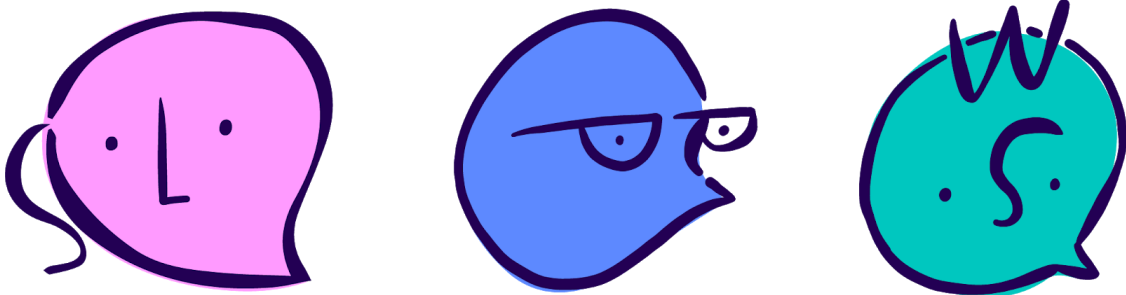# Single Parents Wellbeing

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

SAFEGUARDING LEAD NOVEMBER 2020- 2021:
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Reviewed November 2020:
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Contents

1.   Introductions

Single Parent Wellbeing (SPW) is a peer lead social enterprise. SPW aims to provide a positive outlook for single parents. Offering a compassionate and empowering approach to being a single parent, with a focus on single parent's wellbeing.

This Wellbeing and Safeguarding Policy and Procedure document will;
- Illustrate the commitment of Single Parents Wellbeing (SPW) towards safeguarded from harm or abuse, which includes during any event, workshop, meet-up or interaction, including online.
  This will cover; staff, trustees, ambassadors, peer leads, parent members and their children are
- Outline what action SPW will take if a safeguarding issue is disclosed or identified, and a central process for responsibility.
- Ensure safeguarding is a key governance priority, therefore upholding the high standards set by the Charity Commission for all charities, not just those that work with groups traditionally considered vulnerable.

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Part 1: Wellbeing and Safeguarding Policy

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Introduction to the Policy

This section sets out SPW's policy commitments that aim to promote wellbeing and safeguarding members, trustee's, volunteers, ambassador, peer leads, SPW staff and children and young people.

The policy covers five key areas;

a) **Why:** The reason SPW need a Wellbeing and Safeguarding Policy
b) **Laws and Policies**: The legal powers and protocols that apply in Wales that ensure SPW can recognise the signs of risk and abuse earlier to prevent harm occurring. As well as informing SPW what to do if harm has already happened. Learning from these.
c) **Defining wellbeing and safeguarding in Wales:** adults and children.
d) **Define roles**, responsibilities and expectations of parent members, SPW staff, trustees, volunteers, ambassador and peer leads.
e) **Development:** training for trustees, volunteers, ambassador, peer leads, SPW staff. This will also include SPW commitment to increasing development opportunities for parent members.

2. Why is Wellbeing and Safeguarding Important?

'It is everyone's business'.
Safeguarding means protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. Therefore, any organisation that works with adults and children especially those that may be vulnerable, which includes Single Parents Wellbeing (SPW), have legal responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

Safeguarding is a valuable and integrated part of the organisation's governance framework. It relates to:

- health and safety
- staff recruitment, development and retention
- quality assurance
- funding
- risk assessment

Having effective and appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures provides the public, partners and members the reassurance that SPW contributes to the positive reputation of the third sector in general. At SPW we recognise the importance of our role and commitment to safeguarding.

For context, collaborative safeguarding duties and requirements were created in 2003 after Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbe'

"It is important to understand what went wrong in the way individual social workers, police officers, doctors and nurses responded to Victoria's needs, and how deficiencies in their organisations contributed to this"

Whilst Lord Laming's report concentrated on improving the response from public services to safeguard children, his recommendations also acted as a catalyst to remind people that everyone in society has a responsibility to recognise and report concerns if they believe a child or adult is at risk of, or being harmed or abused.

Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding - it is everybody's business!

SPW believes that by actively empowering and enabling parents and children to recognise neglect and harmful behaviour, and to feel confident to report it, we will collectively shape a more nurturing and kinder world that is less tolerant and compliance to abuse.

3.   Safeguarding Policies and Laws in Wales

3.1   Laws and Policies relating to Child Safeguarding

The following are the key laws that provide the police and children's social services with the right powers to intervene and offer support, interventions and services to families that need it. The aim is always to put the child's needs first. But, if a child is in immediate danger, they have the legal powers to remove children and place them in the care of the Local Authority.

- **The Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004**

- **The Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014**[1]: The Act came into force on 6 April 2016 and changes the ways services assess people's needs and how services are delivered. This gives people greater power and more say over the care and support they receive. The Act works alongside the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, with a specific focus on improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support.

- **All Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2020**: The Social Services and Well-being Act is supported by these procedures, which are now available by downloading the Safeguarding APP' or at: https://www.safeguarding.wales/.

- The procedures provide detailed information and guidance about the requirements and steps that individuals and organisations must take to protect children, and adults.

In the '**Children and young people at risk of harm'** section the following information and advice is provided:
- Safeguarding principles and effective practice
- Duty to report a child at risk of abuse, neglect and/or harm
- Responding to a report of a child at risk of harm, abuse and or neglect

The procedures also provide additional advice on the following areas of risk;

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[1] http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/pdfs/anaw_20140004_en.pdf

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Criminal Exploitation – links to Knife Crime, Serious Violence and organised crime.

- Radicalisation
- Modern slavery
- Females genital mutilation

These are defined in more detail within Appendix one.

SPW will always check the procedures as they are a live document and updated so that people are acting the most up to date information. *SPW will therefore commit to reviewing this document every six months*.

3.2   The Laws and Policies relating to Adults at Risk

The Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, as outlined above, provides the legislation in Wales to protect adults who are at risk, or being, abused, harmed or neglected.
And, in the same way as child safeguarding, the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures provides everyone with the advice and guidance on the requirements and steps that are needed to prevent harm or neglect, or act as early as possible to remove the risk.

Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 increased the duty on public service to maintain and increase the wellbeing of people in need. This includes providing clear pathways to services and increased access to specialist mental health services. This will help reduce untreated mental ill health within the community. But, defining **Mental Health** is complex as it describes a vast array of illnesses and conditions. A person's mental health can be ever changing, and can be impacted by a variety of reasons, experiences and circumstance. Sometimes this can have short term consequences but could also lead to lifelong conditions. It is for this reason that the core priority for SPW is to promote mental wellbeing.

Working alongside safeguarding legislation in Wales is the **Violence Against Women, Domestic abuse and Sexual violence (VAWDASV) (Wales) Act 2015**. The act was created in recognition that women, men and children become more vulnerable within, or when leaving an abusive relationship. The VAWDASV Act aims to identify, prevent, protect and support more victims and survivors of any form of abuse.
One key element of the Act was the implementation of the National Training framework (NTF). This ensures that public services and organisations have access to training to acquire the skills and knowledge to better identify and response to VAWDASV.

In some cases, a single parent who is in mental distress and has experienced abuse and/or neglect may be considered a vulnerable adult and may be

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offered support and referral to the appropriate services. In such situations please follow the Wellbeing and Safeguarding Procedures in section 8 below.

3.3   Definitions

3.3.1   Definition of Child Safeguarding and Promoting Welfare of Children

- **Child**: anyone under 18 years old
- **Child at Risk**: anyone who is under 18 who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm; and who has needs for care and support.
- **Harm:** means abuse or the impairment of physical or mental health, or, physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.
- **Neglect**: failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs. And likely to result in an impairment.
- **Significant harm**: is determined when compared with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.

