

THE TRIANGLE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

Ashmole Street, London SW8 1NF
Reg Charity no. 303145



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Statement

Triangle Adventure Playground Association (TAPA) is committed to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all children and young people. TAPA upholds the right of children and young people of all races, cultures, religions, genders, sexualities, and abilities to be supported and protected from abuse of any kind. TAPA is fully committed to the provision of equal opportunities for all.

All members of TAPA's Management Committee shall be required to familiarise themselves with this Safeguarding Policy and Procedures document. Under the terms of their employment all staff will be required to familiarise themselves with this document and to sign a declaration that they have done so.

TAPA shall designate as Safeguarding Officers a senior member of its Management Committee and a senior member of staff. Ultimate responsibility shall lie with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (usually the Chair or Deputy Chair.) On site responsibility shall lie with the Senior Playworker as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL.) When either person is to be absent for any length of time, e.g. holiday, it shall be their responsibility to ensure that their Safeguarding responsibilities are suitably deputised.

Both senior persons responsible for safeguarding shall be responsible for ensuring that staff are kept informed of updated protocols, altered contact details, etc, as required. The DSL shall conduct an audit of Safeguarding Policy and Procedures at least once a year.

Safeguarding against abuse

Children and young people may be abused and/or neglected by their parents, carers, guardians, other young people, or trusted adults as well as by strangers. It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent neglect and the physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any neglect or abuse that is disclosed or suspected.

Definitions of abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to, a child whom they are looking after. A person might do this

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because they enjoy or need the attention, they get through having a sick child. As well as being the result of an act of commission, physical abuse can also be caused through omission or the failure to act to protect.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children 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, the limitation of exploration and learning, or the prevention of the child's participation in normal social interaction. It may involve the child seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve bullying, causing a child to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of a child including the emotional or intellectual manipulation of a child for extreme political or religious purposes. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is specifically aware that what is happening is abuse. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual on-line images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Boys and girls can be sexually abused by males and/or females, by adults and by other young people. No category of person can be excluded from suspicion of abuse. Most abuse is carried out by persons trusted by the child.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs such as is likely to result in the impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter, and clothing; failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger; failing to ensure adequate supervision or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Signs of physical abuse

- Any injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries which occur to the body in places which are not normally exposed to accidental damage
- Unexplained bruising, marks, or injuries on any part of the body
- Bruises which reflect hand marks or fingertips (from slapping or pinching)
- Cigarette burns
- Bite marks
- Broken bones
- Scalds
- Injuries which have not received medical attention
- Under nourishment, failure to grow; constant hunger; stealing or gorging food; untreated illnesses; inadequate care
- Repeated urinary infections or unexplained stomach pains

Changes in behaviour which can indicate physical abuse

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- Fear of parents, carers or siblings being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to reveal signs of abuse, for example, wearing long sleeves in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Reluctance to return home

Signs of emotional abuse

The physical signs of emotional abuse may include

- A failure to thrive or grow particularly if a child puts on weight in other circumstances: e.g. in hospital or away from their usual agency of care
- Sudden speech disorders
- Persistent tiredness
- Development delay, either physical or emotional

Changes in behaviour which may indicate emotional abuse include

- Obsessions or phobias
- Sudden under-achievement or lack of concentration
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults
- Being unable to play
- Attention seeking behaviour
- Fear of making mistakes
- Self-harm
- Fear of parent, carer or sibling being approached regarding the child's behaviour

Signs of sexual abuse

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include

- Pain, itching, bruising, or bleeding in the genital/anal area
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Vaginal discharge or infection
- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy

Changes in behaviour which may indicate sexual abuse include

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- Sudden adoption of extravagant 'bravado' behaviours
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Having nightmares
- Running, or staying away from, home
- Sexual knowledge which is inappropriate to age or development level
- Sexual drawings or language
- Bedwetting

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- Eating problems such as over-eating or anorexia
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Indicating that there are 'secrets' that cannot be disclosed
- Substance or drug abuse
- Sudden unexplained sources of wealth
- Becoming isolated from former friends (particularly in adolescence)
- Acting in a sexually explicit way with adults

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.

