

HELP SHEET: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Most children are safe and well cared for both by their families and the organisations that provide activities or care for them. The abuse of some children and young people does sadly occur. Although Hanover is a provider of older peoples housing and related services, there may be situations where staff may need to respond to concerns about the wellbeing and safety of children.

We all have a responsibility for the safety of children. Hanover's Safeguarding Children Policy is clear and simple. We are committed to ensuring, as far as it is within our power to do so;

- That children visiting or living on Hanover estates are protected from all forms of abuse.
- That staff are clear about what to do about their concerns about children's wellbeing and safety.
- That we make appropriate checks when recruiting staff.

Hanover staff may come into contact with children and young people in many different situations. They may, for example;

- live on the estate,
- stay with residents for holidays or visits,
- attend estate events like summer fetes,
- visit as part of a school group,
- cut through the estate on their way somewhere else.

Staff may be told about concerns for a child, or a child might say something to a member of staff.

There are four main areas of abuse; physical, emotional, sexual and neglect. Staff are trained to know what constitutes child abuse and how to deal with concerns.

Housing Managers have an important role to play in advising and supporting estate based staff. Hanover has also appointed a "Lead Safeguarding Officer" to provide additional guidance and direction.

The procedure for dealing with suspected child abuse is straightforward. All child abuse concerns should be discussed immediately by the staff member with their line manager, or in their absence the Lead Safeguarding Officer or another Senior Manager. Appropriate written records must be kept. Where concerns remain, the Duty Social Worker, the Police or both must be alerted.

We do not expect or encourage staff to have any on-going role in child protection, unless this is an agreed part of an interagency approach.

Contact details

For further information you may wish to use the following sources;

Government legislation:

- [The Children Act 2004](#)

Government guidance:

- [Every Child Matters](#)
- [What to do if you are worried about a Child](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

[NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children](#)
0808 800 5000

Childline
0800 1111

Related documents: Safeguarding children policy
 Safeguarding children procedure
 Safeguarding residents and service users policy