mobility problems |  |  |
| Are you registered as disabled |  |  |
| Has your employment ever been terminated on the grounds of ill health? |  |  |

1b. Approximately how many days sickness absence did you have in the last 12 months\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1c. If you have answered **‘yes’** to any of the above questions, please give details. This is particularly important where you have a qualifying disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as it will enable us to identify what, if any ‘reasonable adjustments’ can be made.

(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)

2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What is your height? |  | | What is your weight? | |  | |
| What is your weekly consumption of alcohol? | | | |  | | |
| Do you smoke? | | | |  | | |
| Are you currently taking prescribed medication? | | | |  | | |
| Are you currently under the care of a doctor or other medical professional? | | | | | |  |
| Name and address of GP | |  | | | | |

**DECLARATION (Please sign before returning)**

I hereby declare that the information given is true and complete. Furthermore I am not aware of any condition, medical or otherwise, which would limit or affect my employment or performance. I understand that if, at a later date it is discovered that I have knowingly withheld medical information, disciplinary action may be taken against me, which may include dismissal

Signed……………………………………… Date: …………………………………………….

Please Print Name…………………………………………………………………………………………….

*TC EDUCATION SERVICES*

*Agency Supply Staff Agreement*

**Agency name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Statement of safe recruitment practice**

*“It is important that thorough checks are made on anybody who will be working in a school ... both to prevent unsuitable people from gaining access to children and young people and to maintain the integrity of the teaching profession and confidence that schools .. are safe places for children and young people”* DfES guidance *‘Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education’ DfES 2007*

In accordance with the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003 (the Conduct Regulations), we confirm that:

We have made checks to ensure that any supply staff have the qualifications required for the post

All appropriate checks have been undertaken in line with those a school would be required to carry out for its own permanent staff employees, including Children Barred checks and DBS enhanced disclosures

**In line with the above and with the further requirements placed on agencies where the position involves working with vulnerable persons, in this case children, we have in all cases obtained, and will provide copies of the work seeker’s relevant qualifications or authorisations, and two independent references**

A DBS disclosure no. will be given and, where DBS disclosures contain information, a copy of the disclosure will be provided to the appropriate named person within TCES

*Where a DBS disclosure contain information a copy of the risk assessment carried out by the agency will be forwarded to the appropriate named person within TCES*

**As the supply worker is to work with children, we have also taken all reasonable steps to confirm that the worker is not unsuitable for the work**

“While the Conduct Regulations do not spell out what “all reasonable steps” means, the School Staffing (England) (Amendment)(No2) Regulations 2006 and the Further Education (Providers of Education)(England) Regulations 2006 specify that a DBS Disclosure must be obtained, and a copy supplied for supply staff to the relevant [education setting] where the Disclosure includes information.”

We have also made all reasonable enquiries to ensure that the interests of the supply worker and TCES as the hirer would not be harmed if the worker were to carry out the work

The supply worker will bring a valid photographic form of personal ID when arriving for work for the first time at any TCES education site.

**I confirm that I have the authority to sign for all London and Essex branches of the agency I work for**

Signed:**………………………………**Name:**…………………….**Job Title:**.………………………...**

**It is understood by TCES that any agency which carries the DCSF Quality Mark for supply agencies has been inspected by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation and found to comply with good recruitment practices (and) is specifically signed up not only to performing all the required checks (which of course all agencies have to do), but also to good practice in recruitment and development of the staff they supply.**

**NB: When faxing confidential information, agencies are asked first to confirm by phone that a fax is being sent and, for security, to first fax a blank sheet of paper and confirm receipt by the named recipient, to ensure it has been sent to the correct fax number.**