Indicators

There are a range of potential indicators that a girl may be at risk of FGM. Warning signs that FGM has taken place are often difficult to identify. The list below is not exhaustive but may indicate a concern:

- a girl has difficulty walking or sitting or looks uncomfortable.
- a girl finds it hard to sit for long periods of time, and this was not previously a problem.
- a girl spends longer than normal in the toilet due to difficulty urinating.
- a girl spends long periods of time away from a classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems.
- a girl has frequent urinary, menstrual or stomach problems

The indicators of the risk of FGM are often subtle and the list below is not exhaustive:

- a female child's family comes from a community known to practise FGM.
- the family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by elders and/or elders are involved in bringing up female children.
- a woman/family believe FGM is integral to cultural or religious identity
- a girl/family has limited level of integration within the UK community
- Parent/Carers have limited access to information about FGM and do not know the harmful effects of FGM.
- a girl confides to a professional that she is to have a special procedure or attend a ceremony to 'become a woman'.
- a girl talks about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent.
- Parent/Carers state that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period.
- a Parent/Carers or family member expresses concern that FGM may be carried out on the girl.
- a family is not engaging with the professionals.
- a family is already known to social care in relation to other safeguarding issues.
- a girl requests help from a teacher or another adult because she is aware or suspects that she may be at immediate risk of FGM.
- a girl talks about FGM in conversation with other children.
- a girl is unexpectedly absent from school.

Responses to suspected risk of FGM or that a young person has been a victim of FGM

It is recognised that it is unlikely that staff will easily identify students at risk. However, if staff have a concern regarding a girl that might be at risk of FGM they should activate safeguarding procedures via the Designated Lead.

NB. See also Mandatory Reporting Duty, below.

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Mandatory Reporting Duty

Since 31st October 2015 there has been a statutory duty upon teachers and play work staff, social workers, and healthcare professionals, to report to the police in person where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to do so could face disciplinary sanctions. This does not, however, mean that staff are required to act alone. Any such case should be reported to the DSL who will involve the authorities as appropriate and support the member of staff in reporting the matter personally to the police.

Forced Marriage

The Government Forced Marriage Unit has published Multi-agency guidelines. Any concerns should be reported to the DSL who will escalate. Advice or information can be sought from the Forced Marriage Unit. Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email: fmu@fco.gov.uk

Signs of neglect

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- Constant hunger, sometimes stealing food from other children
- Constantly dirty or smelly
- Loss of weight or being constantly underweight
- Inappropriate dress for the social or climatic conditions

Changes in behaviour which can also indicate neglect include

- Complaining of being tired all the time
- Not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend appointments
- Having few friends
- Mentioning being left alone or unsupervised

Hidden harm

Hidden harm refers to the actual and potential effects on children and young people of living with parents or carers suffering from problems relating to substance abuse and/or mental fragility. Such harm is to be regarded as potentially as damaging as any other form of neglect or abuse. Any concerns in this regard must be reported to the DSL who will escalate as appropriate.

Racism

TAPA operates within an inner-city area of rich ethnic diversity. Every person associated with its service has a duty to understand the nature of racial and religious harassment. Failure to protect a child from such harassment or the involvement in acts of such harassment or to act when such harassment is apparent or alleged is likely to undermine other efforts to promote the child's wellbeing. Families may suffer religious and/or racial harassment sufficient in frequency and seriousness to undermine parenting capacity. Equally, in responding to concerns about

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children from a racist family background, full account needs to be taken of this context and every reasonable effort made to end the harassment.

Bullying

Bullying is any behaviour that is intended to hurt, threaten, or frighten another person or group of people. It undermines self-esteem and self-confidence and destroys the victim's sense of security. Bullying may consist in a single act but is more generally recognised as a repeated series of actions directed with malicious intent by an individual or group against a victim. It may hurt physically, emotionally and/or psychologically and is often motivated by prejudice against a particular group: for example, on grounds of race, religion, culture, sex, gender, special educational needs, and disability, or because a child is adopted or is a carer. It may occur directly or through cyber-technology e.g. social websites, mobile phones, text messages, photographs, and emails.

