

## Safeguarding Policy

### 1. Policy Statement

Urban Expression (hereafter referred as UE) believes all children; regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

UE Trustees:

- Are committed to nurturing, protecting and safeguarding children and young people
- Will support parents and families
- Recognise that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility
- Are committed to following the agreed procedures and following statutory and specialist guidelines
- Seek to support all involved in UE who are affected by abuse

UE will seek to ensure the safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved with UE by providing and following a clear, concise Safeguarding Policy. The Trustees recognise that this UE policy is only a starting point and each UE group / Mission Partner that works with Children and /or Vulnerable Adults will need to write, follow and be responsible for a safeguarding policy relevant to their context. Mission Partners that work with children, young people and vulnerable adults will be expected to submit a copy of their own local safeguarding policy to the Operational Coordinator. If a Mission Partner does not work under a local safeguarding policy then the reason for this needs to be communicated to the Operational Coordinator.

One of the ways in which UE supports pioneering mission is through UE events organised and run centrally by UE. These UE branded events must follow this Safeguarding Policy and consider best safeguarding practice in planning. A Safeguarding Risk Assessment will be carried out and sent to the UE Designated Safeguarding Lead before the event takes place.

A Child: is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children's Act 1989). A young person is in the upper age ranges of the official definition of a child.

A Vulnerable Adult: a person who is, or may be, in need of community care services because of mental disability or other disability, age or illness, and who is, or who may be, unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation (Lord Chancellors Department 1997)

## 2. Procedures

UE will put its policies into place by following the procedures below:

- Nominating a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and providing necessary training. The DSO will take lead responsibility within UE for the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. UE will also designate a Safeguarding Lead within the Trustee team.
- Making the Safeguarding Policy available to all UE Mission Partners and UE staff.
- Contracted staff, Coordinators, Trustees and Mission Partners will be sent this Safeguarding Policy training as part of their induction process.
- Policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated in light of developments in our own practice and legislation relating to protection issues.
- UE will DBS check all Trustees and Mission Partners that undertake regulated activity every three years.
- Operational Coordinator will ask each UE context to send though a copy of their own bespoke Safeguarding Policy to enable UE to ensure a safeguarding policy is in place in each context. Each safeguarding policy will need to state clearly who the safeguarding leads are. All Coordinators will support the Operational Coordinator to ensure compliance to this request. Failure of a Mission Partner to comply to this request in a reasonable time frame will lead to the Chair of Trustees to be notified in order to support a resolution.
- UE branded events: A Safeguarding Risk Assessment will be carried out and sent to the UE Designated Safeguarding Lead before the event takes place.

## 3. What is Abuse?

Child abuse is the range of ways in which people harm children significantly. Significant Harm has been defined as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children (Working together to Safeguard Children 2013).

Somebody may abuse a child through neglect, inflicting physical / sexual / emotional harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children, young people and vulnerable adults can be abused in the home, at school or in a community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

#### 4. Signs of Abuse:

**Physical Abuse:** NSPCC notes that there are often bruises and small cuts on children and young people – typically on elbows, knees and shins – areas where accidents often occurs. Bruises and cuts on areas such as cheeks or thighs may be cause for concern, as would bruises that are caused by hand marks or fingertips as the possible result of slapping or pinching. Other signs to be concerned about are cigarette burns, bite marks, broken bones and scalds.

**Sexual Abuse:** A child, young person or vulnerable adult who is being sexually abused may show physical signs such as stomach pains, discomfort in the genital or anal area as well as medical conditions that would probably be hard to spot in casual contact.

**Emotional Abuse:** Signs of emotional abuse might be failure to thrive or grow, sudden speech disorders, or developmental delay both physically or emotionally.

**Neglect:** A child, young person or vulnerable adult suffering from neglect might show signs of constant hunger, always being unclean, lack of personal hygiene, loss of weight or being constantly underweight or have inappropriate dress for the weather.