In addition, the Act also **defines** '**Well-being'** in relation to any of the following:

(a) physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
(b) protection from abuse and neglect;
(c) education, training and recreation;
(d) domestic, family and personal relationships;
(e) contribution made to society;
(f) securing rights and entitlements;
g) social and economic well-being;
(h) suitability of living accommodation.

3.3.2   Definition of Adult Safeguarding and Protection

As documented in the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures (S126 (1)) defines an Adult at Risk as someone

- Experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect
- Has needs for care and support
- Is unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect or the risk of it

This definition may include a person who:

- has learning disabilities
- has mental health problems
- is an older person with support/care needs
- is physically frail or has a chronic illness
- has a physical or sensory disability
- misuses drugs or alcohol
- has an autistic spectrum disorder

4. Roles and Responsibilities

As per the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2020, everyone (which includes SPW staff, trustees and volunteers, peer leads and ambassadors) has the following responsibilities with regards to concerns about the welfare of a child or young person;

4.1 Safeguarding responsibilities for everyone

✔ Understand their role and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults;

✔ Be familiar with and follow the organisation's procedures and protocols for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and know who to contact in their organisation to express concerns about a child's welfare;

✔ Be alert to indicators of abuse and neglect;

✔ Have access to and comply with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures;

✔ Understand the principles and practices contained in Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004;

✔ Have received child protection training to a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities;

✔ Know when and how to refer any concerns about child abuse and neglect to social services or the police;

4.1.1 Additional ways to safeguard children and families

In addition to the about responsibilities, there are other ways in which everyone who works with children and families can contribute to the safeguarding of children and the child protection process:

✔ Treat the child's welfare as paramount;

✔ Be alert to and aware of the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;

✔ Recognise when a parent or caregiver has compromised parenting capacity, that is, problems which may affect their capacity to provide effective and appropriate care, or which may mean they pose a risk of harm to a child.

✔ Be aware of the impact and effects of abuse and neglect on children;

✔ Have an understanding of the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families, which underpins the processes of assessing needs, planning services and reviewing the effectiveness of service provision at all stages of work with children and families;

✔ Share and help to analyse information so that an informed assessment can be made of the child's needs and circumstances;

✔ Contribute as required to provide help or a specific service to the child or a member of their family as part of an agreed plan and contribute to the reviewing of a child's progress;

✔ Contribute as necessary at all stages of the child protection process;

✔ Contribute to regularly reviewing the outcomes for the child against specific shared objectives;

✔ Work cooperatively with the parents, unless this is inconsistent with the need to ensure the child's safety;

✔ Be committed to fully cooperating with all other agencies in the interests of safeguarding children.

4.2 All SPW Parent Members

SPW do not expect parent members to meet all the same responsibilities as SPW Directors, volunteers, ambassador, peer leads and trustees. However as per The All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008, it is everyone's responsibilities to protect the welfare of children. It is expected that all SPW parent members understand the following and take action (see Part 2: Procedures, what to do) where they have a concern over a child's welfare, or safety;

✔ be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect;

✔ be alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children, young people or vulnerable adults;

✔ to promote and raise awareness of safeguarding with members

✔ Are encouraged to actively engage and participate with SPW on all platforms to enhance and promote their own, and others wellbeing

5. Safeguarding and Wellbeing Training and Development

SPW recognises that in order to safeguard effectively and raise awareness, it's necessary to work together and take a holistic approach to enhancing the skills and knowledge base of staff, trustees, volunteers, members and their children is paramount.

The training framework below illustrates the training, required, offered, and available for different individuals, as we recognise the different levels of responsibility.

