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SAFEGURADING CHILDREN POLICY

Hoopers Inc(lusive) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and children at risk. We recognise that safeguarding is a shared responsibility that requires effective collaboration between trainers, students, and other professionals. Our goal is to ensure safe working practices that identify safeguarding concerns, take appropriate action, and protect individuals from harm while respecting their rights, wishes, and feelings.

This policy applies to all trainers, committee members and guest trainers involved in Hoopers Inc(lusive)'s activities and services

Hoopers Inc(lusive) will strive to create a culture of no tolerance of harm to any child who use our organisation

This policy is written to both demonstrate Hoopers Inc(lusive)'s commitment to safeguarding and to ensure all committee members and trainers are aware of the following:

- The legislation around safeguarding
- The policies and procedures around safeguarding children
- Each individual's roles and responsibilities around safeguarding children
- What to do and who to refer to should a safeguarding concern be identified or reported.
- As an organisation we have an ethical and legal duty to safeguard children who are vulnerable.

Safeguarding issues may include:

- Domestic abuse
- Suicidal ideation or high-risk self-harm
- Serious mental ill health for example psychosis



- Children who disclose or are overheard to say they have harmed, or are at risk of harming, either a child or another child
- 'Honour'-based abuse or forced marriage
- Any concerns about radicalisation and extremist views or behaviours must also be reported as a safeguarding concern.

This is not an exhaustive list but is intended to provide examples of situations where a member of the team should consider safeguarding issues in relation to a child.

Take the opportunity to share information about a harmful experience or incident. This may happen in a direct way through a verbal disclosure, or indirectly through play or demeanour or through another child. In addition, there may be some physical evidence of neglect or apparent injury, which is noted by a member of the committee, trainer or person attending Hoopers Inc(lusive) events.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) believes that it is unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people.

We are fully accountable for ensuring appropriate actions are taken by us in order to safeguard any of our service users. This may also include ensuring our partner agencies have taken appropriate actions.

For the purpose of this policy, when we refer to children or young people, we mean from the ages of 0 (unborn) and anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

For any concerns relating to a young person aged 18 years old or above, please refer to our Adult Safeguarding Policy.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) will ensure a child centred approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children attending our events.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) recognises:

- the welfare of the child / young person is paramount.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare. The purpose and scope of the policy
- to provide protection for the children and young people who attend Hoopers Inc(lusive)'s events, including the children of attendees.



- to provide all trainers and committee members guidance on procedures they should follow if they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or is at risk of, harm.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- adopting safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures.
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with all committee members, trainers and guest trainers.
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) will ensure that all trainers and committee members are aware of their duties concerning safeguarding and ensure that:

- the safety and wellbeing of the child is promoted.
- the law and statutory guidance concerning child protection and safeguarding is complied with.
- the policies of Hoopers Inc(lusive) are working are respected.
- all trainers, committee members and guest trainers comply with the child protection and safeguarding policy.

Recognition and reporting It is essential that all trainers, committee members and guest trainers are alert to the signs of child abuse, this includes cases where children may disclose non-recent / historical abuse.

Categories of abuse (definitions adapted from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023):

Physical Abuse - A form of abuse which 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.

Neglect - 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 involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter.
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- ensure adequate supervision.
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.



Emotional Abuse - The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

Emotional abuse may involve:

- conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.
- not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.
- age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.
- interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.
- seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, such as domestic abuse or serious bullying.
- serious bullying (including cyber bullying), 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 - 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 or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.
- 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. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by child males. People of all genders can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Safeguarding legislation lists categories of abuse to include the following types of abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological or emotional
- Neglect
- Financial
- Institutional
- Domestic Violence (witnessed)
- Discriminatory
- Forced Marriage



- Human Trafficking
- Modern Slavery
- Sexual Exploitation
- County Lines
- Radicalisation
- Hate Crime
- Mate Crime
- Cyber bullying

New criminal offences – including post-separation coercive control, non-fatal strangulation, threats to disclose private sexual images Extremism and Prevent Duty

Extremism is defined as the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We at Hoopers Inc(lusive) also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – FGM, a collective term for a range of procedures which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genitals, for non-medical reasons. It is sometimes referred to as female circumcision, or female genital cutting.

Forced marriage - where, one or both spouses do not, or cannot, consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used to force them into the marriage. The pressure put on people to marry against their will could include; threats or physical/sexual violence and/or emotional or psychological abuse for example making someone feel they are bringing shame on their family.

Organisational Abuse – The term 'organisational abuse' refers to neglect and poor care practice within a specific care setting, not only a hospital or a care home, but also the care a person receives in their own home. The abuse can either be a one-off incident or an ongoing culture of ill-treatment. The abuse can take many forms, including neglect, and poor professional practices as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices in an organisation.

Honour Based abuse – honour-based abuse is any incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse, this may include psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.

Self-harm - Self-harm describes a variety of behaviours that lead to physical harm. These may include cutting or scratching the skin, burning/branding with cigarettes/lighters, scalding, overdose of tablets or other toxins, tying ligatures around the neck, punching oneself or other surfaces, banging limbs/head and hair pulling. It may also include risk taking behaviours where someone is careless for their own safety and there is a risk of physical harm.



Suicide and or suicidal Ideation – suicide, means an act that is intended to end one’s life. Suicidal ideation, describes an individual’s contemplations, wishes, and preoccupations with death and suicide, these may be coupled with intent and plan.

Self-Neglect - an extreme lack of self-care, can be associated with hoarding behaviours and addictions. examples of self-neglect may include a lack of self-care that threatens personal health and safety, neglecting to care for personal hygiene, health or surroundings.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) committee members and trainers must undertake the following steps in relation to safeguarding concern:

- document their concerns using the Safeguarding Form immediately after the incident or disclosure
- immediately inform the Hoopers Inc(lusive) safeguarding lead
- the safeguarding lead will inform both the Deputy safeguarding lead and the chairman
- collectively the lead, deputy and chair will agree a course of action.

This must include the following:

- referral to Police
- referral to Child Social Care
- referral to any other relevant agencies

If there is uncertainty about which agency to refer to, the team must try to resolve this as soon as possible.

It may be appropriate to seek guidance from a local gateway service, such as child social care on 0345 1551071 or emailing mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

The safeguarding lead should, if appropriate, feed back to the child about which referrals have been made.

The safeguarding lead must ensure the concern is recorded and reviewed, updated with actions taken.

If a concern is raised or disclosed about a specific vulnerable child being subject to abuse or neglect, the safeguarding lead will make a referral to the local Childs Social Care department.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) will report this according to the Local Safeguarding Childs board’s procedure.

Hoopers Inc(lusive) will explain to childs at the outset of any work that it may be necessary to share information where there are serious concerns about their safety or welfare

Within Hoopers Inc(lusive), the designated lead for Safeguarding is Liz Spain, who reports directly to Hoopers Inc(lusive) Chairman and director. Hoopers Inc(lusive) Safeguarding Team are available to all trainers and committee members for advice and guidance