Bullying in any form is fundamentally at odds with the TAPA ethos and is, therefore, wholly unacceptable. TAPA is committed to preventing bullying by maintaining a culture which does not provide fertile ground for bullying in any form and countering bullying if it is found to occur. Any instances of bullying are to be dealt with promptly, robustly, and consistently. Appropriate measures must be taken to support the victim and reform the perpetrator. The Triangle community is based upon respect. Staff should be vigilant and work to prevent bullying as soon as any instance is suspected.

Under the Children Act 1989 a bullying incident should be treated as a child protection concern when there is 'reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm'. Where this is the case, the DSL has a duty to report the concern to the local authority.

Bullying via Social Media

Although bullying in itself is not a specific criminal offence in the UK, it is important to be aware that some types of harassing or threatening behaviour or communications could constitute a criminal offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Malicious Communications Act 1988, the Communications Act 2003, or the Public Order Act 1986. It is, for instance, an offence under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 for a person to send an electronic communication to another person with the intent to cause distress or anxiety or which is indecent or grossly offensive, threatening, or containing information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender. If staff become aware that a young person has concerns of this nature the matter must be reported to the DSL via the DDSL as a matter of urgency.

(See also **e-Safety** below)

e-Safety

Due to the rapid development of Internet, Digital and Mobile Technology (IDMT) younger children may embrace and understand the content of those technologies as a norm of reality and accept the virtual world as a natural co-extension of their physical world. (This is the sense in which children are referred to by some authorities as 'digital natives'.) For this reason they may not understand that their interactions via IDMT may have unintended consequences both online and off. Even older young people

may not fully understand that the consequences of what may seem mischievous or adventurous online behaviour can be critical.

Whereas for adults' digital communication is most usually viewed as a tool, to be used for a specific task (e.g. being accessible to others, accessing information etc), children and young people's emotional lives can be deeply influenced and invested via IDMT.

Adults may not necessarily understand the apparent necessity for children and young people to constantly be online, but it should be appreciated that excessive usage of social media can impair a child's welfare or development by inhibiting social relationships in real life. An extreme use of social media may also act as a barrier to development and communication rather than an aid. We can therefore no longer promote the wellbeing of children and young people and safeguard them without addressing the potential dangers of the world of IDMT.

When appropriate staff should bear in mind the following options:

- Make e-safety a talking point for young people, especially around offline consequences of online behaviour.
- Ensure young people understand the barriers that must be in place to protect them from abuse or exploitation from the professionals that work with them (i.e. the potential dangers young people may face when they send 'friend requests' or give their phone numbers to professionals etc).
- Enable young people to understand the dangers posed by those that may want to exploit them online – either by sexual grooming or by phishing for personal details, especially financial details.
- Ensure children with additional vulnerabilities (i.e. disabilities, learning difficulties or living in dysfunctional environments, etc) are provided with guidance appropriate to their level of understanding.
- Ensure that looked after children are provided with age-appropriate guidance.
- Promote the dangers of cyber bullying and ensure all young people understand what can constitute cyber bullying and the severely damaging effects this can have, especially in light of the real 'life and limb' physical risks of harm that may ensue or escalate from instances of cyber-bullying – as high-profile cases have shown.
- Ensure young people understand that the taking of and distribution of indecent images of children is a criminal offence under s45 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Encourage young people to take advantage of online resources which help to safeguard them.
- Ensure young people know how to recognise, challenge, and respond to e-safety issues.
- Improve levels of awareness and understanding amongst parents/carers and foster carers of the risks posed to children & young people by their use of the Internet, Digital and Mobile Technology (IDMT) and how to minimise and mitigate this.

Any concerns that a young person's wellbeing may be under threat via IDMT interactions should be regarded as a Safeguarding matter and reported to the DDSL.

(See also the TAPA staff e-safety protocols: Safeguarding re Electronic Communication)

Gangs

All TAPA staff will be aware that working as they do at the heart of an inner-city community, they are better placed than almost any other agents to recognise signs of gang influence and to forewarn and advise against gang involvement.

