



Safeguarding of Children

i. Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare policy

Pipers believes that children have the right to be completely secure from both the fear and reality of abuse, and we are committed to protecting all the children in our care from harm.

Pipers has a detailed understanding of child development and how the quality of the care they are receiving can have an impact on their health and development. We recognise that as children grow, they continue to develop their skills and abilities. Each stage, from infancy through middle years to adolescence, lays the foundation for more complex development. Plans and interventions to safeguard and promote the child's welfare are based on a clear assessment of the child's developmental progress and the difficulties the child may be experiencing. Planned action is timely and appropriate for the child's age and stage of development.

The purpose of all interventions will always be to achieve the best possible outcomes for each child, recognising that each child is unique. These outcomes should contribute to the key outcomes set out for all children in the *Children Act 2004*.

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) offers a basis for early identification of children's additional needs, sharing of this information between organisations and the co-ordination of service provision. Where it is considered a child may have additional needs, with the consent of the child, young person or parents/carers, practitioners may undertake a common assessment in accordance with the national practice guidance to assess these needs and to decide how best to support them.

The findings from the common assessment may however give rise to concerns about a child's safety and welfare. Practitioners should be particularly concerned regarding children whose parents or caregivers are experiencing difficulties in meeting their needs as a result of domestic violence, substance misuse, mental illness and/or learning disability (see paragraphs 9.13–9.66). All staff members who have or become aware of concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or children should know:

- who to contact in what circumstances, and how; and
- when and how to make a referral to local authority children's social care services or the police.

Discussion of concerns about a child's safety and welfare

Possible child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989

Irrespective of whether a common assessment has been undertaken, where there are concerns that a child may be a possible child in need, and in particular where there are concerns about a child being harmed, relevant information about the child and family will be discussed with the manager, or a named or designated health professional or the SOCCO. Concerns can also be discussed, without necessarily identifying the child in question, with senior colleagues in another agency, (for example, children's social care services) in order to develop an understanding of the child's needs and circumstances.

Not a possible child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989

Where a child is not considered to be a possible child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 Pipers will consider what other types of services, including possibly a common assessment, should be offered. If it is agreed that the child may be a child in need under the Children Act 1989, then a referral to children's social care will be discussed with the child, if appropriate, and those with legal responsibility for the child. If they consent, then the child will be referred to local authority children's social care and the processes set out in this chapter followed. If the child is believed or suspected to be suffering significant harm a referral will always be made to children's social care. If concerns arise about a child who is already known to local authority children's social care the allocated social worker will be informed immediately of these concerns.

ii. Safer Recruiting

Pipers is fully committed to ensure that safe recruiting practice is followed.

Two references must be received in all instances, including confirmation from previous employer on fitness to work with children.

An enhanced CRB disclosure will be applied for by Pipers.

At least one person on the interview panel will be appropriately trained and certified in safer recruitment.

All offers of employment are made conditionally and permanent employment is dependent on satisfactory references and enhanced CRB disclosure and subsequent trial employment period.

Identification and Qualifications will be verified.

Fitness for the role will be verified by doctors reference.

Appropriate records of all staff are maintained

All staff must undertake an induction into the Nursery and verify their understanding of all Policies and Procedures.

iii. Suspicion of Abuse

All members of Staff are trained to be aware of signs of abuse of children.

The Setting's child protection procedures comply with all relevant legislation and other guidance or advice from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Setting is committed to reviewing its Child Protection policy and procedures at regular intervals. The policy and its procedures will be shared with parents/carers during their child's settling in period.

All children will at one time or another have unusual marks on their bodies when they attend the Setting and we will naturally ask the Parent/Carer how they occurred. We must log the reply in the Accident at Home Form (if it is a permanent mark i.e. a birthmark it will be noted on the child's records) and we must ask the Parent/Carer to sign the Accident at Home Form or child's records against entry.

Staff who suspect a child is being abused must record and report their suspicions to the SOCCO who will carefully investigate the situation as far as possible and talk to the Parent/Carer about the concerns and officially record the reply.

If explanations are unacceptable or concerns persist, the SOCCO will report the incident to the Manager or the Child Protection Officer. If they feel there are reasonable grounds for believing that a child has been – or is in grave danger of being – subject to abuse, the following services will be contacted.

The Children's Contact and Referral Team or the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours).

Children's Contact and Referral Team

Location: Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AU

Opening Hours: 8.30 am to 5.00 pm from Monday to Thursday,
8.30 am to 4.30 pm Friday

Telephone: 01606 275099

Secure Email: childreferral@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.cjism.net

Ordinary Email: childreferral@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Local Children's Social Care Offices

Alternatively, you can visit one of our three office locations and speak with a Duty Social Worker.

Chester: Goldsmith House, Hamilton Place, Chester, CH1 1SE

Ellesmere Port and Neston: 4 Civic, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

Vale Royal: Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AU

Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours emergencies)

Location: Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AD

Opening Hours: 4.30 pm to 9.00 am from Monday to Thursday, from 4.00 pm on Friday and 24 hours at weekends and bank holidays

Telephone: 01244977277

Secure Email: edt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.cjism.net

Ordinary Email: edt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Note: Please do not use email to send referrals to the Emergency Duty Team. Ensure that any emails sent to this address do not contain any personal information about specific children or young people, as this is not an encrypted email address

Alternatively, in an emergency, phone the police on 0845 458 0000.

In cases of suspected sexual abuse we will not notify the Parent/Carer that we are contacting Social Services

Team	Operating Hours	Location	Telephone	email address
Contact and Referral Team	8:30am-5:00pm Mon-Thu 8:30am-4:30pm Fri	Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AU	01606 275099	childreferral@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Emergency Duty Team	4:30pm-9:00am Mon-Fri From 4:00pm Fri and 24hours at weekends and bank holidays	'Meadowside' The Meadows, Meadow Drive, Barton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4PH	01244 977277	edt@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk edt@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Children's Safeguarding Unit	8:30am-5:00pm Mon-Thu 8:30am-4:30pm Fri	4 th Floor Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE	0151 3374645 or 0151 3374570	

A children's social care multi-agency referral form has been developed. This should be completed by practitioners in making a referral to the Contact and Referral team. The referral form is currently in Microsoft Word format and is available by contacting the Contact and Referral team. Shortly the referral form will be available in a web-based format and practitioners will be able to complete the form via a secure email site.

Please note completing the multi-agency referral form doesn't replace the requirement for practitioners to telephone the Contact and Referral team. In making a referral to the Contact and Referral team, please remember practitioners are required to confirm details of their referral in writing within 48 hours, in accordance with Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2010).

A practitioner should be notified by a children's social worker about what action will be taken in response to the referral within 24 hours of receipt. If a practitioner hasn't received notification within 3 working days, they should contact the Contact and Referral team

If an allegation is made against a member of our staff we will contact the Contact and Referral team and Ofsted (0300 1234 666).