Directors and Employees	Volunteers Ambassadors, Trustees and Peer Leads
Will have obtained the following qualifications and training regarding safeguarding and wellbeing; ● Safeguarding Children – Recognition, Referral and the Child Protection Process ● Introduction to Safeguarding – Raising Awareness of Abuse and Neglect in Children ● Introduction to Adult Safeguarding – Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility ● Domestic Abuse Awareness; and Domestic Abuse – Effects on Children Awareness ● Complete Peer Lead Training	All adults that volunteer will be asked to attend the following training as soon as possible. The training will be made available on the SPW website. ● Introduction to Safeguarding – Raising Awareness of Abuse and Neglect in Children ● Introduction to Adult Safeguarding – Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility ● Domestic Abuse Awareness; and Domestic Abuse – Effects on Children Awareness ● Complete Peer Lead training
Continual professional development (CPD) The following courses are recommended for employees to attend: ● Understanding Perpetrator training ● Ask and Act Training: For professional to understand how to ask questions about domestic abuse, violence against women and sexual violence, and take action. CPD is included as a core strand of the SPW strategy and monitored and measured through the SPW action plan.	

This policy aims are implemented, delivered, monitored and success is measured through the Single parents Wellbeing strategic and annual Action plan.

6. Introduction to the Procedures

This section concentrates on the processes that SPW have implemented to ensure SPW can identify staff, trustees, volunteers, parent members and children who may be at risk or vulnerable to safeguarding in a range of circumstances. The section also outlines what practical steps staff, trustees and volunteers will take when they identify any safeguarding issues.

These Procedures cover three key areas;

- **Security and Vetting Procedures**

- **Safeguarding Procedures**

- **Complaints procedure**

7. Security and Vetting Procedures:

7.1 Employees

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of parent members and their children SPW will ensure;

All employees of SPW will have DBS checks prior to any activity with parents or children.

7.2 All Trustees and Volunteers

All Trustees and Volunteers need to attend Peer Lead Training and where Peer Lead volunteers are in contact with children ie workshops without parents present then an Enhanced DBS check is to be carried out.

7.3 Online membership

7.3.1 'Single Parent Wales' Facebook group: Accepting New

SPW have an active and _engaging Facebook group_, which is called 'Single Parents Wales'.
The Single Parents Wales Group on Facebook is the access point and portal for single parents to officially join SPW and gain access to the SPW community which includes walks, meet-ups, workshops and social events.

To become a SPW member closed Facebook group;

- All members complete a membership form which is sent to SPW directors for approval.
- The SPW Director for People, Development and Events, prior to accepting a new member, will do preliminary checks on the individuals Facebook profile to ensure the person requesting to join; lives in Wales, is a single parent, and has no adverse relationships with existing members (i.e. if their ex parent is already a member it is operated on a 'first come first served basis'). This maintains the safety and wellbeing of members and their children and is paramount to the effectiveness.
- The SPW Director for People, Development and Events will store the membership form securely for safeguarding purposes.
- Once accepted members are directed to the SPW members rules and guidelines which outlines members conduct and etiquette. These are kept under 'Topics' tab and 'Group Rules' on the SPW Facebook group.

7.3.2 Single Parent Wellbeing Website

SPW website is a public website and content is accessible to members of SPW and non-members. The events pages are password protected and parents need to sign up and agree to adhere to rules and regulations.
Membership sign up forms means that they are asked if they are a single parent, whether they live in Wales plus a link to the Terms and Conditions.

7.4 Online Classes/ meet up's etc

SPW have set up a range of online classes/ workshops/meet-up etc via SPW Zoom account. To ensure this is a safe environment, all SPW employees, volunteers, ambassadors and peer leads, when organising must ensure the following steps are followed;

- All read the safeguarded steps above and familiar with this document.

- All members must have booked via the SPW website. This will ensure all members have signed up to SPW terms and conditions.
- The organiser will instruct members to turn on cameras to enter the event. This will ensure they can verify the person's identity. The booking name and screen name must match.
- Organiser will set up a waiting room
- All children and are fully clothed

If a person doesn't turn on their camera the organiser can be removed immediately. If there is a safeguarding issue the organiser can shut down the meeting.

7.5   Face to Face safeguarding processes

All members who have been accepted onto SPW Facebook group or are registered on the SPW website, have access to all SPW events. 'Event' describes all activities arranged by SPW and volunteers' staff, this includes meet ups, rambles, holidays, workshops, training, day trips and all social events organised through SPW staff.

