



## **Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop**

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### **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY: DEFINITIONS**

#### **What is abuse?**

Abuse may be described as:

“An act, or failure to act, by the person responsible for the care of the child. It may involve cruelty, exploitation or neglect”.

#### **Abuse takes many forms:**

##### **Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse 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 feigns the symptoms of or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using terms such as fictitious illness by proxy or Munchausen syndrome by proxy.

##### **Neglect**

Neglect is 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 and development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter, and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

##### **Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways

## **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar that they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY PERTAINING TO SHARIKATUL HUSSAIN SATURDAY WORKSHOP**

Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop recognises that children have the right to be safe, secure and free from threat. The welfare of the child is paramount.

Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop will provide an environment that ensures children are safe from potential abuse, and will respond to any suspicion of potential abuse in a way that respects the child's dignity and reinforces the adult's responsibility to the child.

### **Statement of principles**

Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop will:

- Treat children as individuals entitled to dignity and respect.
- Promote effective partnerships amongst all those involved with children, including children's parents or carers, to improve children's welfare.
- Promote the safety of children.
- Raise awareness of best practice in how to protect children from harm of all kinds.
- Minimise risks to children so that they do not suffer harm.
- Make safety the responsibility of everyone at Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop whose work brings them into contact with children.
- Establish effective and open procedures in responding to accidents, complaints or concerns so that they can be shared and dealt with promptly.
- Adopt and apply safe recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.

### **Recruitment and Selection of Staff and Volunteers**

To reduce the risk of abuse by staff and volunteers Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop will:

- Ensure that all adults working (voluntary or paid) with Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop who have contact with children undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.
- All new projects undertaken by Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop consider issues relating to child protection and ensure that training is

given to all adults involved. This will help them recognise and respond to suspected abuse of children whether physical, emotional, sexual or as a result of neglect.

- It is important that CRB checked staffs do not take non-checked people with them to meetings or places where they may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults.
- Never allow an adult who is not CRB to be alone with a child for example by going to the toilet or supervising children in a separate room.

### **Reporting and recording concerns**

Staff and volunteers involved with Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop are required to promptly pass on any concerns about possible child abuse or concerns about the welfare and safety of a child to the Designated Person for Child Protection in Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop. The Designated Person for Child Protection is Sr Sukaina Fazal.

The Designated Person needs to make a judgment as to whether the allegation or concerns need to be passed on to the authorities or be discussed with the parents/carers first. If staff and volunteers receive an allegation of abuse against another member of staff or volunteer they should promptly inform the Designated Person.

It is essential that the staff member or volunteer records what they have seen or heard that has led them to believe that a child's welfare or safety is at risk. The Designated Person also needs to keep clear and concise records. Records need to be kept of action taken and why that action was decided upon.

Staff or volunteers should bear in mind that it is not their job to investigate an allegation.

### **Supervision of Children**

- Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop recognises that the safety of children should be of paramount concern at all times. This will:
- Plan appropriate activities
- Supervise and know where children at all times (indoors and outside)
- Ensure there are sufficient people for the activity
- Clarify the responsibilities of the adults and make sure they work in pairs

### **Supervision of Staff or volunteers**

It is important that staff and volunteers do not engage in behaviour that could be misinterpreted. They need to be aware of the boundaries, to be open in the way they deal with children, and to know they can pass on any concerns. They should not be alone with children. They should:

- Avoid situations where a child is completely unobserved
- Not spend excessive amounts of time alone with a child
- Not take children on a car journey alone however short
- Take children to their home

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative game including horseplay
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child even in fun
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for a child which they can do themselves
- If a member of staff and volunteer should accidentally hurt a child, or if a child seems distressed in any manner or misunderstands or misinterprets something a member of staff and volunteer has done then the incident should be reported as soon as possible to Sr Sukaina Fazal and a brief written note made. Parents or carers should then be informed of the incident.

The Administration of Sharikatul Hussain Saturday Workshop is specifically responsible for ensuring that Child Protection is accorded the necessary status within the organisation by making sure all members of staff and volunteers working with children follow this Policy.