

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN VISITING FULFORD NURSING HOME

FULFORD NURSING HOME

Policy Statement

This policy is written to identify the safeguards needed for children who might visit or, in exceptional cases, live on the premises of an adult care home. The policy applies to any person under the age of 18, though most safeguarding concerns will focus on children who are under 16.

The policy specifically focuses on children who:

- visit the Home because they have a relative or friend living in the Home
- have a parent, relative or acquaintance who works in the Home
- live in the Home itself or in accommodation forming part of the premises.

The policy extends to occasions when children as defined might go outside of the Home in the company of a resident or group of residents or who are taking part in any event or activity being organised by the Home.

In all cases and eventualities the management of the Home must make sure that any child is kept safe from possible harm and danger and any risks to the safety of the child are thoroughly assessed and managed as follows.

1. Residents should be able to welcome children to the Home as visitors in the same way as they would any other visitor and in line with the Home's visiting policy and procedures.
2. When a child visits, the fact should be made known to the staff of the Home so that they can be on hand to manage any known risks to their safety arising from the setting (e.g. health and safety risks) or the people (i.e. those who might cause harm to the child).
3. Throughout a visit a child should remain the responsibility of a parent or other adult, who might be the resident being visited, e.g. in the case of an older child visiting unaccompanied.
4. The expectation is that the responsible adult will make sure that the child behaves in ways that are in line with the rules and requirements of the Home and are kept safe throughout the visit.
5. Any staff member or other resident who is concerned about the safety of a child visitor should make contact with or discuss the matter with the child's responsible adult as a first point of contact, or to the Nurse in Charge.
6. The Home's management will reserve the right to take action through the responsible adult if it considers that the presence of the child is putting him or herself at risk of harm or is presenting a risk to other staff or residents
7. The same general policy and procedures will apply to the children of staff members who might have occasion to visit the Home for some stated or

agreed purpose or who might be resident in the Home or on the Home's premises.

8. All possible risks to children's personal safety and wellbeing must be thoroughly assessed. Decisions taken about their mobility in the Home and exposure to any risks should be managed in line with the assessments the Home conducts.

Possible Limitations on Child Visiting

Although, in general, positive contact between residents and children is to be encouraged, the Home recognises that the needs and welfare of the child must always remain paramount. There could be situations and occasions when it will not be in the child's best interests to allow visiting.

Whenever the management of the Home has a concern, it will discuss the matter with the child's parent or responsible adult so that an informed decision can be taken on either side about whether visiting will be in the child's best interests. Where it is not possible to come to an agreed decision, the Home will be prepared to take a unilateral decision.

The parent or responsible adult will have the right to complain about any adverse decision taken in line with the Home's complaints procedure.

Concerns might occur for any of the following reasons:

- a. a resident's current physical or mental wellbeing
- b. the response by the child to the resident's condition, e.g. state of health or emotional distress
- c. the wishes and feelings of the child
- d. the age and overall emotional needs of the child
- e. consideration of the child's best interests
- f. the views of the child's parents or those with parental responsibility
- g. the views of other people involved, eg staff, social workers, etc
- h. the Home includes residents who are known to be a risk to children, eg a Schedule 1 offender.

Reporting abuse

Child abuse can take many forms:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect

If a member of the Home's staff is worried about a child who has visited or is visiting the Home (eg witnesses what may appear to be abuse, or overhears a disclosure), this should be reported to the Home's management or Nurse in Charge immediately, who will then seek advice from safeguarding professionals.