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# Allegations of Abuse Policy

## Policy Statement

**Ofsted requires all registered providers to have a policy regarding allegations being made against an adult working in the setting, whether they are a member of staff or a volunteer.**

Appropriate policies and procedures, as well as following the principles of good practice, protect both children and adult members of the practice team. However, an allegation may be made and in such circumstances these procedures should be followed.

## Procedure to follow when an allegation is made against a member of staff

Clarify who the allegation is about flow chart

If the allegation is against any other member of staff/volunteer

If the allegation is against the owner of the company

Report to Jayne Dainty

07843391751

Report should be made to your LADO

**If the child is in immediate danger of significant harm, always call 999.**

1. The member of staff against whom an allegation has been made should always be:
   1. Treated fairly and honestly and helped to understand the concerns and the processes involved
   2. Kept informed of the progress and outcome of any investigation and the implications for themselves, e.g. disciplinary or related processes
   3. Kept informed about events in the workplace if they have been suspended.
2. Suspension does not need to be automatic. It should be considered in cases where:
   1. It is suspected that a child(ren) is at risk of significant harm
   2. The police are investigating the allegation
   3. There are grounds for dismissal due to the nature of the allegation.

* Any allegation should be treated seriously and objectively, with those concerned keeping an open mind. They should not:
  1. Investigate or ask leading questions if seeking clarification
  2. Make assumptions or offer alternative explanations
  3. Promise confidentiality (reassure that the information will only be shared on a “need to know” basis).
* They should:
  1. Make a written record of the information given, including the time, date and place of the incident(s), persons present and what was said; sign and date the written record
  2. Ensure that the setting's procedures are followed.

## Procedures to help protect staff from allegations of abuse

Staff should follow the provision's Code of Conduct and the Staff Handbook, particularly ensuring the following.

* The safety and welfare of the child is always paramount.
* Staff must fulfil their responsibilities and duties towards children by working in partnership with parents/carers.
* Staff relationships with children and families are conducted in a professional manner at all times.
* All provision policies and procedures are followed, those listed below are particularly relevant:.
  + Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy
  + Code of Conduct Policy
  + Equal Opportunities/Inclusion/Special Educational Needs policies.
* Staff must be vigilant in health and safety matters, e.g. recording any bruises/marks a child has on arrival in their incident book (separate pages for each child to ensure confidentiality) and keep comprehensive and up-to-date records.
* Comprehensive reporting of all children’s' accidents should be made to parents using the paper accident forms, and a signature from parents/carers should be sought. Where possible any written account should be witnessed by a second staff member.
* Any training needs identified in team members should be passed on to their Support Managers.
* Advice, help and/or support is sought if they find a child's behavior is persistently challenging or difficult to manage.

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| If the individual returns to work following suspension, the employer should consider what help and support might be appropriate and how best to manage the staff member’s contact with the child concerned if they are still attending the setting. |  |

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| Signed: | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Jayne Dainty\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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| Date: | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_23/06/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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| Policy review date: | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_22/06/2021\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |