



**BEVERLEY
TOWN COUNCIL**
WORKING AS A COMMUNITY

Beverley Town Council
Safeguarding Children Policy

**To report concerns, use the
Golden Number – 01482 395500
Out of hours – use 01482 393939 or 101**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Beverley Town Council recognises its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Town Council should have appropriate arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children from harm.

It is the responsibility of all of us to put the welfare of children and young people first, and to recognise behaviours that can put children at risk. Under the terms of the Children Act 2004, anyone up to the age of 18 is considered to be a child/young person.

Beverley Town Council aims to safeguard children by:

- Ensuring that all of our staff and Councillors receive induction training to ensure their awareness of safeguarding issues relating to children.
- Having a Safeguarding Children policy and procedure which is clearly understood.
- Reviewing our Safeguarding Children policy and procedure. This will be done as part of our ongoing practice of annual reviewing of all policies.
- Ensuring that a dedicated officer is appointed, to hold a specific role in relation to advising Beverley Town Council staff and Councillors, whereby advice and a clear course of action can be offered in relation to any safeguarding children concerns.
- If the situation warrants a swift response, the matter will be referred directly to the relevant local Safeguarding Team.

2. POLICY GUIDANCE

We are aware that many children and young people are the victims of different kinds of abuse and that they can be subjected to social factors that can have an adverse impact upon their lives, such as domestic violence, parental substance misuse or neglect.

The Guidelines are divided in to the following sections:

- Defining Who is at Risk and in Way Way - Understanding & Recognising Signs of Abuse
- Code of Practice
- Further Information and Contacts

3. DEFINING WHO IS AT RISK AND IN WHAT WAY

Understanding and Recognising Signs of Abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children maybe abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger for example, via the internet. 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 a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

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 include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. 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. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. 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, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

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 or development. 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, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

There are also additional areas of safeguarding children that we must be aware of, these are:

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
Radicalisation (Prevent)
Self-harm and suicide prevention
Online safety

4. CODE OF PRACTICE – BEVERLEY TOWN COUNCIL

4.1 General

All child protection concerns should be acted upon immediately. If you are concerned that a child is at risk of or actually suffering abuse, you should tell the Designated Safeguarding Children Officer within your Organisation.

The Designated Safeguarding Children Officer for Beverley Town Council is: Carol Oliver.

If the designated officer is not available, you must speak to a senior member of staff. In an emergency, or you can make a referral directly yourself.

Beverley Town Council is committed to minimising and preventing abuse and recognises the importance of safe recruitment policies and practices for paid staff, volunteers and Councillors.

These will include:

- All staff with access to children or with access to sensitive information will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.
- Beverley Town Council staff and Councillors should ensure they have received at least introductory/awareness raising training in safeguarding children as part of their induction.
- All staff and Councillors to read and understand the Safeguarding Children Policy and for this to be reviewed annually.
- Application forms for employment and for volunteer work to include details of previous employment, any convictions for criminal offences (including spent convictions), agreement for enhanced DBS checks, permission to contact two referees, including their current or most recent employer (which should be taken up)

4.2 Operational

In the event that a child or young person makes an allegation or disclosure of abuse about an adult or another child or young person it is important that you:

- Listen to them and/or closely observe their presentation and behaviour.
- Do not try to question the child in detail. If a child tells you someone has hurt them, listen carefully and explain that you will have to tell someone else who will help them to stop this happening. Tell them that you believe them.
- Make a note of what is said as soon as possible, remembering the exact words used if you can. Do not make judgements, rather evidence-based recordings. Sign and date your notes.
- Inform the Designated Children Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.
- Where possible it is good practice to inform the parent/carer of the disclosure and referral, however, **do not inform the person named as the abuser if you feel this might place the child at risk of further harm.**
- Do not discuss concerns/allegations/disclosures with other people. The child/young person and family have a right to confidentiality with only people who 'need to know' sharing the information.

- Sometimes you may just feel concerned about a child but do not know whether to share your concerns or not. In this situation you should always raise your concerns with your Designated Children Safeguarding Officer, who will help you decide what to do.