Form Reference HR/SG112007-002

Lombard Business Park

8 Lombard Road

Wimbledon

London

SW19 3TZ

Email: info@tces.org.uk

TCES Logo with no background Confirmation of Vetting Checks

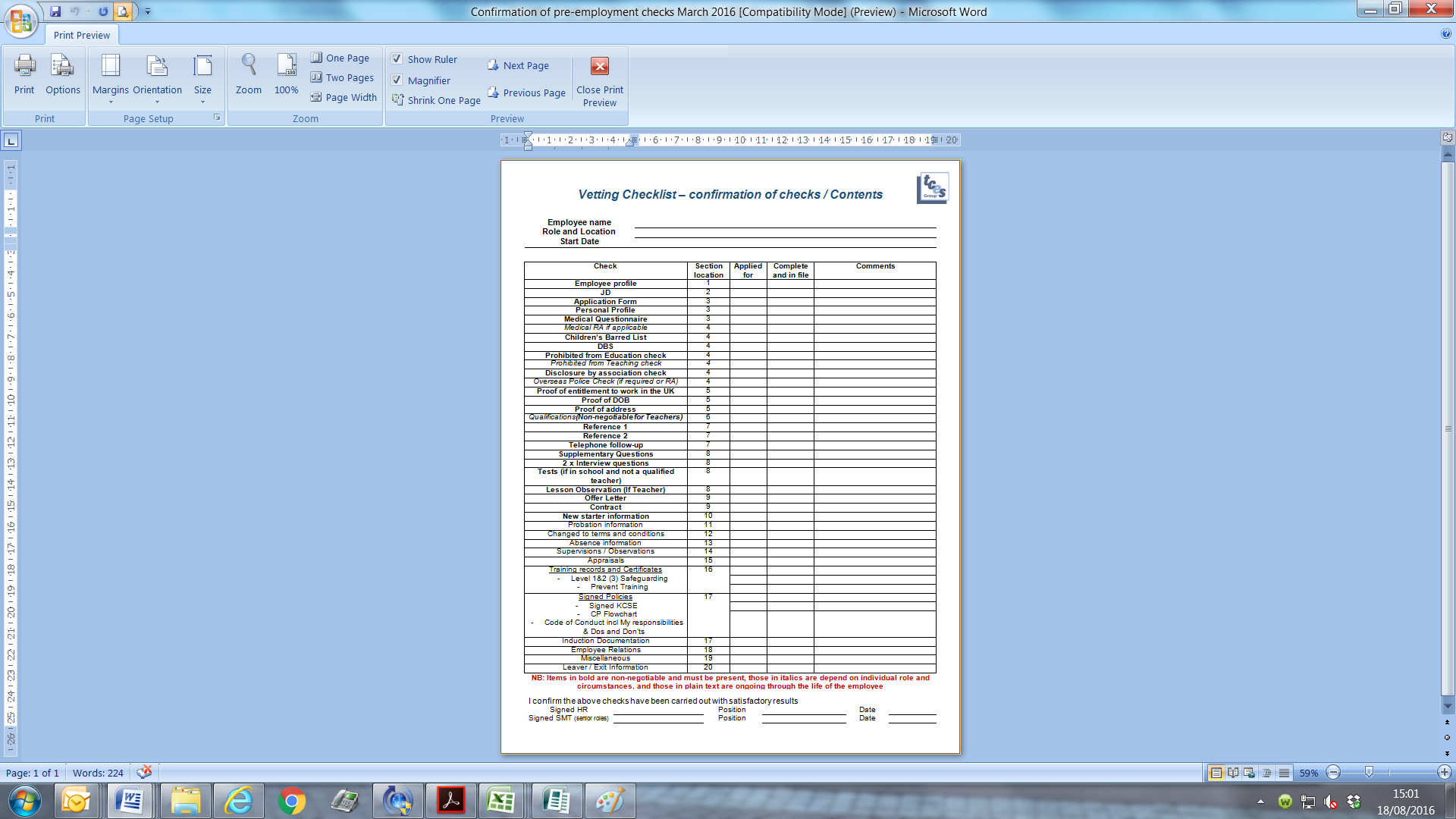
Transitional Care

Education Services

Private and Confidential

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Send to:** | **From** |
| **FAO:** | **Date:** |
| **Phone Number:** | **Phone Number:** |
| **Fax Number:** | **Fax number:** |

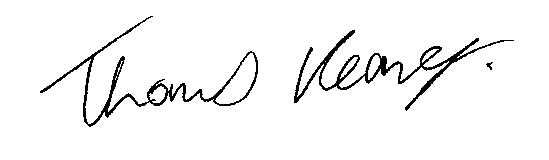
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| As required under Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education, could you please confirm the following checks have been carried out on INSERT NAME   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Vetting Check Required** | Date | | Details | | **2 satisfactory references** one being from the current or most recent employer, and one relating to the candidate’s most recent work with children (if applicable)  **State date each was obtained** |  | |  | | **Identity checks,** state what was seen and when |  | |  | | **Check on qualifications required for the role** – **state what was seen and when** |  | |  | | **Has a CRB enhanced disclosure been applied for – if yes give reference number** |  | |  | | **CRB Enhanced disclosure seen / received** – Disclosure no  Issue Date  Issuing Body |  | | | | **If not from your agency have you seen a copy of the candidates CRB** |  |  | | | **ON THE CRB IS THERE ANY INFORMATION UNDER THE HEADINGS: CONVICTIONS, CAUTIONS, INFORMATION ON THE LIST HELD UNDER SECTION 142, INFORMATION HELD ON THE ISA CHILDREN’S BARRED LIST OR ISA VULNERABLE ADULT’S BARRED LIST** *if so we require a copy of the disclosure to be forwarded to us before the individual can start work as per the safeguarding and safer recruitment in education legislation* |  |  | | | **If not from your agency was clear portability obtained** |  |  | | | **Did the disclosure include any additional information**  *if so we require a copy of the disclosure to be forwarded to us before the individual can start work* |  | | | | **ISA Children’s barred list** – please state if this was clear and the date |  |  | | | **Overseas criminal record check** (where applicable) Please provide details of the check and the date carried out |  |  | | | **Medical Fitness** – please confirm the worker is fit to work in a school |  | | | | **Professional status** (ie confirmation of QTS status if applicable.) Please provide GTC number |  |  | | | **Complete induction** and/or probationary period as required for the position. |  |  | |   **I confirm the above information is correct**  Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Agency Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **I confirm that the above named agency worker is cleared to work for TC Education Services**Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Position\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (For) |



The Complete Education Solution

Policy Sign Off

**This policy was agreed and implemented by Thomas Keaney on behalf of TCES:**

[](https://dl-web.dropbox.com/Local%20Settings/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/Local%20Settings/POLICIES%20(EFS%20&%20Company)%20%20&%20PROCEDURES%20OCTOBER%202007-%20FINALISED%20V2/TK%20sig.doc)

**Signed: CEO, TCES.**

**Date of next formal review: September 2022**