



AAUK Policy - Safeguarding Children Policy

Designated safeguarding children lead for AAUK - Geraldine Evans (Director)

Contact Geraldine on 07999599486 (24 hours a day) or email

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England and Wales. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

Appropriate Adults UK's involvement with children is through the provision of appropriate adult services to detained juveniles. An appropriate adult's main concern should not be the guilt or innocence of the detained person, but his or her physical and emotional welfare. Appropriate Adults UK (AAUK) will not tolerate the abuse of children in any of its forms and is committed to safeguarding children with care and support needs from harm.

This policy outlines the steps AAUK will make to safeguard a child with care and support needs if they are deemed to be at risk. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of AAUK in working together with other professionals and agencies in promoting the child's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

AAUK will ensure that decisions made will allow juveniles to make their own choices and include them in any decision making. AAUK will also ensure that safe and effective working practices are in place. This policy is intended to support all AAUK staff and any parties working on behalf of AAUK to understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. All staff and representatives are expected to follow this policy.

AAUK will:

- ensure all staff and third parties working on behalf of AAUK have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying staff and representatives
- provide training for all staff and representatives on safeguarding at a level proportionate with their role
- follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process
- capture and share information lawfully within the parameters of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

AAUK staff and representatives will:

- contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
- report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by an AAUK staff member or representative to the designated named person for safeguarding in AAUK

The key objectives of this policy are for all employees and representatives of AAUK to:

- have an overview of child safeguarding
- be clear about their responsibility to safeguard children
- ensure the necessary actions are taken where a juvenile is deemed to be at risk

All children should be able to live free from fear and harm. But some may find it hard to get the help and support they need to stop abuse. Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children, regardless of their professional title or job role. Anyone working with children should have an understanding of how to safeguard children. AAUK staff and representatives will:

- Look out for and recognise child welfare issues and raise concerns they have over the welfare of a juvenile
- Speak with our Designated Safeguarding Person about making a referral to social care if and when necessary, and share information with the relevant authorities
- Challenge any poor practice whilst in the company of a juvenile, and that they are being treated fairly.
- Ensure the child understands all aspects of what is happening, any questions being asked and decisions being made involving them

AAUK adheres to following the six key principles that underpin safeguarding work (See Care Act guidance)

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

AAUK will not tolerate the abuse of children and staff and representatives should ensure that their work reflects the principles above and ensure the child is involved in their decisions and informed consent is obtained. AAUK should ensure that the safeguarding action agreed is the least intrusive response to the risk. Partners from the community should be involved in any safeguarding work in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. AAUK should be transparent and accountable in delivering safeguarding actions.

AAUK will ensure that juveniles are involved in their safeguarding arrangements and each individual is dealt with on a case by case basis.

What is abuse, and how do you recognise signs of abuse?

Abuse in a child is any action by another person. This can be an adult or another child who purposefully causes significant harm to a child through ill treatment, damage to their health or development. This may include causing the child harm or acting in a certain way which prevents harm.

Children can be abused anywhere, including their home, an institution, in the community or online. The abuser is often someone they know such as a parent or guardian, a professional working with them or a stranger.

Categories of abuse

The four main categories of abuse are:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

Physical abuse & how to detect it

Physical abuse is deliberately causing harm to a child. There is not one sign or symptom to look out for that will say a child is definitely being abused physically. With this in mind, any concerns that arise should be made known to the relative authorities and the Designated safeguarding children lead for AAUK will be made aware. Signs of physical abuse can involve, but is not restricted to:

- Hitting or kicking
- Shaking
- Burning or scalding
- Drowning
- Suffocating
- Poisoning
- Fabricated or induced illnesses

Indicators of physical abuse and what to look out for:

Bruises

- Bruises where they wouldn't normally be found, such as the tops of the legs
- Clusters of bruises
- Bruises with dots of blood beneath
- Bruises in the shape of a hand or an object

Burns or scalds

- Multiple burns or scalds
- Burns in the shape of objects, such as a circular burn that could have come from a lit cigarette

