

**CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND
PROCEDURES**

FOR

SEEMA KIDS FORUM

The Child Protection Policy and Procedures of the South East England Malayalee Association (SEEMA) states that each child has the right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation. It also states that children should have the right to express their views on any issues or decision affecting them. These guidelines have been produced to help SEEMA members to make them aware of child abuse, and to ensure that they all follow the correct procedures to help vulnerable children and young people from further abuse.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 SEEMA KIDS is committed to providing a safe environment for children. This includes kids participating in any schemes and events. When an adult brings a child to the premises or to an event, it is recognised that the adult should be responsible for that child.

1.2 This policy acknowledges that:

- We will treat everyone with respect
- Remember that some issues are confidential
- Respect a child's right to personal privacy
- Encourage children to respect and care for others
- Be aware that, someone else might misinterpret our actions even if they are well-intentioned
- Provide time for children to talk to us
- Have a group policy for the collection of children after meeting have finished
- All children from SEEMA kids whatever their age,

culture , disability , language, racial origin , religious belief and sexual identity , have the right to protection from abuse.

- All suspicions and allegations of inappropriate behaviour will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- As defined in the Children Act 1989.anyone under the age of 18 years should be considered as a child for the purpose of the document.

1.3 As an organisation which works with young people, and has contact with children, we have a responsibility to act abuse comes light and. As far as possible, to protect children from the possibility of being abused within SEEMA kids forum.

1.4 We are committed to providing a protective culture that puts children's interests first. Whilst respecting a child's and their family's right to privacy and confidentiality, we will endeavor to share information for the purpose of legitimate interests in order to safeguard a child's welfare (in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998)

2. Procedures for Responding to Allegation/Concerns regarding Abuse

2.1 We are committed to providing an open and well-published way in which adults and young people can voice concerns about abusive or unethical conduct.

2.2 We are committed to provide training to executive members to learn about child protection and health and safety.

2.3 All concerns about the welfare of a child or concerns

that a child may be suffering, or at risk of suffering abuse or neglect, should be referred to the Social Services District Offices who will seek to clarify the nature of the concern and whether immediate action is needed to make them safe from harm.

2.4 At the end of any discussion about a child , the referrer and Social Services should be clear about who will be taking what action or that no further action will be taken.

2.5 Under no circumstances attempt to carry out any investigation into allegation or suspicions of abuse. It is the task of Social Services to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act1989.

3. Actions to take after hearing an allegation of abuse from a child

3.1 Make notes about the conversation as soon as possible after the discussion. Record exactly what the child said, when he or she said it, and what was happening immediately beforehand. Note the time, date and place of the conversation and the name of any other person present.

3.2 Either President / Executive Committee member from SEEMA should contact the Social Services District Office.

3.3 Do not be tempted to try to investigate further the claims-this could lead to contamination of the evidence and jeopardise any Police investigation and prosecution activity.

4. Events

Before all our events, a member of executive committee member must carry out a risk assessment on the premises and event. The assessment should include

consideration of any possible child protection issues.

5 Where to make your Referral

Up to date local information social services teams. Contact
08456080191

Appendix 1: What is an abuse?

The definition of abuse outlined below are taken from 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', Department Health 1999. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm.

Child Abuse can take many forms:

1. Physical Abuse:

May involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to child.

2. Emotional Abuse:

This is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless and unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

3. Sexual Abuse:

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact, or in the production of

pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

4. Neglect:

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

5. Organised Abuse:

Organised or multiple abuse may be defined as abuse involving one or more abuser and a number a related or non-related abused children. This abuse occur both as part of a network of abuse across a family or community.

Appendix 2: Signs of Abuse

1. Physical Signs

- Any injuries, bruises, burns, fracture, etc, which are not consistent with the explanation given for them
- Injuries which occur to the body in places which are not normally exposed to fall, rough games, etc
- Injuries which have not received medical attention
- Instances where children are kept away from the group inappropriately or without explanation.

2. Emotional Signs

- Changes or regression in mood and behaviour particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clinging. Also depression/aggression.
- Sudden changes in behaviour e.g. under-achievements or lack of concentration.
- Inappropriate relationship with peers and/or adults

- e.g. excessive dependence.
- Attention-seeking behaviour

3. Neglect Signs

- Regular poor hygiene.
- Inadequate clothing.
- Consistently being left alone and unsupervised.
- Persistent tiredness.

4. Sexual Signs

- Any direct disclosure made by a child concerning sexual abuse.
- Child with excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and detailed knowledge of adult sexual behaviour, or who regularly engages in age inappropriate sexual play.
- Preoccupation with sexual activity through words, play or drawing.
- Child who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults.

Appendix 3: Responding to an Allegation of Abuse from a child

- Keep calm-do not appear shocked or disgusted
- Accept what the child says without passing judgment
- Look directly at the child
- Be honest
- Be aware the child may have been threatened and fear reprisals for having spoken to you.
- Never push for information or question the child as

this can undermine any subsequent criminal investigation. If at any point a child decides not to continue, accept that and let them know that you are ready to listen should they wish to continue at any time.

- Reassure the child that they were right to tell you

SEEMA KIDS believe that every child , regardless of age , has at all times and in all situations , a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. This Child Protection Policy of SEEMA KIDS is reviewed and signed every year by Executive Committee Members and the Child Protection Officer with developments in child protection.

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