



association of **visitors** to
immigration detainees

AVID Safeguarding Policy for Children

Contents

1. Key Contacts	2
2. Introduction and Scope of Policy	2
3. AVID’s Values and Safeguarding Commitments	2
4. Legal Framework	3
4.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)	4
4.2 Child in Need and Child Protection (‘Significant Risk of Harm’)	4
4.3 Child Abuse	4
4.4 Mental Capacity and children	4
4.5 Domestic Abuse and Children	5
4.6 Children in Detention	5
4.7 Age disputes	5
5. Organisational Arrangements and Practice	6
5.1 Overview	6
5.2 Recruitment of staff and volunteers and ensuring a skilled workforce	7
5.3 Safeguarding as a membership organisation	7
5.4 Digital Safeguarding	8
6 Our approach to managing a safeguarding concern	8
6.1 What is a safeguarding concern?	8
6.2 Framework	8
6.4 Escalating a safeguarding concern	8
6.5 Detained children	9
6.6 Concerns about children in the community known to people in detention	9
6.7 Consent, Confidentiality and Sharing Information	10
6.8 When is a safeguarding concern closed?	10
6.9 Record Keeping	10
6.10 Learning lessons	11

7	Managing Risk when related to a staff member, trustee or volunteer	11
8	Links with other Policies	11

Appendices

1. Further Reading and Resources
2. Types of Abuse: Children
3. Escalation within immigration detention

1. Key Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead	enquiries@aviddetention.org.uk	Telephone: 07900196131/ 0207 281 0533
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	enquiries@aviddetention.org.uk	Telephone: 0207 281 0533

2. Introduction and Scope of Policy

This policy:

- applies to all staff, volunteers, trustees, consultants, people we support and any others who may work on behalf of AVID in a paid or non-paid capacity.
- provides guidance on preventing and identifying abuse and neglect, and recognising, responding, reporting and recording concerns.
- is based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children from harm.
- is based on the belief that everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.
- recognises that most of those whom AVID and AVID members meet in detention are adults, although member groups do also visit detention centres and other sites where families and children can be held.
- recognises that we may come into contact with children or young people who dispute the age the state has assessed them as. AVID will view these individuals as children for the purposes of our policy, although we recognise that many of the usual statutory referral routes will not be open to them.

For the purpose of this policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18. AVID recognises that children aged 16-17 may be subject to adult-based legislation when it comes to Domestic Abuse and Mental Capacity but, regardless of context, AVID will ensure that a child's safety and welfare is paramount to any safeguarding actions. Young people under 18 years old may be detained if the Home Office believes them to be over 18 years old.

This policy should be read in conjunction with AVID's Safeguarding Policy Statement and Safeguarding Escalation Guidance.

3. AVID's Values and Safeguarding Commitments

Our Child Safeguarding Policy is based on the legal framework in which we work, following the key principles of adult and child safeguarding. Our safeguarding commitments and values reflect this and are outlined in our Safeguarding Policy Statement. We understand that our staff and volunteers may receive information or disclosures about children in their wider networks or within detention and acknowledge there may be times that action to safeguard a child may fall within our remit. We are committed to putting in place safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child, regardless of their age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has a right to equal protection from harm.

AVID strives to live our values, working to create a culture of safety wherever possible within the context which we work. We recognise the unique challenges of child protection within a detention context and commit to doing everything we can to engage with the relevant statutory authorities to ensure any child is safeguarded appropriately in spite of the hostile and complex legal context. We acknowledge that there are unique challenges that exist when safeguarding children subject to immigration controls, whether in a detention context or within the wider community and commit to advocating for **all** children to receive the same protection rights as outlined in child protection legal frameworks.

AVID aims to provide a safe, responsive and supportive environment for our members. Our safeguarding responsibilities are guided by the principles underpinning all our work and specifically through:

- Believing that all people have a right to protection from abuse.
- Respecting and being sensitive to difference, while acknowledging that the expression of difference must be restricted if its practices are harmful.
- Understanding that, as an organisation, we have a responsibility to protect children at risk of harm as defined in the legal context and that the welfare of the child is always paramount.
- Promoting the values of respect and partnership working unless to do so would increase the risk to a child.