**Signs of abuse:** may also be shown through sudden changes in behaviour: neurotic behaviour (for instance, hair twisting or rocking); aggressive behaviour / temper tantrums; depression; being withdrawn or complaining of being tired all the time; fear of being left with a specific person or group; flinching when being approached or touched; being frightened of making mistakes; eating disorders; self-harm; fear of the parent or carer being approached about their behaviour; sexual knowledge inappropriate to age or development level.

**Spiritual Abuse:** Linked with emotional abuse, spiritual abuse could be defined as an abuse of power, often done in the name of God or religion, which involves manipulating or coercing someone into thinking, saying or doing things without respecting and their right to choose for themselves. Some indicators of spiritual abuse might be a leader who is intimidating and imposes his/her will on other people, perhaps threatening dire consequences or the wrath of God if disobeyed. He or she may say that God has revealed certain things to them and so they know what is right. Those under their leadership are fearful to challenge or disagree, believing they will lose the leader's (or more seriously God's) acceptance and approval.

#### 5. Responding to Possible Abuse, Disclosures and Allegations of Abuse:

##### 5.1 Suspicion of Abuse

The person who sees or suspects abuse should:

- Make the parent/carer aware.
- If the parent/carer is suspected of being the abuser, contact the DSO and seek further guidance.
- Record all details and actions as soon as possible after the discussion.

## 5.2 Responding to Disclosure

The person receiving the information concerning disclosure should:

- Remain calm and in control, but don't delay acting.
- Listen carefully to what is being said. Allow the child, young person or vulnerable adult to tell you at their own pace and ask questions only for clarification.
- Don't promise to 'keep it a secret'. Use the first opportunity you have to say that you will need to share the information with others. Make it clear that you will only tell the people who need to know and should be able to help.
- Reassure the child, young person or vulnerable adult that they did the right thing in telling someone.
- Tell the child, young person or vulnerable adult what you are going to do next. (you might have to consider referring to Social Services or the Police to prevent a child or young person returning home if you consider them to be seriously at risk of further abuse)
- Contact the person in your church/organisation responsible for co-ordinating safeguarding concerns or contact an agency such as thirtyone:eight or local Multi-Agency Child Protection Units for advice or go directly to Social Services/Police/NSPCC
- Consider your own feelings and seek pastoral support if needed