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A protocol has been developed (February 2012) between the Lambeth Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Young and Safe – the service run by Lambeth Council to prevent offending and reoffending, particularly violent offending by young people involved in, or at risk of involvement in, gang activity in Lambeth. This has been further developed (2017-18) as the borough's Young People At Risk strategy. Any sign of gang activity or involvement or suspicion thereof must immediately be reported to the DSL who will act as required by the Borough's protocols.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Extremist views are manifest in vocal or active expressions of radical opposition to fundamental values of human rights including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Such expressions may include calls for the death of members of the armed forces or random or specific members of society. Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

The Prevent Duty

All staff have a responsibility to identify young people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Staff need to be able to assess the risk of children being drawn towards extremist ideas. An important part of this duty is the promotion of democratic values and the development of young people's ability to challenge extremist views. The Triangle must be a safe place where young people can understand the risks associated with extremism and develop the skills to challenge extremist arguments.

If any member of staff is concerned about views expressed on the playground which would identify a young person as at risk of radicalisation the DDSL should report this immediately to the DSL

Terror

It is an unfortunate necessity that we must consider the possibility that the playground could become the target of a terror attack. Although extremely unlikely, we must be prepared to deal with such an emergency in a manner that protects and preserves the lives of everyone on site. Whilst staff will be aware that their position places them in loco parentis regarding the young people on site, they must remain aware that to place their own safety in jeopardy could ultimately result in further hazarding the situation of others. This is clearly a dilemma that can only be a matter of personal judgement in the moment. Our primary concern, however, must always be the safety of the children and young people for whom we are responsible.

Our response to terror should be twofold. As regards to the possibility of an attack, staff should be aware and vigilant and, to the extent possible, plan ahead. Faced with an actual life-threatening event staff should immediately assess the immediate options and act decisively.

Current advice from the British police is run, hide, tell. The Americans have an additional element: run, hide, tell, defend.

The official British guidance is:

RUN – to a place of safety. This is a better option than to surrender or negotiate.

HIDE – remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can.

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TELL – the police by calling 999 when it is safe to do so.

Given the nature of the Triangle site and its open access policy the following is an adaptation of the above.

- All staff are to be issued with whistles which are to be worn on a lanyard round the neck at all times and used ONLY in the event of an emergency. Our young people should be made familiar with the purpose of the whistles and the sound they make through demonstration and rehearsal.
- Following the blowing of a whistle all staff will immediately appraise themselves of the nature of the emergency (fire or attack).
- ONE member of staff, designated on a daily basis and NOT the Senior or Deputy Playworker, will immediately find a safe position from which they are able to phone 999. In the case of fire, they will answer the operator's scripted questions. In the case of an attack, they will pre-empt the operator's questions by stating the following immediately and clearly: "Terror attack in progress on Triangle Adventure Playground. Lambeth, SW8 1NE. Attacker armed with knife/gun/explosives." Having made the call, leave your mobile on and join the rest of the staff in protecting the children.

Given the layout of the Triangle site much will depend on how far an intruder/s has penetrated into the playground. Decisions on how to deal with the situation will have to be taken according to best judgement in the moment. Depending on the position and actions of the intruder it will be a matter of judgement as to whether it would be best to herd the children into the cabin or direct them to escape via the gate. It will of necessity be a matter of individual judgement whether the intruder should be immediately physically challenged.

Members of staff should remember that they are not expected to risk their lives and that no individual can be certain how they will act faced with a terror situation. Nevertheless, all staff are required to do their best to ensure the safety of the young people who are in their charge.

Responsibilities

TAPA will ensure that members of its staff have the opportunity for training in Safeguarding. Staff applicants who are not trained to at least Level 1 will be required to undertake Level 1 training upon recruitment.

TAPA will ensure that each worker (paid or voluntary) employed by the Association who works with children and young people undergoes a rigorous recruitment and selection process under the Equal Opportunities Act which will include interview, references followed up and where appropriate a DBS check.

TAPA is committed to supporting, resourcing, and training those who work with children and young people to ensure the highest standards are reached and maintained. TAPA will provide information to play providers, parents, children and young people on child protection and policy and where to go for help.

