



111 Firs Avenue
Fairwater
Cardiff
CF5 3TG

01639 881077

wiseup@ntlworld.com

www.wiseuphe.netfirms.com

Wise Up

Child Protection Policy

- It is the policy of Wise Up to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.
- Wise Up is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Volunteers of Wise Up should show at all times respect and understanding of their rights, safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of Wise Up.
- We in Wise Up want to make sure that children/young people are protected and kept safe from harm while they are with Wise Up and volunteers in this organisation. We do this by:
 - Giving parents/carers, children and workers information about what we do and what you can expect from us
 - Making sure that our workers and volunteers are carefully selected, trained and supervised
 - Letting parents/carers and children know how to voice their concerns or complain if there is anything they are not happy about
- In cases where Wise Up suspects that a child is, or is likely to suffer significant harm this will be reported to the appropriate authority. Where this has not been possible for the local authority to take appropriate action, Wise Up will take whatever steps are practicable to protect the child.
- While child protection must have the overriding priority, the child's race, culture, religion and language, as well as gender and disability, must also be considered as a priority and appropriately responded to.
- The welfare of the child is paramount. **In every case, the child is the primary client, whatever the philosophies or practice adopted in a project.**
- It is important to involve and consult parents at every stage in child protection work, but the principle of working alongside parents must not hamper the paramount objectives of protecting the child.
- Child abuse and neglect will also arise from time to time in foster and respite care, adoptive families, and within residential projects/schools. The principles and procedures which follow also apply. It is especially important that a child protection perspective is not clouded by our concern for and belief in the carer. In these cases, there are likely to be a number of agencies and local authorities involved. We will expect the local authority where the child is placed to manage and co-ordinate the investigative work.

- All staff must allow the interests of a child to be considered distinctly from the interests of the parents or other carers.

Signs and Symptoms of abuse

Physical Abuse: Actual or likely injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child.

Indicators:

Unexplained recurrent injuries or burns; improbable excuses or refusal to explain injuries; chronic running away; fear of medical help or examination; aggression towards others, fear of physical contact.

Sexual Abuse: Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent.

Indicators: Being overly affectionate or knowledgeable in a sexual way inappropriate to the child's age; medical problems such as pain in the genitals, venereal diseases; personality changes such as becoming insecure; sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating; lack of trust of someone they know well.

Emotional Abuse: Persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment, rejection or over protection of a child.

Indicators: Physical, mental and emotional development lags, sudden speech disorders, overreaction to mistakes, extreme fear of any new situation, extremes of passivity or aggression.

Neglect: Persistent or severe lack of attention to a child's basic needs, or failure to carry out important aspects of care.

Indicators: Constant hunger, constant tiredness, poor personal hygiene, untreated medical problems, no social relationships, destructive tendencies

Note: A child may be subjected to a combination of different kinds of abuse. It is also possible that a child may show no outward signs and hide what is happening from everyone.

This policy was adopted on 23rd June 2009

Review date June 2010

Signed Louise Murray
Jayne Palmer
Careena Gordon-Evans
Janice Twigg
Susie Jewell