It is not the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Children Officer or other staff/Councillors to investigate suspected abuse. This must be reported as follows:

- The responsibility for investigating allegations of abuse, whether they result from the disclosure of a child or young person or the concerns of an adult, lies with the local Safeguarding Children Unit, including the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) and police officers from the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit (PVPU). It is normally the responsibility of your Designated Safeguarding Children Officer to make a referral to these agencies but if you judge the situation to be urgent and/or you require immediate advice you can report your concerns directly.
- **Referrals can be made by calling:**

If a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the Police on 999.

Intensive and Specialist –

ERY Children's Safeguarding Hub (01482) 395500 (Golden number)
Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm, Friday 8.30am -4:30pm.

Out of hours (01482) 393939 or 101.

Universal –

Families Information Service (FISH)
Tel: (01482) 396469
Email: fish@eastriding.gov.uk

Additional –

Please contact the child or young person's local ERYC Early Help Locality Hubs (01482) 391700

- Bridlington: ehp.bridlington@eastriding.gov.uk
- Beverley: ehp.beverley@eastriding.gov.uk
- Goole: ehp.goole@eastriding.gov.uk
- Anlaby: ehp.haltemprice@eastriding.gov.uk
- Hedon: ehp.holderness@eastriding.gov.uk
- Driffield: ehp.wolds@eastriding.gov.uk

Policy adopted by Beverley Town Council on

Date: 27/03/23

Signed, Chairman



Signed, Clerk to the Council



Effective support for children, young people and families in East Riding of Yorkshire.

SUPPORT CONTACT DETAILS

Universal - FISH

[eastriding.gov.uk](https://www.eastriding.gov.uk) (01482) 396469 fish@eastriding.gov.uk

Additional - ERYC Early Help Locality Hubs

(01482) 391700

Bridlington. ehp.bridlington@eastriding.gov.uk

Beverley. ehp.beverley@eastriding.gov.uk

Goole. ehp.goole@eastriding.gov.uk

Anlaby. ehp.hattemprice@eastriding.gov.uk

Hedon. ehp.holderness@eastriding.gov.uk

Driffield. ehp.wolds@eastriding.gov.uk

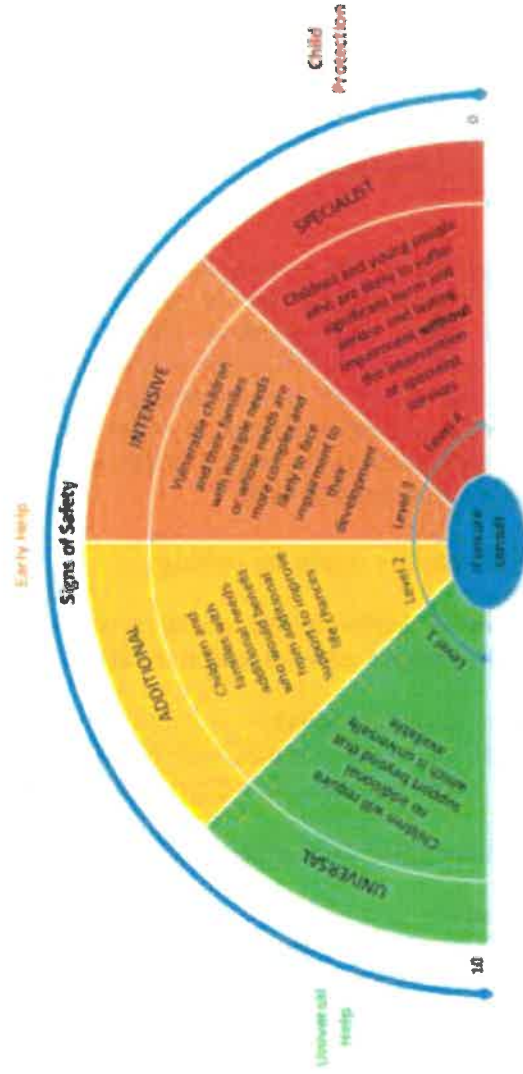
Intensive and Specialist - ERY Children's Safeguarding Hub

(01482) 395500

Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 5pm, Friday 9.30am - 3.0pm

Out of hours (01482) 393939

If a child is suffering abuse and requires urgent attention because of immediate danger, call the Police on 999.



