



Safeguarding



Course Overview

We will cover the following points:

- Safeguarding children
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- HFR procedures for safeguarding



Child Abuse - Legal framework

The list below shows the legislation, accompanied by guidance, which sets out how we must work together to promote children's welfare and protect them from abuse and neglect:

- Children and Young Person's Act 1933
- Children Act 1989
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006



Working together

To keep children safe from serious harm, organisations and individuals have to work together. Government guidance states that agencies and professionals should:

- Be alert to potential indicators of abuse and neglect
- Share information so an informed assessment can be made of a child's circumstances.



Safeguarding children

All children deserve the opportunity to achieve full potential

If they are denied the opportunity to achieve full potential, children are at risk not only of an impoverished childhood but they are more likely to experience disadvantage and social exclusion in adulthood (working together to safeguard children 1989)



General awareness

- All HFR volunteers, in line with the Independent Care National Minimum Standards (2002), standard C13; are required to have a general awareness of indicators and pre-disposing factors of abuse and the relevant supporting agencies that are involved in safeguarding children.



Contact with children

All those that come into contact with children and families in their volunteer role, including those that do not have a specific role in relation to safeguarding children, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

(Department of Health 2003)



HFR policy

HFR policy and belief promotes that every child and young person has the right, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic wellbeing



HFR policy continued

HFR policy and belief promotes that every child and young person has the right to grow up free from abuse or neglect.





HFR Policy

- HFR Safeguarding Officer (SO): Gillian Dawes
- HFR Assistant Safeguarding Officer ASO: Sue Lomax
- This contact information is on every event sheet
- Safeguarding Policy is in vehicle folder and online



What is child abuse?

“Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional neglect or negligent treatment, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power”

(World Health Organisation 1999)



Child abuse

Child abuse is usually part of a pattern of behaviour that takes place over a period of time and its effects add up. Child abuse can isolate a child and damage them physically and emotionally.





Consequences of child abuse

Consequences can include:

- Emotional and behavioural problems
- Educational problems
- Difficulties forming relationships
- Low self-esteem
- Physical disability following injuries due to physical abuse
- Mental health disorders including depression and anxiety
- Substance abuse and/or self harming
- Suicide or death



Importance of reporting

- In cases of fatal child abuse, health care professionals are the most likely group to have had prior contact with the family and child
- Children who are abused can be helped by early recognition and intervention. This is your responsibility as a HFR volunteer.



Categories of abuse

Physical abuse takes place when somebody physically hurts or injures a child by:

- Squeezing
- Shaking
- Hitting
- Biting
- Burning
- Attempting to suffocate
- Attempting to drown



Physical abuse cont:

It also includes harming the child by giving them:

- Poison
- Alcohol or inappropriate drugs
- Failing to prevent physical injury or suffering
- Fabricating symptoms or deliberately causing ill health in a child



Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child and includes:

- Persistently withholding love and affection
- Constantly shouting at
- Threatening or demeaning the child
- Inappropriate expectations for the child's age
- Exploitation or corruption of a child
- Causing a child to feel frightened
- Undermining a child's self esteem



Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves the forcing or enticing of a child or young person to take part in sexual activities.

It may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at or the production or pornographic material.



Neglect

Neglect involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or physiological needs likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

This may involve:

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter
- Failure to protect from physical harm
- Failure to respond to a child's medical needs



Recognising child abuse

Child abuse can rarely be identified from one single sign or by one person. Identification can take place when several pieces of information come together like a jigsaw puzzle to give a picture that alerts us.



Recognising signs of child abuse

Signs you may notice are:

- Worrying injuries found during an examination
- Allegations of abuse made to you someone known to the child
- A child may confide in you
- Cumulative pattern of concern



Injuries of concern

- Injuries that do not fit the circumstances
- Fractures and/or bruising in non-mobile children
- Injuries that are unlikely to occur accidentally such as bruising to both eyes without bruising to the forehead
- Scalds and burns with a clear outline.
- Cigarette burns or human bite marks



Signs seen in all types of abuse

- Temper outbursts or signs of aggression
- Reluctance for parents to be contacted
- Shows signs of fear when home or carers are discussed
- Shows fear of physical contact
- Is reluctant to expose his / her body
- Experiences physical or verbal aggression from carers.
- Evidence of self harm



What to do if a child confides in you

It can take a lot of courage for a child to confide in another adult about abuse. It is important you are therefore prepared for if this does happen to you.





Do

- Take the child seriously and listen without interruption
- If they are in immediate danger take appropriate action – call the police
- Record factually what is said and who is present
- Let the child know what you are going to do to help and who you are going to contact



Don't

- Do not agree to keep the information secret
- Do not make assumptions
- Do not make any comments about the alleged abuser
- Do not make any promises
- Do not ask leading questions



Vulnerable Adults

Categories of abuse:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect or abandonment by caregivers
- Financial Exploitation



Who abuses

- A member of staff in a care home
- Another adult resident in a care home
- A volunteer who has contact with the adult
- A spouse, partner or other close relative
- A neighbour or friend
- A stranger
- Someone who deliberately befriends a vulnerable adult
- A person in a position of trust or power



Patterns of abuse

- Institutional abuse
- Opportunistic abuse
- Situational abuse
- Serial abusing
- Long term abuse
- Neglect



Key Contact Numbers

- Hampshire Children's Services 0845 603 5620 or out-of-hours Emergency Service: 0845 600 4555
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- NSPCC Child Protection Textphone: 0800 056 0566
- Elder Abuse Response Helpline 0808 8088141
- VOICE UK (for people with learning disabilities who have been abused) 0845 122 8695
- Samaritans 08457 90 90 90