We will ensure a child-centred, trauma-informed approach in the way we work. This will include:

- Training and guidance to build understanding of the impact of trauma.
- Understanding that many of the people we support will have had adverse, trauma experiences and acknowledge the impact of these experiences in our support offer to actively avoid re-traumatisation, taking into account the risks that are present pre- and post-detention environments. This may include direct risks to children or risks as a result of wider circumstances.
- Ensuring the child's needs are the upmost priority when making any decisions about how best to support them or their wider family.
- Where circumstances allow, listening to the voice of the child and ensuring they feel heard and their autonomy is promoted.
- Understanding that the welfare of the child is paramount and that children are usually best looked after within their family environment unless compulsory intervention is needed.

4. Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Human Rights Act 2008
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Immigration Act 2014

4.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Working Together to Safeguard Children offers specific guidance on safeguarding children within the voluntary sector. The guidance acknowledges the unique role that voluntary sector organisations play. Within Working Together, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

4.2 Child in Need and Child Protection ('Significant Risk of Harm')

'Child in Need' and child at 'risk of significant harm' are official terms as defined by section 17 and section 47 of the Children Act 1989. In everyday terms, it is important to understand that any circumstances that prevent a child from achieving or maintaining a reasonable level of health or development, or whose health and development is likely to be significantly or further impaired, without the provision of service can fall into this category. Children with a disability may also be classed as a Child in Need or at 'risk of significant harm'.

By the very nature of detention settings, any child subjected to this environment will meet the definition of at least a 'child in need'. The Local Authority have a duty to carry out an assessment wherever this is the case. Please see below for more information on Immigration Act 2014.

4.3 Child Abuse

The following categories of child abuse are taken from Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Please see Appendix 3 for more detailed information.

- Physical Abuse or Harm
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

It is highly unlikely that a child will be 'in need' or at 'significant risk' through one form of abuse. Every form of abuse will have an emotional impact to some degree, and it is important to recognise the broader impact on a child than the factual information that may be presented. Taking a holistic approach to the situation will ensure all factors are considered.

4.4 Mental Capacity and children

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is a key part of Adult Safeguarding legislation but also applies to children aged 16 and over. AVID staff and volunteers need to have an awareness of this to ensure appropriate action is taken as and when needed, with the recognition that there may be a higher

likelihood of encountering children with impaired capacity due to the detention environment and associated hostility and trauma.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a framework to empower and protect people who have capacity impairments. In law, young people aged 16 and over are presumed to have capacity. They can consent to, or refuse, treatment in their own right, including hospital admission.

The Mental Capacity Act does not apply to under 16s. To decide whether a child under 16 is able to consent to their own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge they are assessed to establish if they are competent to make such decisions. This assessment is referred to as 'Gillick Competence'. Please see further linked information in Appendices 2.

Staff & volunteers should refer to Migrants Organise and NRPf Practice Guidance on [Mental Capacity](#).

4.5 Domestic Abuse and Children

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is the first time that children are recognised as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right. It is important to note this as, if AVID become aware of a situation of Domestic Abuse and there are children in the family, it is best practice to refer the information to the Local Authority.

4.6 Children in Detention

The Immigration Act 2014 restricts the detention of unaccompanied children (i.e. children who are alone) to short-term holding facilities and for a 24-hour time limit. The detention of unaccompanied children is subject to the following conditions:

“The first condition is that: (a) directions are in force that require the child to be removed from the short-term holding facility within the relevant 24 hour period, or (b) a decision on whether or not to give directions is likely to result in such directions. The second condition is that the immigration officer under whose authority the child is being detained reasonably believes that the child will be removed from the short-term holding facility within the relevant 24 hour period in accordance with those directions.” (extract Immigration Act 2014, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/22/section/5/enacted>)

The 2014 Act limits detention to children with their families to a maximum of 72 hours, or seven days in cases where the longer period of detention is authorised personally by a Minister of the Crown). (Immigration Act 2014, Detention and Bail, Section 6)

The Home Office has a duty to consult on how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in relation to return and detention of families. (Immigration Act 2014, Part 1, Removal, Section 3).

4.7 Age disputes

Unaccompanied children can be subjected to immigration detention if the Home Office believes - on the basis of their appearance or demeanour - that they are 'significantly over 18 years old' and the child or young person cannot prove otherwise. The Home Office is allowed to treat them as an adult unless challenged, and if they are challenged these are what are referred to as 'age dispute cases'.

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 ('NABA 2022') provides the Home Office with much greater power and oversight over age assessments. Prior to NABA 2022, local authorities completed 'Merton compliant' age assessments. Merton Compliance takes its name from an immigration case in which the High Court stated that local authority "cannot simply adopt a decision made by the Home Office" and outlined a number of criteria for a lawful assessment. To be "Merton compliant", an assessment should be holistic and not made based solely on appearance but take into account (amongst other factors) the child's history in their home country, education and cultural information.