Bite marks

- Wounds that are oval or circular in shape
- Indentations or bruising from individual teeth

Fractures or broken bones

- Fractures to the ribs or legs of babies
- Multiple fractures that are at different stages of healing. This can suggest they have happened on separate occasions

Other

- Effects of poisoning such as vomiting or drowsiness
- Respiratory problems as a result of drowning or suffocation
- Children being told that they are unwell (fabricated or induced illness)

Sexual Abuse & how to detect it

Sexual abuse covers a wide range of abusive behaviours and involves forcing or enticing a child or your young person to take part in sexual activity, whether the child is aware of what is happening or not. These activities can be put into two main categories:

- **Contact Abuse** – Forms of abuse where the abuser forces physical contact with a minor. This may include but is not restricted to penetrative acts, kissing and inappropriate touching.
- **Non-contact abuse** – Forms of abuse that involves no physical contact such as grooming, exploitation, persuasion of a child to perform a sexual act over the internet, and producing indecent images of a child

Indicators of sexual abuse and what to look out for:

The below examples may not be something that an AAUK representative will personally witness due to the role and involvement, but it is something that the juvenile may bring to the representative's attention in an attempt to gain help or raise alert.

Physical symptoms to be aware of:

- Unusual discharge
- Soreness in intimate areas
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy
- The child may be sexually active at a young age
- They have sexual knowledge that you would not expect them to have

Emotional abuse & how to detect it

Emotional abuse can be much more difficult to detect as there are often no obvious signs visible. Instead, we must look to detect a child's behaviour such as their reactions to certain people or situations. Emotional abuse can include:

- Humiliating or constantly criticising a child
- Threatening or shouting at a child
- Blaming or scapegoating
- Pushing a child too hard and not recognising the child's limitations
- Manipulating and controlling a child

- Exposing a child to distressing events such as drug use
- Persistently ignoring them

Indicators of emotional abuse and what to look out for:

As a representative of AAUK and the setting in which we will accompany the juvenile, some of the indicators we may come across that suggest a child is being emotionally abused could be the following:

- The child has a lack of confidence and/or low self esteem
- Their behaviour may be anxious, or become wary easily
- They may seem emotionally distant from their parents/guardians
- They may struggle to control their emotions or act aggressive towards others
- They can be excessively clingy or feel the need to constantly please others

Neglect & how to detect it

Neglect is often the continuous failure to meet the needs of a child both physically and psychologically. This can cause damage to the child physical and mental health as well as their development. Below are some examples of neglect in a child:

- Their parent/guardian doesn't provide basic food, clothing and shelter. This can include evicting a child from the family home
- Their parent/guardian has failed to protect them from emotional or physical harm or danger of any kind
- Their parent/guardian fails to supervise them appropriately or properly
- Their parent/guardian does not allow them access to relative medical care or attention

Indicators of neglect and what to look out for:

As a representative of AAUK and the setting in which we will accompany the juvenile, some of the indicators we may come across that suggest a child is suffering neglect could be the following:

- They have lack of or inadequate clothing
- Their appearance is untidy, clothing unwashed or dirty
- Appear hungry and in search of food

Other abuse categories

There are many other forms of more specific abuse in addition to the four main listed above. Below are other types of abuse

Domestic abuse – A child witnessing domestic abuse at home, between parents for example, is a form of domestic abuse that can have significant effects on the child mentally.

Online abuse – Any type of abuse that happens on the internet. This could be through many platforms such as social media networks and online gaming

Child Sexual Exploitation – This can be abuse in which the child is sexually exploited for money or power

Genital mutualisation – The part or complete removal of external

Bullying – Bullying can take place in any environment, is often repeated over a period of time and often affects a child mentally as well as physically

Child Trafficking – Where children are recruited, moved or transported and exploited, sold or forced into working

Grooming – This is when someone falsely builds trust in a child or young person, for the purpose of exploiting them. This can happen via the internet or in the real world, by a stranger or even someone the child is familiar with.