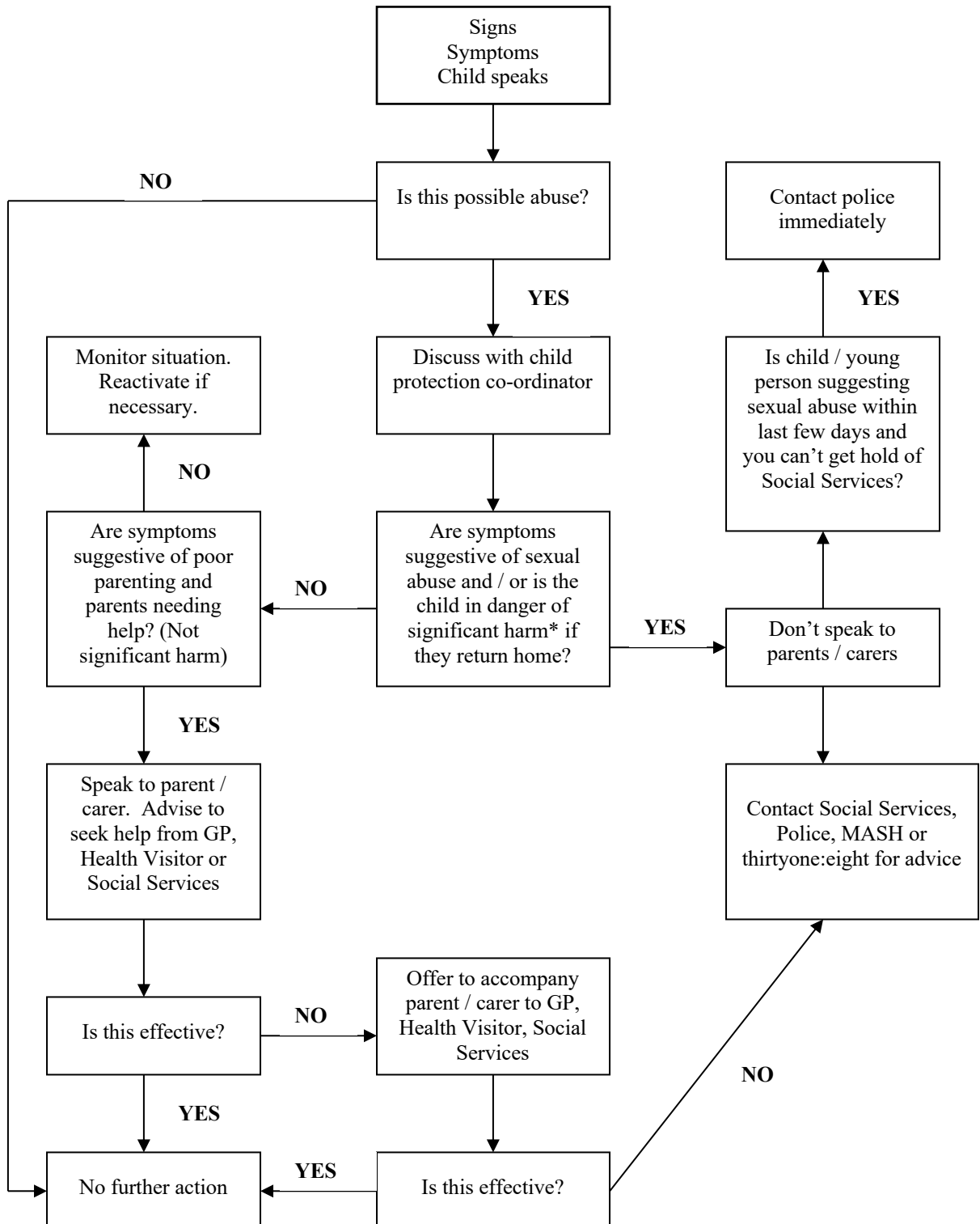
Never delay emergency action to protect a child from harm; always report any concerns and always record any decisions.

When local Multi-Agency Child Protection Units or thirtyone:eight are contacted, they will take full details of the child and the concerns and will either:

- Provide advice and information, or
- Direct to an appropriate team or organisation, or
- Make a formal referral to the social care team

Both the alleged abuser - and the person who is thought to have been abused - have the right to confidentiality under the Data Protection Act 1998. Any possible criminal investigation could be compromised through information being release.

### 5.3 Flowchart of Action





Registered office:  
21 Forest Hill Road  
London  
SE22 0SG

## 6. Contacts

### MASH Multiple -Agency Safeguarding Hubs:

Please check your local authority website for details.

### Thirty One Eight

**Web:** [thirtyoneeight.org](http://thirtyoneeight.org)  
**Email:** [info@thirtyoneeight.org](mailto:info@thirtyoneeight.org)  
**Helpline:** 0303 003 1111  
Text: 88858

### NSPCC:

**Web:** [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)  
**Email:** [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)  
**Helpline:** 0808 800 5000

### POLICE

Call 999 in an emergency when a child or vulnerable adult is in imminent danger

### UE Designated Safeguarding Officer:

Sara Barron  
[sara@curbsproject.co.uk](mailto:sara@curbsproject.co.uk)

### Trustee Safeguarding Lead:

Phil Warburton  
[philwarbie@gmail.com](mailto:philwarbie@gmail.com)  
07985 414906

This policy was last reviewed on:.....8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Signed: ..... Date: .....8<sup>th</sup> June 2023.....