



**BIG SIS C.I.C.**

## **SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES**

**Dealing with disclosures and concerns related  
to peer-on-peer abuse**

<b>Policy comes in to force:</b>	1st of March 2023
<b>Review period:</b>	1 year
<b>Next review:</b>	1st of March 2024

### **Types of allegations**

There are many ways that a child may be abusive towards other children. A child who is displaying abusive behaviour may not realise they are doing so.

When a child abuses another child, it is sometimes called 'peer on peer abuse' or 'peer abuse' (Department for Education, 2020; Department of Health, 2017).

Allegations may involve:

- [bullying or cyberbullying](#)
- [emotional abuse](#)
- [online abuse](#)
- [physical abuse](#)
- [sexting](#)
- [harmful sexual behaviour](#)
- [sexual abuse](#).

## Identifying concerns

There are a range of ways concerns might be raised:

- A child or adult might make a direct allegation of abuse by a child or young person.
- A child or adult might tell you they're uncomfortable with a child or young person's behaviour. They **may not realise the behaviour is abusive**.
- A member of staff or volunteer might observe behaviour that gives cause for concern and make a report following your organisation's safeguarding procedures.
- Your organisation may be informed that a child or young person is the subject of an investigation.
- A child or young person might tell you they have harmed someone else or are at risk of doing so.

## Reporting

As a member of Big Sis C.I.C.'s staff or volunteer cohort, calm and professional judgement must play a vital role in the process of identifying abuse. It is always helpful to consider:

- the power relationship at play
- the intent of the perpetrator.

**Start with the basics that apply to any safeguarding situation:**

- have a clear understanding of what abuse is
- believe what a young person tells you
- create appropriate records ([Incident Report Form](#))
- report immediately to the **school Safeguarding Officer** and the **Big Sis Designated Safeguarding Lead**
- a designated **school Safeguarding Officer / Safeguarding Lead** will liaise with external agencies where there are concerns.

This practice is the foundation when assessing peer-on-peer abuse, as for any other potential safeguarding situation.

**Consider the appropriateness and urgency** of reporting the situation to social care services or the police, preferably following prior discussion with the child in question and with the agreement of the **school Safeguarding Officer** and **Designated Safeguarding Lead** but in some circumstances (i.e. when a child is believed to be at risk) without.

## Follow the key principles

- seek advice
- take seriously what you are told
- put the safety and wellbeing of the child at the forefront of your actions.

## Designated Safeguarding Lead

If you are worried, liaise and seek advice with the Big Sis C.I.C. Designated Safeguarding Leads **first**.

### Contact details:

#### **Designated Safeguarding Lead for Big Sis C.I.C:**

Name: Friederike Kunze (Big Sis Director)

Phone/email: [hello@big-sis.co](mailto:hello@big-sis.co) // +44 7714 014760

## SAFEGUARDING ADVISORS

### Plymouth Gateway Service

If you are worried about a child or young person, or think they are being abused, even if you are unsure, please contact

Tel: 01752 668000 Select Children's Services – Option 1

Email: [gateway@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:gateway@plymouth.gov.uk)

Big Sis C.I.C. will liaise with **Devon local child protection services** (Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the police to ensure that as an organisation we are responding appropriately.

If the allegation is against someone Big Sis C.I.C. does not employ directly, the organisation they work or volunteer for will be involved in the investigation.

## **MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub)**

If you are worried about the safety of a child in Devon, even if you are not sure, and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, please contact (MASH). Give as much information as you can.

Contact Number: 0345 155 1071

Email: mashsecure@devon.gov.uk

## **NSPCC**

[NSPCC helpline](#) 0808 800 5000

## **CEOP - online sexual abuse**

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

## **Bullying advice**

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>