

**COVID-19 Safeguarding and Child Protection at The Life Nursery**

Designated safeguarding lead – Louise Gray

Email: louise@thelifenursery.co.uk 01274 687588

Deputy designated safeguarding lead – Francesca Edwards

Email: louise@thelifenursery.co.uk 01274 687588

**Vulnerable children**

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a Child Protection Plan and those who are looked after by the Local Authority. A child may also be deemed vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Those with an EHC plan will be risk-assessed in consultation with the Local Authority and parents, to decide whether they need to continue to be offered nursery place in order to meet their needs, or whether they can safely have their needs met at home. This could include, if necessary, carers, therapists or clinicians visiting the home to provide any essential services. Many children and young people with EHC plans can safely remain at home.

Designated safeguarding lead (and deputy) know who our most vulnerable children are.

The Life Nursery will continue to work with and support children and their families at this time.

Where parents are concerned about the risk of the child contracting COVID19, The Life Nursery or the social worker will talk through these anxieties with the parent/carer following the advice set out by Public Health England.

**Designated safeguarding lead**

The Life Nursery has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a Deputy DSL.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is - Louise Gray (Manager)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is – Francesca Edwards (Deputy Manager)

Nursery will remain open from between the hours of 8am and 4pm for staff and 8.30am and 3.15pm for children.

**Reporting a concern**

Where staff have a concern about a child, they should continue to follow the process outlined in the nursery Safeguarding Policy.

Staff are reminded of the need to report any concern immediately.

Where staff are concerned about an adult working with children in the nursery, they should report the concern to the Manager in the first instance or the Deputy Manager or Board of Directors.

DSL training is very unlikely to take place whilst there remains a threat of the COVID-19 virus.

For the period COVID-19 measures are in place, a DSL (or deputy) who has been trained will continue to be classed as a trained DSL (or deputy) even if they miss their refresher training.

All existing nursery staff have had up to date safeguarding training and have read part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2019) and Working Together to Safeguard Children. The DSL will communicate with staff any new local arrangements, so they know what to do if they are worried about a child.

**Prevent Referrals**

Colleagues in the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) have noticed a drop in Prevent Referrals from the education sector. The nursery will remain vigilant and make any referrals on the new national reporting form which can be found on the BSO Prevent page. Prevent concerns should be reported immediately to:-

Geraldine Cooper

Prevent Education Officer (Acting)

Email: Geraldine.cooper@bradford.gov.uk

Mobile 07866890006

Danielle King

Prevent Co-ordinator (Acting)

Email: Danielle.king@bradford.gov.uk

Mobile: 07870991647

**Supporting children not in nursery**

The Life Nursery is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all its children and families.

A communication plan has been put in place where members of staff have been calling all families on a weekly basis if their child is not in the nursery. Staff have then sign posting families if they have needed support, all these conversations have been recorded and can be found in the COVID-19 file.

**Supporting children in nursery**

The Life Nursery is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children.

The Life Nursery will continue to be a safe space for all children to attend and flourish. The Manager will ensure that appropriate staff are in nursery and staff to child ratio numbers are appropriate, to maximise safety.

Where the Life Nursery has concerns about the impact of staff absence – such as our Designated Safeguarding Lead or First Aiders – we will discuss them immediately with the Board of Directors.

A risk assessment has been carried out for the re-opening of the nursery to ensure the safety of all staff, children and parents/carers

Staying at home for a prolonged period and the change of routine may have caused difficulties for some children, such as changes in behaviour or mood.

As more children return to The Life Nursery, we will support them in making their transition back into the nursery after a long period of time away.

Planning, supporting and consideration for children with SEND retuning to the nursery will take place knowing that re-adjusting to new routines may prove more challenging for some children with SEND than others.

**Training**

All staff have completed COVID-19 prevention training to ensure safety of children, parents/carers and staff within the setting.

**Facebook**

Facebook will continue to be managed by the Manager of The Life Nursery, sharing resources for children who are at home during this time. All resources that are shared are checked before sharing them with families to ensure their safety.

**Local Authorities (Bradford Council and Sufficiency Team)**

We are working closely with the above and will continue to follow advice and guidance provided from themselves, Department for Education and Public Health England – 0800 046 8687.

This policy was revised by Louise Gray (Manager) and Francesca Edwards (Deputy) dated 21st September 2020 and will be reviewed weekly in line with government guidance.

Signed……………………………………………..

Dated………………………………………………