The following is undertaken by SPW staff and volunteers will ensure the safety and wellbeing of parent members and their children at all events;

- Members can only attend events with their children or young people. There may be special circumstances where a single parent may wish to attend an event without their child(ren) and this will be considered and agreed by the SPW Director on an individual basis and safeguarding risk and concerns will be considered in the decision.
- Employees will ensure that any child or young person is not left alone at any time with an adult other than the parent that they have attended the event with.
- No adult will provide communication details, such as social media, telephone numbers to any child or young person other than their own child or young person
- Children and young people can pass information between themselves which is then overseen by their individual parents or guardian.
- If an SPW member wishes to set up their own event and invite SPW members, SPW expects the event to adhere to the above processes and view at least the Safeguarding section of the Peer Lead training.
- If an SPW member sets up an individual event separately and not agreed through SPW, then SPW can't be held responsible for safeguarding the individuals.
- SPW will remind all parent' members of their own safeguarding responsibilities, as per section 4.2.

7.5   Removing a member

- Group rules and guidelines outline the remit for removing members. These are kept under 'Topics' tab and 'Group Rules' on the SPW Facebook group.

7.5.1 Appeal process

The SPW advisory group collectively decides when a member is removed which is in line with the rules and guidelines.
If the member wishes to appeal, they can follow the complaints procedure see link
https://www.singleparentswellbeing.com/policies-and-procedures

SPW will record the reasons for members termination on internal SPW systems which are password protected and restricted access.
On the FB Group these are also stored in the admin section under notes.

8.   Steps we will take to safeguard children and adults at Risk

8.1   Safeguarding process for SPW Directors, employees and volunteers

8.1.1. What to do if you have concerns that a child is at risk of abuse or a 'vulnerable adult'

The All Wales Safeguarding Procedures outline the safeguarding duty on all practitioners to report. These duties are enshrined in the Social Service Well-Being Act (2014).

Therefore, the following steps must be undertaken by any practitioner, which is anyone SPW staff, trustees, ambassadors, volunteers and peer leads who has a concern or suspicion that a child or a vulnerable adult is at risk, or likely to be at risk of harm. The harm does not have to have occurred *(see section 3 above for more detail).*

Step 1: Recognise

If you have suspicion that a child or adult is at risk of abuse, or likely to suffer abuse, these may take the form of 'concerns' rather than 'known facts'. *For example, you notice a change in the behaviour of a child that coincides with a*

new partner moving into the family home. Before moving to step 2 undertake the following

- Evidence: consider what has raised your suspicions; did a child disclosure abuse (see additional steps to support you responding effectively and sensitively to a disclosure), have you observed behaviours or have you seen or been given information about the child or family.
- Disclosure: If a child has disclosed abuse please also read the steps outlined in 8.1.2.
- Consent: If a parent has concerns for their capacity to provide appropriate care to a child or raises concerns of self-harm, it may be appropriate to encourage self-referral with your support or gain consent for referral to assist the family in accessing co-ordinated specialist support.

Step 2: Respond

Ascertain if there is immediate risk, either immediately or if they return home.

If there is no immediate risk then Refer/ Share- suggest agencies and organisations that may help and offer support. Advise that you will be talking to SG lead to see if they have any suggestions around support. Signpost to website links page also.

If you are unsure about significant harm. Refer Share/ Seek verbal advise from SO, this can be done also if the person isn't willing to clarify information. SO will judge whether to formally report the incident.

Step 3: Refer/Share your concern

- Speak to the Safeguarding Lead at first opportunity. Share the safeguarding concern with SG Lead and debrief with them.
  - If no SG concern then r
  - efer to relevant agencies and check with SG Lead if they have any suggestions, including checking links on website.

- Ring the Local Authority (where the incident was reported to you or took place) to report your concerns to social services. This is called a 'referral'. While concerns may not necessarily trigger an investigation, they help to build up a picture, along with concerns from other sources, which suggests that a child may be suffering harm.
- Within 1 day you must confirm your concerns in writing. Outside office hours, referrals should be made to the social services emergency duty service. Every social services department has a referral form. Complete the referral form and email to the department. Save a copy of the referral and send to the SPW Directors responsible for safeguarding to securely save on the central SPW system for audit purposes and possible future reference.

