

THE NORTH WEST CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP



Founded 1976

Registered Charity No 1141826

Company Limited by Guarantee 07205677

SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES FOR HELPERS

Safeguarding means much more than protecting children from abuse, it includes providing children with a safe environment, allowing children to achieve success and satisfaction, making sure children's rights and needs are met, making sure children are treated with dignity and respect and allowing children to learn, play and develop free from harm.

DO ensure that the child's welfare is paramount

DO provide an example you would wish others to follow

DO respect the rights of all children whatever their age, ability, culture, gender or sexual orientation

DO respect each child as an individual and respond to their individual needs

DO respect a young person's right to personal privacy

DO be aware of the relative powerlessness of children, especially disabled children, compared to adults

DO avoid inappropriate physical contact

DO be aware that your actions might be misinterpreted, no matter how well intentioned

DO be committed to actively preventing the exploitation and abuse of children

DO be prepared to challenge poor practice or inappropriate behaviour, or at least alert the holiday leaders to it

DO NOT show favouritism towards any individual

DO NOT make suggestive remarks or gestures.

DO NOT allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes

DO NOT exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues

DO NOT jump to conclusions.

What should you do if you suspect a child in your care is being or has been abused?

- Report your concerns to the holiday leaders or to the NWCSG designated Child Protection Officer
- Write down what you observed or were told, using the child's words
- Professionals trained in identifying child abuse will make many more checks
- No one will blame you if it turns out abuse has not taken place
- It is better to be alerted unnecessarily than to fail to protect a child

How to respond if a child confides in you

DO remain calm

DO listen carefully

DO be aware of non verbal messages including facial expressions

DO make it clear you are taking them seriously

DO acknowledge their courage and reassure them they are right to tell

DO tell them they have no reason to feel guilty

DO tell them you are going to do all you can to help them and what may happen as a result

DO record what was said using the child's actual words and note who was present

DO NOT show shock or distaste

DO NOT probe for more information than is offered

DO NOT speculate or make assumptions

DO NOT make negative comments about the abuser

DO NOT make promises you cannot keep eg "everything will be alright"

DO NOT agree not to tell anyone

What should you do next?

Follow the steps indicated above for when abuse is suspected.

What should you do if an allegation is made against yourself or another helper?

Follow the steps indicated above for when abuse is suspected.