

# CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



All elements of child protection fall within the Education Authority safeguarding policy, issued in April 2019.

The EA Youth Service has a duty of care for the welfare, safety and protection of children and young people using their services. They will carry out this duty through the safeguarding policy, which aims to ensure a caring, supportive and safe environment is provided.

One way in which the youth service seeks to protect children and young people is by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and to acquire the confidence and skills needed to keep themselves safe.

All staff including auxiliary, ancillary and youth workers, paid and voluntary, have been subject to appropriate criminal background checks. All staff have adopted the Youth Service's "Code of Practice for Adults Working with Children" which dictates appropriate behaviours when working with young people.

The purpose of the safeguarding policy is to protect children and young people by ensuring that everyone who works in a youth provision - youth workers and non youth work staff - has clear procedures on the actions to be taken where abuse or neglect of a child/young people has been disclosed, observed or suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child.

The designated youth worker for child protection within the youth centre/project will inform the EA's Child Protection and Safeguarding service, or in their absence, Social Services and/or the PSNI, of any disclosure, concern or suspicion of child abuse, in order to protect the child from further harm. Similar prompt action will ensue in the event of a complaint, disclosure, concern or suspicion against a member of staff.

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## Child Protection Court Orders of Exclusions

To ensure the safety of young people, the Youth Service should be informed of any court order or exclusion of a named adult(s) who should not be in contact with a specific child or young person. By signed the registration form, the person with parental responsibility indicates that no such order or exclusion exists. However, if one does exist, the appropriate form should be obtained from the youth worker in charge and completed.

## External organisations that can provide support

### Gateway Services

Northern Trust	0300 1234 333
Belfast Trust	028 9050 7000
South-Eastern Trust	0300 1000 300
Southern Trust	0800 7387 745
Western Trust	028 7131 4090
Out of Hours Emergency Social Work Service	029 9504 9999

### External Organisations

PSNI Public Protection Unit 101
NSPCC 0808 800 5000
Family Support NI 0845 600 6483
Childline 0800 1111

***The EA Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found at:***

***<https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/safeguarding-and-child-protection>***



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www.youthonline.org.uk