Harmful sexual behaviour – This is inappropriate sexual activity that occurs between children of different ages. This includes using sexually explicit words and phrases, inappropriate touching and using sexual violence or threats.

Disclosures from children

Children and young people may not make voluntary disclosures for a number of reasons, such as:

- The child may not be aware that the situation they're in is unusual.
- They are often fearful of the abuser
- They may love the abuser and are concerned the abuser will be punished if they disclose information
- They may feel guilt or that they are to blame
- They often feel concern that they won't be believed
- Due to their age, understanding or additional needs, they may not have the ability to disclose the information

Occasionally, a child may disclose the information to you directly. They may give you a full detailed account of their abusive experience. Or, they may disclose small amounts of information at a time which can even be to more than one person. There are ways in which we should react to a child disclosing information to us, and equally behaviours in which we should avoid.

AAUK representatives will ensure the correct behaviour is followed should a child choose to disclose abusive information to them. Some of the main points to remember are listed below:

- Stay calm, don't react to the child's disclosure in any way that could prevent them from continuing. Avoid expressing your own opinions such as shock or outrage, as this may make the child feel more anxious or scared to continue.
- Listen carefully to what the child has to say. Listen more than you talk, avoid offering advice or a solution to the problem.
- Don't rush the child. Ensure you give them plenty of time to explain what they are trying to tell you and try to capture as much detail as possible.
- Always reassure the child that they've done nothing wrong in telling you about their experience.
- Avoid using 'why' questions as this can impact the child's response and how comfortable they feel in continuing explaining their experience

- Be Supportive – ensure the child knows they're not in trouble, they have done the right thing and you are very glad they told you.
- Reassure them – Make sure they know that you will do everything you can to help them.
- Be honest – make them aware you will have to tell some other people, whose job it is to protect them and will help
- Report – At the earliest possible stage, report the disclosure to our Designated Safeguarding Lead (Geraldine Evans). The sooner you report it after the information being disclosed, the better.
- Set their expectations – Tell the child what will happen next, but without making promises about anything you're not certain about. You should only provide promises that are realistic and achievable
- Taking notes – If possible, take notes and write down exact quotes while the information is fresh in your mind. This may become very useful should any other parties become aware at a later date.

Generally, if a child has chosen to disclose information regarding an abusive experience, they are doing so because they feel comfortable to. They will feel that they can trust the person they are confiding in, and it's extremely important to ensure this is maintained. An AAUK representative will **NOT** behave in the following manners should an incident of disclosure occur:

- Promise confidentiality – You have a responsibility to disclose the information to the right people, and promising that you're not going to do this would be untrue and will affect the child's trust in you
- Express own views – a reaction of shock/disbelief could trigger the child to change their story or not be completely honest with the details to make them sound less than the truth
- Interrogate – Do not try to investigate or interrogate the child yourself. This will be handled in the correct manner by the correct authorities
- Ask questions that imply the child is in anyway at fault for what has happened such as 'why didn't you tell me before now?'
- Talk to the alleged abuser – never get into conversation with the abuser, this could jeopardise the investigation or give the abuser the opportunity to persuade the child to change their story
- Delay reporting the abuse – you must tell your DSL and the custody officer as soon as possible

Reporting and recording your concerns

Reporting - You should contact the AAUK DSL as soon as possible, and report your concerns regarding the juvenile to the custody sergeant. Always ensure that your concerns are logged on the custody record.

How to raise concerns

The designated safeguarding adults lead for AAUK is:

Geraldine Evans

Tel: 07999599486 (contactable 24 hours a day)

Email: geraldine@appropriateadultsuk.co.uk

If for any reason she is unavailable, the alternative contact is:

Shelley Renshaw

Tel: 07483316405 (contactable 24 hours a day)

Email: shelley@appropriateadultsuk.co.uk

All staff and representatives should contact Geraldine for any concerns/queries they have regarding safeguarding children. A log of the concern must be kept.