NABA 2022 established a new "National Age Assessment Board", which consists of social workers employed by the Home Office, to complete age assessments if the local authority chooses to transfer the age assessment to the Home Office or if the Home Office notifies the local authority in writing that it doubts a person's age as a child. The National Age Assessment Board can also carry out age assessments directly for those not cared for by the local authority or at any point before the local authority has referred the case or provided its own age assessment to the Home Office.

Local authorities *do not have to* refer cases to the National Age Assessment Board but can choose to do so. They can also carry out the age assessment themselves or confirm to the Home Office that they are satisfied that the individual's age is as claimed. Under NABA 2022, the Home Office can override the local authority's age assessment and conduct its own. Furthermore, if the local authority decides not to carry out an age assessment or decides to conduct its own, it must provide required evidence for the Home Office to consider the decision. The National Age Assessment Board's decision only binds the Home Office (including immigration officers) and not the local authority who can continue to treat the individual as a child. If this happens, young people deemed to be children by the local authority could be detained by the Home Office.

5. Organisational Arrangements and Practice

5.1 Overview

In order to safeguard children and adults at risk AVID has:

- A clear line of accountability with a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to take leadership responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements and a Deputy Safeguarding Lead who has joint responsibility for safeguarding decisions.
- A designated Safeguarding Trustee.
- Appropriate supervision and support for staff, including identifying any safeguarding training needs and gaps.
- Access to AVID's Safeguarding Lead, the Safeguarding Trustee or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead who will advise and promote good practice and will be available to staff at all times during working hours.
- Safeguarding training delivered annually to all staff, included as part of the induction and staff are required to complete AVID's Code of Conduct form confirming that they will comply with AVID's safeguarding policies.
- Safeguarding leads receive more extensive training *at least* every two years.
- Training on trauma-informed support and vicarious trauma.
- Reporting guidance for member organisations.

- Clear understanding of Charity Commission Safeguarding Serious Incident reporting procedures (see Appendix 5).
- An introductory message summarising the intent and content of this policy as well as a copy this policy integrated into our website

5.2 Recruitment of staff and volunteers and ensuring a skilled workforce

The AVID staff team are not required to interact with children through their day-to-day roles at AVID. There may be some roles in which staff members more commonly interact with children – these are roles working with members of our community who have lived experience of detention (who bring their children to an AVID event) or through our phone line if a child is in detention and contacts AVID. Other members of staff may provide guidance and support to members of the AVID network who could come into contact with children.

All those responsible for employing and selecting staff and volunteers take every precaution to ensure sound and thorough vetting procedures. Care is always taken to ensure that references are taken up and obtained and that there is a focus on safeguarding throughout the recruitment process. Values based interviewing is used to enhance safer recruitment processes. Staff members who are required to visit detention centres are required to have an Enhanced DBS check, which is arranged by AVID. Staff members and volunteers who are working with vulnerable adults in the community (where children could be present on an occasional basis), AVID will arrange a standard DBS check.

AVID will ensure that safeguarding experience & skill will be assessed at interview.

Staff, volunteers and trustees are provided with safeguarding training during their induction and provided with a comprehensive understanding of AVIDs policies, core values and commitment to safeguarding adults. All staff, volunteers and trustees should be equipped with knowledge and understanding around safeguarding adults and reporting procedures. All staff and volunteers should be clear about the core values of AVID and commitment to safeguarding adults. All staff members, trustees and volunteers are expected to read and sign AVID’s Safeguarding “Code of Conduct”.

AVID will ensure that all staff, trustees and volunteers receive annual awareness training on safeguarding adults.

AVID will develop and maintain a culture that promotes and prioritizes safeguarding by embedding safeguarding knowledge into line-management supervision.

5.3 Safeguarding as a membership organisation

The steps that we take, recognising our roles and responsibilities as a membership organisation, to create a culture of safety are set out in our safeguarding policy for adults at risk.

We provide guidance and support to our members to understand their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to children.

5.4 Digital Safeguarding

AVID does not interact with children online. If an occasion arises where there is potential for children to interact with AVID online then a risk assessment must be carried out by the safeguarding team before any such event.

6 Our approach to managing a safeguarding concern

This process is also set out in “AVID’s process for escalating a concern” in a flow diagram and AVID’s adults safeguarding policy.