It is the duty of the TAPA Management Committee to ensure that all members of its staff are vigilant to the possibility of abuse and aware of the procedures laid down in the organisation's adopted *Child Protection Procedures*. In situations where the abuse of a child or young person is suspected or alleged it

is the duty of staff to adhere strictly to those *Procedures* which have been adopted for the wellbeing of the Association and themselves as well as for the children and young people that the Association serves. Staff must be aware that it is the statutory duty of social services to investigate allegations of abuse (S.47 Children's Act, 1989). It is not the role of members of the Triangle Adventure Playground Association staff to conduct their own investigations.

The Management Committee of Triangle Adventure Playground Association will be responsible for the implementation of this policy according to the adopted procedures.

The persons currently designated as responsible for Safeguarding policies and procedures are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Alan Sutton, Deputy Chair
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) Jonathan Choo, Senior Playworker
(Deputy: Gabriel Green)

Contact details are at the end of this document.

In an emergency

In an extreme situation of imminent danger any person responsible for the Safeguarding of a child or young person should make immediate use of the national emergency service by dialling 999.

Following the resolution of the immediate situation in collaboration with the attending emergency officers the *standard procedures* (below) should be followed as appropriate.

Upon disclosure

Do

- Listen
- Treat any allegations seriously and act at all times towards the child as if you believe what they are saying
- Tell the child they are right to tell you
- Reassure them that they are not to blame
- Be honest about your own position, who you have to tell and why
- Undertake to keep the child or young person informed as to any actions that are proposed and to support the child or young person through those actions
- Take further action – you may be the only person in a position to prevent future abuse – tell the Senior Playworker immediately
- Make a written record of everything that was said and done as soon as possible

Don't

- Make promises you can't keep
- Interrogate the child – it is not your job to carry out an investigation – this will be up to the police and social services, who have experience in such matters. Remember that an allegation of child abuse may lead to a criminal investigation, so don't do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation such as asking leading questions
- Cast doubt on what the child has told you, don't interrupt or change the subject
- Say anything that might make the child feel responsible for the abuse
- **Don't do nothing** – make sure you tell your nominated DDSL immediately – they will know how to follow this up and where to go for further advice

Recording

Do not delay. It is vitally important that any disclosure, even if made in confidence, is recorded factually as soon as possible. Find a quiet place and write it down. This must be done whether or not the matter is taken to another authority. Remember, you are to make as accurate an account as possible of the disclosure. Except to the degree necessary to facilitate the disclosure it is not for you to question, interrogate or seek to verify.

An accurate account should be made of:

- Date and time of what has occurred and the time the disclosure was made
- Names of people who were involved
- What was said or done by whom
- Any further action, e.g. suspension of a worker, volunteer, or young person
- Where relevant, reasons why there is no referral to a statutory agency
- Names of person reporting and to whom reported

TAPA has a policy of open recording. However, recording of child protection issues should not be immediately placed in the records available to the child or young person. This would particularly apply where there is concern about a young person's care of their own child and it has been decided that a referral to social services is necessary. In this instance, were the young person concerned to become aware of an intention to refer could place the child or the member of staff at risk.

Child Protection Procedures

The following procedures provide a framework for responding to situations of possible abuse. Professional judgement is needed before applying these procedures. In this respect, staff are referred to the *Definitions* and *Signs* sections of the Association's *Safeguarding Policy Statement* and are required to familiarise themselves with that document.

If there is thought to be a strong likelihood that abuse has occurred or that there is an imminent risk of abuse

1 Staff should inform the DDSL of the situation as soon as possible. If the DDSL deems it necessary, he/she shall refer the matter on to the DSL. As appropriate, either of the Designated Safeguarding Leads shall immediately refer the matter to the appropriate authority.

If the DDSL is unavailable, staff should contact the DSL direct. In the unlikely event that a staff member is unable to contact either of the DSLs then a referral may be made directly to Lambeth's Children and Young People's (CYPs) Social Care Referral & Assessment Duty Intake Team rather than placing a child at risk by unreasonable delay in the making of a referral. **All necessary contact details are supplied at the end of this document.**

2 Following a statement of concern by a member of staff, if the DSL agrees that there is reason for immediate concern regarding a child's safety and welfare, he/she must make a referral to Lambeth's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). If the DDSL decides that the matter should not be regarded as an emergency, they should nevertheless record that decision and inform the DSL of the matter.