The East Riding Effective Support Wheel

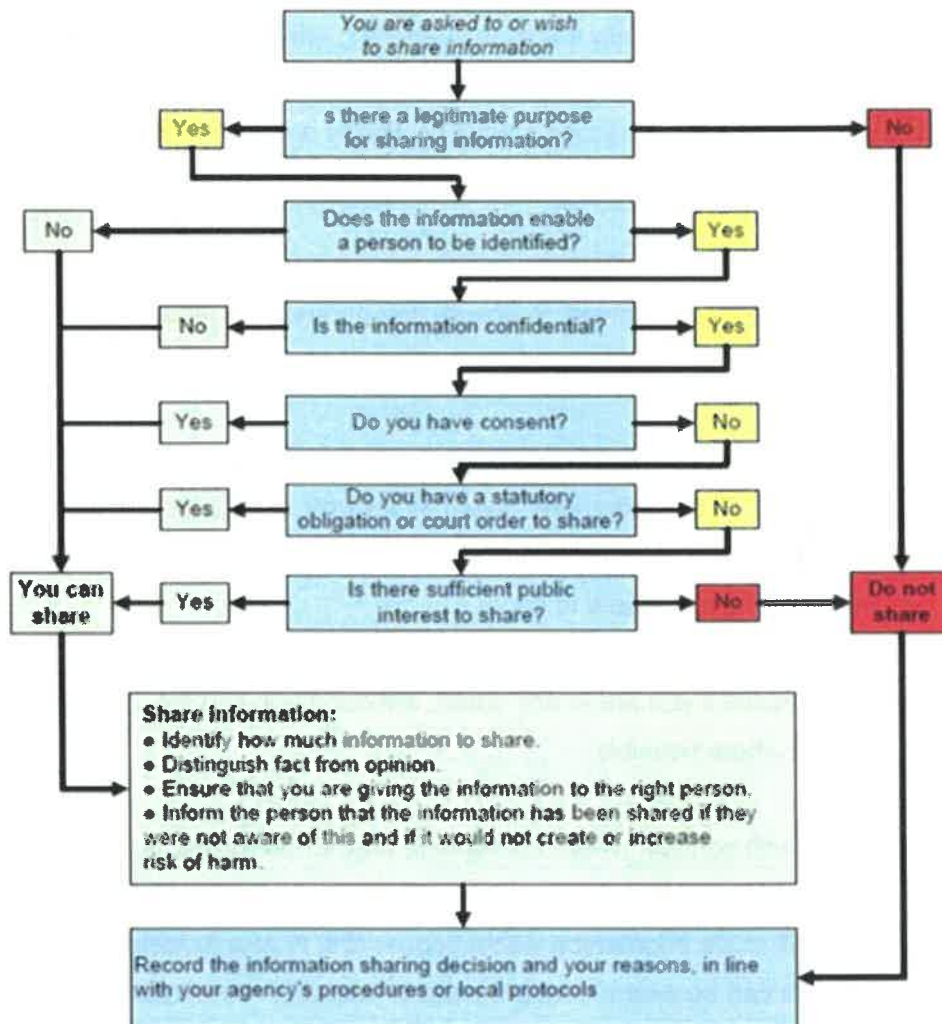
ERSCP multi-agency partners will work with children, young people and their families to provide support at the least intrusive level. Support may move across levels according to identified needs.

Seven Golden rules of information sharing

'Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers' (2008) is aimed at supporting good practice in information sharing by offering clarity on when and how information can be shared legally and professionally in order to achieve improved outcomes. It can be especially useful in supporting early intervention and preventative work where decisions about information sharing may be less clear than in safeguarding or child protection situations. Below are the 7 golden rules of information sharing that this guidance recommends.

1. Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.
2. From the outset be open and honest with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
4. Share with consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgements on the facts of the case.
5. Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up to date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.

7. Keep a record of your decision and the reason for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.



Seek advice from your manager, supervisor, child protection advisor or Caldicott Guardian if you are not sure what to do at any stage and ensure that the outcome of the discussion is recorded