6.1 What is a safeguarding concern?

A safeguarding concern is any worry or concern about the safety or wellbeing of a person because of something seen or heard, or information which has been received. This includes where a child is at risk of harm from others or from being in an unsuitable environment – like an adults immigration detention centre.

6.2 Framework

When approaching a safeguarding concern, we take the “4 Rs” approach:

Action	Thought	Focus
Recognise	What is going on?	Instinct/ Evidence/ Disclosure
Respond	What action should I take?	High/ Medium/Low risk
Report	Who do I need to tell?	External/ Internal
Record	Where should I log this and how quickly?	External/ Internal

6.3 Initial actions

Staff members at AVID should approach potential safeguarding concerns with professional curiosity if they become concerned that an adult is at risk.

It is important that staff members share information early in order to provide an effective response and identify emerging concerns, remembering that initial information sharing does not always mean that action is necessary. Having raised a concern with AVIDs safeguarding lead, staff members should complete an initial risk assessment form, which can be found in Dropbox (alongside all of AVID safeguarding policies), and send this to the safeguarding lead. The form should include information on the date and time that the concern was identified, what happened, risk factors and protective factors.

Staff members should always obtain the authorisation of the Safeguarding Lead, or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead, to escalate a Safeguarding concern if the consent of the adult has not been obtained **unless** it is an emergency i.e. there is an immediate risk of significant harm.

6.4 Escalating a safeguarding concern

The Safeguarding Lead will decide whether a disclosure is made within 24 hours. Wherever possible this will be discussed with the Deputy Safeguarding Lead and the Designated Trustee for Safeguarding at AVID and decisions will be made collectively.

When deciding whether to refer or not, the Safeguarding team should consider:

- the child's and any connected adults' (where appropriate) wishes and preferred outcome.
- level and severity of risk.
- the safety or wellbeing of children or other adults with care and support needs.
- whether there is a person in a position of trust involved.
- whether a crime has been committed.

AVID will work with other agencies that have expertise in all safeguarding and children safeguarding matters including the Local Authority and Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if necessary. Please see AVIDs Guidance on Escalating a Safeguarding Concern and Appendix 4 for referral pathways.

6.5 Detained children

If a child is identified in a detention setting the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy Safeguarding Lead as necessary) should be notified immediately and the following steps taken:

- Explain to the child the steps that will be taken and that this information will be shared with relevant professionals in order to try and get the right support. Don't make any promises about what will happen.
- A referral to be made to the Local Authority area in which the child is being detained. AVID's stands against the culture of disbelief that is pervasive within detention settings and will refer any child that states that they are under 18 to Children's Services to make a decision on an age-assessment.
- Refer any age-disputed children to the Age Dispute Project in the Children's Section managed by the Refugee Council. The Refugee Council runs The Age Disputes project which takes referrals from organisations that work and visit in IRCs, solicitors, or anyone else who believes that a detained person looks under 18 or is claiming to be under 18. Where a case is taken on by Refugee Council, the aim is to ensure the child gets a professional recognised age assessment from a local authority and is released from detention as soon as possible.
- Ensure the child has legal representation and/ or any current involved professionals are aware of the individual stating that they are a child.

6.6 Concerns about children in the community known to people in detention

Through our work we may become aware of children in the community who are at risk or they may disclose that a child is being abused, neglected or exploited. Please see Appendix 2 for more information on types of abuse. In this situation, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (and Deputy Safeguarding Lead as necessary) should be notified immediately, and the following steps taken:

- Inform the adult making the disclosure that you will need to share this information to ensure that the child is safeguarded unless to do so would put the child at an increased risk of harm.

- Gather as many identifying details as you are able in order to make a meaningful referral to Children’s Services e.g. name, date of birth, address, nature of the concern/ risks, any involved family members or professionals.
- Make a referral to the Local Authority in the area where the child resides. This may be different to the locality of the person making the disclosure.

6.7 Consent, Confidentiality and Sharing Information

As far as possible, the child we are concerned about will be involved in any decisions about onward referrals and their agency and choices valued in decisions to share information.

Government advice about when and how information can be shared is found in ‘Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018’ which can be found [here](#).

AVID expects all employees, volunteers and trustees to maintain confidentiality in order to create a culture of safety. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, these are not barriers to sharing of information when a child’s safety is deemed to be at risk. When sharing information, AVID will be open and honest with the child (and/or their family) from the start about why, what, how and with whom information may be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

AVID staff can refer to Act, Build, Change’s resource, [The Shape of Safety](#), for more information on working with children to promote their autonomy and agency in decision-making.