3 In most situations it will be appropriate to inform the child or young person that a referral is going to be made, to explain the reasons for this and to offer support to the child or young person throughout the resulting investigation.

4 If the situation arises out of normal hours, the DSL should contact Lambeth's Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team. If for any reason the emergency officer is not available, then the duty officer in the local police child protection team should be contacted.

5 The person making a referral should note the name of the person they have contacted and the date and time at which the referral was made. They must also clarify what action the authority's officers are proposing to take (police or council) and the timescale of this and they should act on any advice from such officers on what practical steps should immediately be taken.

6 If the DSL has not already been informed of a safeguarding situation, the person making the referral should do so as soon as possible. There will need to be a discussion as to how the child or young person and all staff directly involved in the situation can be best supported for the duration of any investigation deemed necessary by officials.

7 As soon as possible after contacting Lambeth's MASH the person making the referral is required to submit a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF). Copies of this form can be downloaded from the 'Professional Section/Worried about a Child' at the Lambeth Child Safeguarding Board's website - lscb@lambeth.gov.uk

Allegations against members of staff or volunteers

Any concern or allegation made to a member of staff regarding the behaviour of another member of staff or a volunteer must be reported to the DDSL immediately. The DDSL must in turn report the matter to the DSL as soon as possible. If the allegation that has been made relates to the behaviour of the DDSL

then a member of staff must escalate the allegation directly to the DSL who must immediately relieve the DDSL of his/her duties.

On receiving an allegation either safeguarding lead shall follow the protocol laid down in the *Lambeth Allegations Toolkit* (Lambeth Children and Young People's Service, Safeguarding Manager, Feb 2012)

All allegations regarding staff and or volunteers must be reported to Lambeth's Designated Safeguarding Manager for Youth, Voluntary and Third Sector and to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (details below).

Referral

Except in the case of emergency, referrals will be made either by the DDSL (Playground) or the DSL (Management). Referrals will be made to the appropriate authority as designated by London Borough of Lambeth and through the appropriate channels. It shall be the responsibility of the two DSLs to ensure that they are aware of the contact details for all safeguarding channels and that those details are kept up to date.

To make a referral to Early Help:

Complete the [Supporting Families Assessment Tool](#)

Use the [Practice Guidance](#) to support you

Email the tool to helpandprotection@lambeth.gov.uk

If you need help, call [020 7926 3100](tel:02079263100) (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm) or [020 7926 5555](tel:02079265555) (out of hours)

To make a child protection referral to Lambeth Children's Services, go to [Making a Safeguarding Referral](#)
<https://www.lambethsaferchildren.org.uk/access-early-help>

(FOR REVIEW MARCH 2026)

CONTACTS

All matters relating to Safeguarding in Lambeth are the responsibility of the council's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Safeguarding procedures operate from within the borough's Children and Young People's Service (CYPS)

Urgent referrals should be made via the Lambeth Children's Services First Response Team: Tel 0207 926 5555

Following initial consultation with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), other referrals should be submitted by one or other of the DSLs using the electronic Multi Agency Referral Form (MARF: 5th Feb 2015) which is to be held on the personal computers of both the DSLs.

Oval Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team. 0208 721 2761

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline. 0808 800 5000

MASH Children's Social Care professional line (not for members of the public). Tel 0207 926 3100

Out of office hours Emergency Duty Team: Tel 0207 926 1000 (ask for Emergency Social Care Duty Team)

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Lambeth Human Resources Policy Officer Roddy Leith 0207 926 9193

For Safeguarding matters specifically implicating a member of staff:

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Quality Assurance Section, Lambeth CYPS Social Care

Andrew Zachariades Tel: 0207 926 8508

Triangle Adventure Playground Association Playground:

Senior Playworker and Deputy Safeguarding Lead (DSLPlayground) **Jonathan Choo 07900475143**

Triangle Adventure Playground Association Management Committee

Vice Chair of the Management Committee and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL Management)

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Triangle Adventure Playground Association-encouraging community cohesion through play since 1957

Charity No: 303145