**USEFUL CONTACTS**

Child Protection Officer

* Barbara Milne - HT

Depute Child Protection Officer

– Cara Hay – DHT, Sharon Hobson – DHT, Mandy Sinclair – Early Years Senior Practitioner

Inverurie Social Work

(Children & Families team)

**01467 537555**

### Aberdeenshire Social Work

### (Out of Hours Emergency Contact)

**03456 08 12 06**

Aberdeen City Social Work

(Child Protection Team)

**01224 306877**

Aberdeen City Social Work

(Out of Hours Emergency Contact)

**0800 7315 520**

Police Scotland

**101**

**SOURCES OF SUPPORT**

Supporting a young person through a Child Protection disclosure can be very upsetting for all professionals.

It is important that any disclosure made or concerns shared are treated in confidence and not discussed widely.

Your wellbeing is of paramount importance, and so please seek support if you are struggling to come to terms with what you may have heard or been part of as a result of Child Protection processes.

Support can be sought in school via your line manager, via the Child Protection Officer, or through the Aberdeenshire Council Employee Assistance Programme (details below).

Employee Assistance Programme

Tel: 0800 970 3980

Email: admin@timefortalking.co.uk

Web: [www.timefortalking.co.uk](http://www.timefortalking.co.uk)

Username – Aberdeen

Password – AB12016

**Child Protection in**

**Strathburn School**



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Children and Young People have the right to be protected, and to be safe from harm from others. They expect that we, will get them the help they need, when they need it.

**They expect us to:**

* Listen to them
* Take them seriously
* Involve them
* Put them in touch with the right people
* Think about their lives as a whole

To this end it is vital that everyone coming into contact with children and young people know what to do when child protection concerns arise.

**Some possible warning signs:**

Physical Abuse

* Unexplained or recurrent injuries/ burns
* Improbable excuses or refusal to explain an injury
* Apparent fear of physical contact - shrinking back

#### Neglect

* Constant hunger and or tiredness
* Inadequate clothing for weather
* Poor personal hygiene
* Disinterest/neglect by parent(s)/carer(s)

#### Emotional Abuse

* Continual belittling of oneself
* Over-reaction to mistakes
* Developmental delay
* Excessively clingy behavior

#### Sexual Abuse

* Sexually explicit behaviour, language or knowledge (inappropriate to age/stage of development)
* Self-harm
* Running away/absconding
* Eating disorders
* Sexually transmitted disease

**What to do if you have general concerns about a child/young person:**

* Share your concerns with the relevant class teacher, the Child Protection Officer or another member of the SLT as soon as possible.
* Engage with this person as they assess whether this information needs to be shared, and if so with whom.
* Pass on any notes you have taken.
* The CP Officer will ensure that all information is accurately recorded, along with reasons for any decision reached.
* If you cannot contact the designated person and there are concerns for the child/young person’s safety, contact social work or police yourself.

**What to do if a child/young person tells you that they have been abused or harmed:**

* + Stay calm.
	+ Listen and hear.
	+ Do not promise to keep secrets - tell them you will have to let someone else know.
	+ Reassure the child they were not to blame and they have done the right thing in telling you.
	+ Do not ask questions: it is not your job to investigate.
	+ Report the disclosure immediately to the Child Protection Officer



**Some General Points**

* + This leaflet serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility for protecting Children and Young People. This relies on everyone playing their part.
	+ What if I'm wrong? Don’t take the chance. We regularly contact social work & police to informally discuss concerns, and this does not always lead to action being taken. Information held by others may add to or lessen the level of concern, and so it’s important your information is fully considered.
	+ Protecting your relationship with a family or individual is never an option when there are child protection concerns - the welfare of the child is always paramount.
	+ Treat all children and young people with respect.
	+ Ensure your own conduct sets a good example to children and young people.
	+ Whenever possible make sure you are not spending extended periods working alone with a child/young person - stay in sight or hearing of others.
	+ Ensure your actions cannot be misinterpreted – online or in the real world.

**Never**

* + - Trivialise or exaggerate child protection concerns.
		- Have inappropriate physical contact with children/young people.
		- Make suggestive or derogatory remarks in front of children/young people
		- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behavior.
		- Use your own device(s) to take photographs or movies of young people.
		- Keep a concern or disclosure to yourself.