

KARIBU African Women's Support Group

PROCEDURE for reporting abuse (actual or suspected): Safeguarding

The following procedures must be followed: -

- **Report it – do not delay**
All suspected abuse must be reported in confidence as soon as is possible, and followed up in writing within 24 hours.
- **Discuss your concerns with your Safeguarding Officer.** *if you do not have one it should be made direct to Suffolk County Council Customer First Support Service*

DO NOT INVESTIGATE

Refer to Children and Young People's Services and/or Police. You or the Safeguarding Officer should make the referral. Parents and carers should be advised that you are doing this unless this might put the child at risk or cause any delay in referring

- **Making a referral to Children's Social Care and/or the Police.**
Customer First on 0808 800 4005

If you are worried about the *immediate* safety of a child/young person and cannot contact the Safeguarding Officer call the police on 999.

- **Record what you have seen, heard and said.**
Your report must be accurate and where possible use the child's exact words if they disclosed the information to you, not your own.
- **Record the time and date, including the year**
- **Don't promise to keep what you are told a secret**
- **Tell the child or young person what you will do next**
- **Do not make promises you cannot keep**

For further guidance you can get a copy of "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused" published by HM Government, Department for Education and Skills can be downloaded at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

Remember...

Domestic Incidents/Abuse since January 2005 The legal definition of "significant harm" to children was extended in January 2005 to include harm suffered from seeing or knowing of the abuse of another, particularly in the home. This was reinforced by the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A referral must be made direct to Children's Social Care if it seems reasonable to suspect that:

a) a child sees, hears, experiences or is otherwise aware of domestic abuse – i.e. that domestic abuse is part of their experience of family life. This applies regardless of whether they actually witness any particular event or are physically harmed, and

b) the non-abusing parent will not be able – for whatever reason – to ensure the safety and well being of their child without significant professional assistance and support.

Referrals should be made with the agreement of a parent unless the child's best interests are not served by seeking or obtaining consent. Non-consent should not be a barrier to referral if there is on the face of it reasonable cause to suspect that the child may suffer significant harm or otherwise not have significant needs met.

The Government defines domestic abuse as;

“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”

Agreed by the Management Committee

Signed: O.O.Uzokwe

Date: 12/11/2024

Reviewed

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