6.8 When is a safeguarding concern closed?

When deciding whether to close the concern the Safeguarding Team will consider:

- Reports from the person involved on their wellbeing and safety.
- If the concerns have been addressed and there is no longer a need for support or protection, the concern can be closed.
- Any decision not to escalate, but rather to monitor the situation, means that the concern can be closed.
- What other support is in place from specialist organisations and statutory authorities.

6.9 Record Keeping

Well-kept records are essential where there are safeguarding concerns. Safeguarding concerns are logged, using the AVID Internal Safeguarding Reporting Form and saved in Dropbox under Safeguarding Concerns Log. A risk assessment and action log is kept updated by the safeguarding team using the Safeguarding Case Management Form.

There is an expectation of confidentiality in the recording, use and management of personal information. Trustees, staff and volunteers are clear about what information can be shared with relevant people within and outside of the organisation.

A report of safeguarding incidents and concerns is presented to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis.

6.10 Learning lessons

When a safeguarding concern is concluded, the Safeguarding Team will meet and take minutes to reflect on:

- How the safeguarding concern was handled
- What the impact was on the person involved
- Whether different steps could have been taken
- What they will do next time

This will be shared back with the trustees in the quarterly report and returned to with the team through safeguarding training.

7 Managing Risk when related to a staff member, trustee or volunteer

All staff, management, trustees and volunteers at AVID are expected to follow the safeguarding escalation procedure. If an allegation is against one of AVID's members, volunteers, trustees or Director, seek advice from the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If an allegation is against the Senior Safeguarding Lead, then the report should be made to the Safeguarding Trustee. Any staff who is suspected of not complying with the safeguarding Code of Conduct must be reported immediately to the designated Safeguarding Leads.

Failure to comply with the safeguarding policies or uphold the safeguarding commitments in the Code of Conduct may result in the following actions, depending on the severity of the breach:

- **Verbal Warning:** For minor or first-time breaches, the staff member, trustee or volunteer may receive a verbal warning, with guidance on how to correct their actions.
- **Written Warning:** If the breach is more serious or repeated, the staff member, trustee or volunteer will receive a written warning. This will outline the nature of the violation, expectations for future behaviour, and possible further actions if there is a recurrence.
- **Suspension:** In cases where the breach is significant, or there is an immediate concern for the safety of others, the staff member, trustee or volunteer may be suspended from their duties while an investigation is ongoing. The Local Authority will decide on who will lead on a safeguarding enquiry should it progress to this stage. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be notified if there is an allegation that a staff member or volunteer has (or may have) harmed a child. AVID should not conduct its own safeguarding inquiry unless instructed to do so by the Local Authority.
- **Termination of Employment/Contract:** If the staff member, trustee or volunteer is found to have seriously breached the safeguarding policies, especially in cases involving harm, abuse, or neglect, their employment or contract with AVID may be terminated.

Please also see AVID's Whistleblowing Policy.

8 Links with other Policies

The Child Safeguarding Policy is supported by other organisational policies and procedures

aimed at promoting safe and healthy working practices.

This document must be considered within the context of other policies at AVID, which relate to work with adults and children. Staff will be aware of how other issues can have a bearing on adults and children within different situations, including family situations.

9 Policy Review

The safeguarding policy, procedures, and guidelines are subject to regular review to ensure that they are fit for purpose. These reviews take place following every significant safeguarding incident and **at least** annually.

This policy reaffirms the responsibilities of the Co-Directors and the Board of Trustees to ensure that all adults who work for and on behalf of AVID are fully aware of the need to act continually to enhance the welfare and safety of children.

Appendix 1

Further Legislative Reading

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

Further Governance Information

- Charity Commission Guidance on Safeguarding Responding and Reporting

Further Safeguarding Sources of Support for Safeguarding Children

- Metropolitan Police: What is Child Abuse? <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/what-is-child-abuse>
- NSPCC: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection>
- NSPCC: Gillick Competency and Fraser Guidelines <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines>
- Young Minds: Mental Capacity Act 2005 <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/mental-capacity-act-2005/>
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Appendix 2

Safeguarding Children: Types of Abuse

(<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/what-is-child-abuse/>)

Child abuse is when anyone under the age of 18 is either being harmed or not properly looked after. There are four main categories of child abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is when someone hurts a child or young person on purpose.

