

# Beacon Alternative Provision

## Safeguarding Policy



### Policy Statement

At Beacon Alternative Provision (Beacon AP), we are committed to promoting the welfare and safeguarding of all children and young people in our care. Our staff frequently work in homes with children, and this presents unique safeguarding challenges. This policy outlines how we protect children from harm, abuse, and neglect, in accordance with statutory guidance, especially when our staff are providing education in domestic settings.

This policy is written in compliance with relevant legislation, including but not limited to:

- **Children Act 1989 & 2004**
- **Education Act 2002**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)**
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024**

We recognize our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as outlined in the **Children Act 2004**, and to adhere to the requirements set out in **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024** and other government guidance.

### 1. Aims

- To provide all staff with clear guidelines and procedures for safeguarding and protecting children from abuse and harm.
- To ensure all staff working in homes are aware of their responsibilities, risks, and reporting procedures.
- To work in partnership with children, families, external agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure the welfare of children.

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### 2. Legal Framework and Guidance

This policy complies with statutory safeguarding requirements outlined in:

- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024** – which sets out the legal duties of schools and staff to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)** – which outlines how organizations should work together to keep children safe.
- **The Children Act 1989 and 2004** – which provides the framework for the care and protection of children.
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** – governing the recruitment of individuals in positions of trust.

All staff must read and understand Part One of **KCSIE 2024** and sign a declaration that they have done so.

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### **3. Definitions of Abuse**

Staff must be aware of the four main types of abuse as defined in **KCSIE 2024**:

- **Physical Abuse** – Physical harm or injury to a child.
  - **Emotional Abuse** – Persistent emotional maltreatment affecting a child’s emotional development.
  - **Sexual Abuse** – Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities.
  - **Neglect** – Persistent failure to meet a child’s basic needs.
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### **4. Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **4.1 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

Beacon AP has a designated safeguarding lead (DSL) responsible for overseeing all safeguarding matters. The DSL will:

- Ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Act as a point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Make referrals to children’s services where necessary.

#### **4.2 Staff Responsibilities**

All Beacon AP staff, including those working in schools or homes, must:

- Promote the welfare of children in their care.
  - Be vigilant in identifying potential safeguarding issues.
  - Act immediately if they suspect a child is at risk of harm or abuse.
  - Adhere to confidentiality guidelines but understand that concerns must always be shared with the DSL.
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## 5. Safer Recruitment

We are committed to safer recruitment practices in line with **KCSIE 2024**. All staff must undergo:

- **Enhanced DBS checks** before starting work.
  - Reference checks and thorough vetting procedures.
  - Regular safeguarding training and updates.
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## 6. Working in Homes Safeguarding Procedures

Beacon staff often deliver educational services within children's homes. We recognize this creates specific risks and responsibilities:

### 6.1 Lone Working

- Staff must follow Beacon AP's **lone working risk assessments** when working in homes.
- Staff should never be alone in a home with a child without prior authorization.
- Staff should ensure there is a responsible adult present in the home, wherever possible.

### 6.2 Professional Boundaries

- Maintain clear, professional boundaries at all times.
- Avoid physical contact unless it is necessary for the safety of the child.
- Report any situation where professional boundaries have been compromised.

### 6.3 Home Environment

- Staff should be vigilant in identifying risks to children's welfare in the home environment, including signs of neglect or abuse.
- Any concerns about the safety or condition of the home must be reported immediately to the DSL.

### 6.4 Use of Technology

- Staff must not use personal devices to communicate with children. All communication should be via approved channels.
  - Staff should not share personal contact details with children or families.
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## **7. Reporting and Recording Procedures**

### **7.1 Reporting Concerns**

If a staff member has any concern about a child's welfare:

- They must act immediately by reporting the concern to the DSL or deputy DSL.
- In the case of immediate danger, contact emergency services (999).

### **7.2 Disclosure by a Child**

If a child discloses abuse:

- Listen calmly and carefully without leading or questioning.
- Reassure the child they are being taken seriously and it is not their fault.
- Report the disclosure to the DSL immediately.

Staff should not promise confidentiality and must pass the information on to the DSL.

### **7.3 Recording**

All concerns, discussions, and decisions made must be recorded clearly, accurately, and promptly in the safeguarding records.

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## **8. Partnership with Parents and External Agencies**

Beacon AP is committed to working in partnership with families and other agencies, including children's social care, health professionals, and the police, in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

In the case of safeguarding concerns:

- Parents may be informed, except where it might increase risk to the child.
  - All referrals will be made to Devon Children's Services or the appropriate local authority where the child resides.
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## **9. Training and Induction**

All staff will receive annual safeguarding training, with additional updates provided regularly. The DSL will undergo training every two years. New staff must complete safeguarding induction training that includes:

- Understanding of **KCSIE 2024** and Beacon AP safeguarding procedures.
  - Risk assessment procedures for working in homes.
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## 10. Online Safety

Given that some of the educational provision may involve online learning, Beacon AP ensures:

- Staff are trained on online safety risks.
  - All interactions with children online should take place through approved platforms.
  - Any concerns about online activity should be reported to the DSL.
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## 11. Allegations Against Staff

Any allegations of abuse made against a staff member will be dealt with in accordance with **Part Four of KCSIE 2024** and Devon's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) procedures.

If an allegation is made:

- The staff member must be suspended from duties pending an investigation.
  - The allegation will be reported to the LADO within 24 hours.
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## 12. Whistleblowing

Staff should feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice without fear of reprisals. Beacon AP has a whistleblowing policy that ensures staff can report concerns confidentially. This aligns with **KCSIE 2024**, which encourages staff to report issues that affect the welfare of children.

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## 13. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required by changes in legislation or guidance. Any updates will be communicated to staff and stakeholders.

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**Policy approved by: Steve O'Connell and Fiona Field**

Date: 6 June 2024

Review date: 6 June 2025

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This safeguarding policy ensures Beacon AP complies with legal obligations and protects children when staff work in homes, ensuring both the child's safety and staff accountability.