- If you have concerns for the child's welfare you can ring the police to undertake a welfare check.   Referral forms can be emailed to you by the local social services department when you make your verbal referral.

Step 3: Keeping a Record

- **Write as soon as you can (within 24 hours) and record on our website or by sending an email to SG Lead with the following info:**

Type of concern
Name (and name of people involved eg children)
Concern summary
Concern date and time
Details of concern
Is this urgent
Action taken

- All referrals are centrally recorded through the SPW password protected folder, it will be recorded securely (password protected) on SPW systems so that there is an audit trail in case there are further enquiries or concerns.

After Safeguarding Concern:

Safeguarding Lead call Social Services 48 hours after reported incident.
Take action, if necessary for removing someone from the group.

Take advise from Social Services whether we should be checking on the child and adult? Update on the situation and safeguarding SPW members.

8.1.2 Helpful steps to consider if a child or vulnerable adult *discloses* they have been abused

Step 1: Listen

Show the person that you understand what they have said and acknowledge it may be difficult for them to share this with you:
- Encourage them to talk, but do not prompt or ask leading questions
- Ask questions to clarify don't ask them to repeat their account
- Don't interrupt
- Let them go at their own pace
- Check that you have understood them
- Acknowledge that it might have been difficult for them to share this with you

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- Explain what will be done next and whom the info will be shared with (age appropriate)
- Do not promise them to keep this a secret or confidential, as you have a responsibility to disclose information to those who need to know. Reporting concerns is not a betrayal of trust.

Step 2: Record their account

- **Record what was said using the person's own words**
- **Keep all the information on a need to know basis**
- **Make sure you know how to contact the person**

Write as soon as you can (within 24 hours) and record on our website or by sending an email to SG Lead with the following info:

Recording prompts:

Type of concern
Name (and name of people involved eg children)
Concern summary
Concern date and time
Details of concern
Is this urgent
Action taken

- Report your concerns to a SPW SG Lead, include a debrief
- If a disclosure is made to any SPW director, they will follow the steps below.

Step 3: Refer/ Share information

Follow steps in 8.1.1.

8.2 Safeguarding process for <u>anyone</u> who has a concern about a child or vulnerable adult

Safeguarding children and adults at risk is everyone's business.

Therefore, everyone, which within this policy includes parent members, should be aware of the following steps to undertake if they have any concerns or suspicions that a child or adult is at risk of abuse or harm.

If someone directly disclosures abuse or harm please see the additional steps in 8.1.2 that can support you and ensure you respond appropriately.

Appendix One : Definitions of Abuse and Exploitation

Child abuse and neglect:
Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child, young person or vulnerable adult.   Somebody may abuse or neglect an individual by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.   They may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.   They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse:
Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to an individual.   Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in an individual.

Emotional Abuse:
Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of an individual such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their emotional development and wellbeing.   It may involve conveying to them that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.   It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.   These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. For adults it may include controlling activities and keeping them socially isolated. It may involve serious bullying causing individuals frequently to feel frightened or in danger. It can also involve exploitation or corruption.   Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of an individual, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse:
Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child, young person or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not they are aware of what is happening.   The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (eg: rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children and young people in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children and young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect:

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet an individual's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development. For children, neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.   Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing, shelter including exclusion from home or abandonment, failing to protect a child or young person from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.   It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a **type of sexual abuse**. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.

Child Criminal Exploitation

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes are **victims in need of safeguarding and support**. Though perceptions are altering these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity.

Violence against Women, Domestic abuse and Sexual Violence

There are a number of national and internationally recognised definitions of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV).

The UK Government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

🎬 Psychological 🎬 Physical 🎬 Sexual 🎬 Financial 🎬 Emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

The Government definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment   Please   see   for https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-strategy