Examples of physical abuse are:

- hitting, slapping, shaking or throwing
- burning or scalding
- drowning, suffocating or choking
- pushing or kicking
- inappropriate restraint or false imprisonment
- using physical force to discipline
- misusing medication

- fabricating or inducing an illness or ill health

Signs and symptoms of physical abuse in children can include:

- unexplained recurrent injuries, marks or burns
- covering injuries with clothing even in hot weather
- fear of physical contact and shrinking back if touched

The above are just a few examples.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is when a child is enticed or forced to take part in sexual activities. This kind of abuse does not always involve a high level of violence and the child may or may not be aware of what is happening.

The abuse may be committed by adult men and women, or by other children.

Examples of sexual abuse are:

- causing or inciting a child to watch or engage in sexual activities
- encouraging a child to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
- involving a child in looking at sexual images or videos
- involving a child in the production of sexual images or videos
- grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet)

Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse in children can include:

- extreme reactions such as depression, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, running away, overdoses or anorexia
- personality changes such as becoming insecure or clinging
- being isolated or withdrawn
- medical problems such as chronic itching, pain in the genitals or venereal diseases

The above are just a few examples. Another form of sexual abuse is child sexual exploitation.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse happens in many different ways. It can affect how a young person or child feels about themselves, or how they fit in with friends, at school, or where they live.

Examples of emotional abuse are:

- being made to feel inadequate, worthless or unloved
- being unfairly blamed
- being bullied, including over the internet (cyber-bullying)
- being made to feel frightened or in danger
- witnessing the abuse of others such as [domestic abuse](#)

Signs and symptoms of emotional abuse in children can include:

- reduced physical, mental and emotional development
- continual self-depreciation, eg 'I'm stupid', 'I'm ugly', 'I'm worthless'
- inappropriate response to pain, eg 'I deserve this'
- neurotic behaviour, eg rocking, hair twisting or self-mutilation

Neglect

Neglect is when a child or young person's basic needs are persistently not being met by their parent or guardian.

These basic needs include:

- adequate food, clothing and shelter
- protection from physical and emotional harm or danger
- adequate supervision (including not being left at home alone)
- access to appropriate medical care including dental treatment

Signs and symptoms of neglect in children can include:

- constant hunger or tiredness
- poor personal hygiene
- poor condition and cleanliness of clothing
- untreated medical problems
- no social relationships

Appendix 3

Escalation within Immigration Detention

The Local Authority in which the Immigration Removal Centre is located continue to carry statutory duties to the people detained within them. The key legislation cited in the Safeguarding Adults & Children's policies will continue to apply and staff or volunteers escalating concerns should include both Home Office & Local Authority escalation routes.

Detention occurs within Home Office regulated Immigration Removal Centres, Short-Term Holding Facilities, Residential Holding Rooms, prisons and other confined environments. The principal statutory duties will reside with the Home Office as the statutory agency responsible for the controlled environment and the welfare of those within it.

The following Safeguarding escalation routes apply for IRC's and RSTHF's:

Centre	Safeguarding Contacts (welfare and safer custody)	Office number
Brook House	gw.welfare@serco.com safercommunitygatwick@serco.com	01293 566 (ext. 531/532/603)
Tinsley House	th.welfare@serco.com safercommunitygatwick@serco.com	01293 434880
Heathrow IRCs	HIRC.Welfare@Mitie.com detheathrowdutymanagers@homeoffice.gov.uk	0208 328 396

		<p>Colnbrook (ext. 1170274)</p> <p>0208 569 166 Harmondsworth (ext. 1170522)</p> <p>Out of hours for Colnbrook, we have 1170333 or 1170303.</p> <p>Welfare</p> <p>CB Ext - 1170347, 1170220 and 1170328</p> <p>HW Ext- 1170543, 1170166, 1170603 and 1170569</p>
Yarl's Wood	Yarls-Wood-welfare@serco.com	01234 821415/6 01234 821196
Derwentside	Teamwelfare@serco.com	01207 260221 Ext 254
Dungavel	Dungavel.welfare@mitiecc.com	01698 395376 01698 395552 01698 395000 Ext 446
Campsfield	campsfield.welfare@mitiecc.com/	01865 560900
Residential STHFs	<p>Manchester RSTHF- pennine.dcom@careandcustody-secure.co.uk</p> <p>Swinderby RSTHF- swinderby.rsthf@careandcustody-secure.co.uk</p> <p>Larne House RSTHF- larne.dcom@careandcustody-secure.co.uk</p>	<p>0161 509 2015</p> <p>01522 302665</p> <p>02894 334346</p>

