

# Lostock Hall Memorial Band

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*Est. 1948*

## **Dealing with a safeguarding concern**

### **Ways that abuse might be brought to your attention**

- an individual might make a direct disclosure about him or herself
- an individual might make a direct disclosure about another individual
- a child might offer information that is worrying but not a direct disclosure
- a member of the band or volunteer might be concerned about an individual's welfare, appearance or behaviour or about the behaviour of an adult towards a child
- a parent or carer might make a disclosure about abuse that an individual or child is suffering or at risk of suffering
- a parent might offer information about an individual or child that is worrying but not a direct disclosure.

### **Talking to a individuals and child who have told you that he/she or another is being abused**

- Reassure the individual and child that telling someone about it was the right thing to do.
- Tell him/her that you now must do what you can to keep him/her (or the individual or child who is the subject of the allegation) safe.
- Let the individual or child know what you are going to do next and who else needs to know about it.
- Let the individual or child tell his or her whole story. Don't try to investigate or quiz the individual or child, but make sure that you are clear as to what he/she is saying.
- Ask the individual or child what he/she would like to happen because of what he/she has said, but don't make or infer promises you can't keep.
- Give the child the ChildLine phone number: 0800 1111.

### **Helping an individual or child in immediate danger or in need of emergency medical attention**

- If the individual or child is in immediate danger and is with you, remain with him/her and call the police.
- If the individual or child is elsewhere, contact the police and explain the situation to them.
- If he/she needs emergency medical attention, call an ambulance and, while you are waiting for it to arrive, get help from your first aider.
- If the first aider is not available, use any first aid knowledge that you may have yourself to help the individual or child.

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- You also need to contact the bands named Safeguarding Officer responsible, including for child protection to let them know what is happening.

A specific **Child Protection** decision will need to be made about who should inform a child's family and the local authority's child social care department, and when they should be informed. If you have involved the police and/or the health services, they should be part of this decision. Consider the welfare of the child in your decision making as the highest priority.

Issues that will need to be considered are:

- the child's wishes and feelings
- the parent's right to know (unless this would place the child or someone else in danger, or would interfere with a criminal investigation)
- the impact of telling or not telling the parent
- the current assessment of the risk to the child and the source of that risk
- any risk management plans that currently exist.

Once any immediate danger or emergency medical need has been dealt with, follow the steps set out in the flowchart at the end of this section.

## **Keeping a record of your concerns**

It is important to keep a clear detailed record of events and communication in relation to the concern. It can be used to forward information to the statutory child protection authorities if a referral to them is needed. The form / log should be signed and dated by all those involved in its completion and kept confidentially on the child's file. The name of the person making the notes should be written alongside each entry.

## **Approach for helping an individual or child not in immediate danger**

We aim to ensure all people, young and old within the band and any other people who may come to the attention of the band receive the protection and support they need if they are at risk of abuse.