Geraldine will be responsible for making decisions about notifying social services if required and consider alternative actions, where necessary. Geraldine will also ensure that the safeguarding adults' policies and procedures are in place and up to date. They will ensure a safe environment is promoted for staff, representatives and children accessing the service. Geraldine will ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding children training.

AAUK staff and representatives who have any children safeguarding concerns should:

Respond

- Take emergency action if someone is at immediate risk of harm/in need of urgent medical attention. Dial 999 for emergency services.
- Get brief details about what has happened, but do not probe or conduct a mini investigation.
- Be honest with the child and explain what action you will take to report the concern. Consider how you are explaining this dependant on the age of the child and do so in a way the child will be comfortable and confident in the actions you are taking.

Report

- Report concerns to Custody Sergeant and the designated safeguarding person for AAUK.

Record

- Ensure concerns are added to the custody record. The designated safeguarding person will also record the concerns in the secure/confidential incident log.

Refer

In deciding whether to refer or not, the designated safeguarding person should consider:

- the juvenile's wishes and what outcome they are hoping for
- whether the child (age dependant) has mental capacity to make an informed decision about their own and others' safety
- the safety or wellbeing of children or other adults with care and support needs
- whether there is a person in a position of trust involved
- whether a crime has been committed

The designated safeguarding person should keep a record of the reasons for referring the concern or reasons for not referring.

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and may affect one person or more. Staff and representatives should look beyond single incidents to identify patterns of harm. Accurate recording of information will also assist in recognising any patterns.

Roles and responsibilities

All staff, management and representatives at AAUK are expected to report any concerns to the named person for safeguarding. If the allegation is against one of AAUK's staff members, representatives or directors, seek advice from Geraldine Evans. If the allegation is against the safeguarding lead, seek advice from your local councils Social Care team.

The designated safeguarding children lead should be responsible for providing acknowledgement of the referral and brief feedback to the person raising the original concern. Feedback should be given in a way that will not make the situation worse or breach the Data Protection Act. If the police are involved, they should be consulted prior to giving feedback to the referrer to ensure any criminal investigation is not affected.

The local authority will decide on who will lead on a safeguarding enquiry should it progress to that stage. AAUK will not conduct its own safeguarding enquiry unless instructed to do so by the local authority.

Complaints procedure

AAUK have a discreet complaints procedure in place, dealt with by the designated safeguarding children lead. Any complaints in relation to AAUK staff or representatives will be dealt with at the highest importance.

AAUK is committed to ensuring that staff and representatives who in good faith whistle-blow in the public interest, will be protected from reprisals and victimisation.

Confidentiality and information sharing

AAUK expect all staff, management and representatives to maintain confidentiality at all times. In line with Data Protection law, AAUK does not share information if not required.

It should however be noted that information should be shared with authorities if a child is deemed to be at risk of immediate harm. Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people can make all the difference to preventing harm.

Recruitment and selection

AAUK is committed to safe employment. Safe recruitment practices, such as Disclosure and Barring checks reduce the risk of exposing children to people unsuitable to work with them.

Training, awareness raising and supervision

AAUK ensures that all staff and representatives receive basic awareness training on safeguarding children as they may come across children with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse. Those children may report things of concern to staff or representatives who should be equipped with the basic knowledge around safeguarding adults and be confident to identify that abuse is taking place and action is required. All staff and representatives should be clear about the core values of AAUK's commitment to safeguarding adults.

Similarly, staff and representatives may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of adults. AAUK has a separate policy for safeguarding adults available to all staff and representatives.

Prevent

Radicalisation and extremism of children is a form of emotional/psychological exploitation. Radicalisation can take place through direct personal contact, or indirectly through social media.

If staff are concerned that a child is at risk of being radicalised and drawn into terrorism, they should treat it in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

All AAUK are asked to complete the home office prevent training:

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

Useful links

Care act- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Safer recruitment-

<http://www.islingtonscb.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Safer%20recruitment%20%20safeguarding%20children%20and%20adults%205%20August%2013.pdf>

Carer and support statutory guidance-

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/506202/23902777_Care_Act_Book.pdf

Prevent-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>