



NORFOLK POLICE AUTHORITY
Ensuring an Efficient and Effective Police Service

Norfolk Police Authority Child Protection Responsibilities Statement June 2010

Our Commitment

“Throughout its work the NPA will take into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and, in line with the themes of 'Every Child Matters'¹, work with partners to ensure children and young people can be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being.”

Having structures in place to champion children and young people

- The Authority will appoint a Lead Member for Section 11 Children Act 2004/child protection matters;
- The Lead Member will advise the NPA, reporting to the Citizen Focus Committee on at least an annual basis, and liaise with Norfolk Constabulary and other partners;
- The Lead Member will keep an audit log of activity;
- To maintain safe recruitment, the Authority will ensure that all its Members and Staff have had appropriate police checks and, in addition, the Lead Member for the Children Act 2004 will be vetted via the Criminal Record Bureau government maintained lists of individuals who should not work with children;
- The Authority will issue advice to staff, members and volunteers on the procedure to follow should, during the course of their NPA duties, they become aware of potential child protection issues;
- The Chief Executive of the NPA and the Lead Member will review this responsibilities statement and the advice issued at least annually, and ensure overall compliance with the Children Act 2004.

Having knowledge of the diversity of young people and their needs, and engaging with relevant partners

- The Authority will recognise the diversity of young people in the county and take this into account when reviewing and producing its strategies and policies;
- The Authority's Community Engagement Strategy will include a commitment to engaging directly with children and young people;
- The Authority will share the outcomes of its engagement with children and young people with partners and other agencies;
- The Authority will work to ensure that it plays the maximum role it can in supporting local Children's Trusts and Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

Norfolk Constabulary's contribution to safeguarding children and young people

- The Authority's Citizen Focus Committee will receive regular reports from Norfolk Constabulary, on at least an annual basis, enabling members to hold the Chief Constable to account in relation to safeguarding children and young people;
- The Authority will ensure that the three-year Policing and Strategic Plan contains a statement on Child Protection and provides a framework for delivery of an effective policing service by Norfolk Constabulary.

¹ Every Child Matters is the national strategy to implement the provisions of the Children Act 2004

Guidance for NPA members, staff and volunteers on child protection responsibilities

Overriding principle

A child's welfare is paramount and their safety must be a priority. All reports of suspected child abuse or a child possibly being in need of protection must be treated seriously however trivial they may appear.

Definition of child abuse

A person under 18 years who is alleging or believed to have been subject to:

- Sexual abuse, which includes rape, sexual assault and indecency;
- Physical abuse, which includes assault, failing to prevent injury, and failing to prevent suffering;
- Emotional abuse which is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development;
- Neglect, including 'home alone', neglect failing to protect, and exposing to moral danger.

Action by NPA Staff

If during the course of your duties you become concerned as to the welfare of a child you must as matter of urgency:

- Inform the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager).

If during the course of your duties you become concerned that a child may be in immediate danger you must immediately:

- Contact the Contact and Control Room or the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager). If you contact the police service directly you must nevertheless inform the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager).

Action by NPA Members

If during the course of your duties as a member of the Authority you become concerned as to the welfare of a child you must as matter of urgency:

- Inform the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager). If you contact the police service directly you must nevertheless inform the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager).

If during the course of your duties as a member of the Authority you become concerned that a child may be in immediate danger you must immediately:

- Contact the Contact and Control Room or inform the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager). If you contact the police service directly you must nevertheless inform the Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager).

Action by Independent Custody Visitors

Extract from NPA Custody visiting guidelines February 2007:

"If a custody visitor becomes concerned as to the welfare of a child for any reason regardless of whether the concern relates to the offence(s) for which he/she is being held, the visitor must inform the custody officer immediately and a record made on the visit report form to this effect."

Action by Independent Advisory Group/Disability Forum members

If during the course of your duties as a member of the Independent Advisory Group you become concerned as to the welfare of a child, you must contact, as a matter of urgency, either:

- Norfolk Police Authority Assistant Chief Executive

Assistant Chief Executive should ensure that an appropriate person in Norfolk Constabulary is informed in all cases.

Action by Chief Executive (or Deputy/other Manager)

When contacted by a Member of the Authority, staff or volunteer over an individual child protection matter, you should consider the most appropriate way to contact the Constabulary. You must ensure that an appropriate person in Norfolk Constabulary is informed in all cases and, in the case of potential immediate danger, ensure the police service is/has been contacted immediately.

You must review all staff and Members' decisions in relation to individual child protection issues to ensure good practice.

A Wider Perspective

Whilst this advice applies to members, staff and volunteers whilst carrying out NPA duties, the Authority urges all members, staff and volunteers to apply the overriding principle of this guidance, that "a child's welfare is paramount and their safety must be a priority. All reports of suspected child abuse or a child possibly being in need of protection must be treated seriously however trivial they may appear", at all times.