

SCDHSC0325

Contribute to the support of children and young people who have experienced harm or abuse



Overview

This standard identifies the requirements when you contribute to the support of children and young people who have experienced harm or abuse. The standard addresses the need to take action where there are concerns that children or young people are at risk of harm and abuse and how to support children and young people who make a disclosure. It also includes supporting children and young people when they have experienced harm or abuse.

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Performance criteria

Take actions where there are concerns that children and young people are at risk of harm or abuse

You must be able to:

- P1 monitor significant changes in a child or young person's emotional or physical health, personal appearance or behaviour
- P2 take immediate action where there are concerns that a child or young person might have been harmed or abused
- P3 take action to deal with any immediate and potential risks that may lead to **harm and abuse** of the child or young person, **key people** or **others**
- P4 follow required procedures for reporting concerns about the welfare of the child or young person and any actions, behaviours or situations that may lead to harm or abuse
- P5 avoid actions and statements that could adversely affect the use of evidence in future investigations or court, whilst giving priority to the protection of the child or young person
- P6 request further support and assistance in situations that are outside your expertise, experience, skills and responsibility
- P7 keep detailed, accurate, timed, dated and signed records about any changes, events or occurrences that cause concern
- P8 pass on reports and information about suspected or actual harm or abuse within confidentiality agreements and according to legal, work setting, interagency and partnership requirements

Support children and young people who disclose harm or abuse

You must be able to:

- P9 develop relationships in which children or young people can communicate with you about harmful or abusive acts
- P10 explain to the child or young person your duty to pass on any information about harm or abuse
- P11 support the child or young person to understand who you need to share information with and the reasons for this
- P12 support the child or young person to disclose at their own pace any harm or abuse to which they have been subjected
- P13 respond promptly and calmly to disclosures of harm or abuse
- P14 respect the child or young person's right to privacy and confidentiality when they are disclosing harm or abuse, within legal and work setting confidentiality requirements
- P15 communicate with the child or young person in ways that are appropriate to their level of development and understanding
- P16 seek only sufficient information to confirm that there is an allegation

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- or suspicion, avoiding any leading questions or putting pressure on the child or young person
- P17 seek additional support and services where this is required, according to the type of harm or abuse that has been disclosed
- P18 avoid actions and statements that could adversely affect the use of evidence in future investigations or court, whilst giving priority to the protection of the child or young person
- P19 pass on information about disclosed harm or abuse within confidentiality agreements and according to legal, work setting, interagency and partnership requirements
- P20 complete detailed, accurate, timed, dated and signed records of the disclosure, clearly distinguishing between observed evidence and information provided by the child or young person
- P21 use supervision to communicate what happened and help you cope with your thoughts and feelings about the disclosed harm or abuse

Support children and young people who have experienced harm or abuse

You must be able to:

- P22 seek information and support to enable you to work with the child or young person who has been harmed or abused
- P23 work with the child or young person, key people and others to understand any implications arising from the harm or abuse they have experienced
- P24 agree how you and others can support the child or young person to come to terms with, and move on from, the distress, fear and anxieties caused by harm or abuse
- P25 help the child or young person to come to terms with and move on from any distress, fear and anxieties that may have been caused by the harm and abuse
- P26 support the child or young person to develop positive coping strategies
- P27 work in partnership with other agencies and professionals, involving advocates or appropriate specialists, to provide the best possible support for the child or young person within the boundaries of your role
- P28 where the child or young person's behaviour or condition give cause for concern, immediately seek advice from others
- P29 keep detailed, accurate, timed, dated and signed records about any changes, events or occurrences that cause concern
- P30 pass on reports and information about changes, events or occurrences within confidentiality agreements and according to legal, work setting, interagency and partnership requirements
- P31 use supervision to reflect on how you are supporting the child or

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young person and to help you cope with your thoughts and feelings about the harm or abuse

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Rights

- K1 legal and work setting requirements on equality, diversity, discrimination and rights
- K2 your role in promoting children and young people's rights, choices, wellbeing and active participation
- K3 your duty to report any acts or omissions that could infringe the rights of children and young people
- K4 how to deal with and challenge discrimination
- K5 the rights that children and young people have to make complaints and be supported to do so

Your practice

You need to know and understand:

- K6 legislation, codes of practice, standards, frameworks and guidance relevant to your work, your work setting and the content of this standard
- K7 your own background, experiences and beliefs that may have an impact on your practice
- K8 your own roles, responsibilities and accountabilities with their limits and boundaries
- K9 the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of others with whom you work
- K10 how to access and work to procedures and agreed ways of working
- K11 the meaning of person centred/child centred working and the importance of knowing and respecting each child or young person as an individual
- K12 the prime importance of the interests and well-being of children and young people
- K13 the child or young person's cultural and language context
- K14 how to build trust and rapport in a relationship
- K15 how your power and influence as a worker can impact on relationships
- K16 how to work in ways that promote active participation and maintain children and young people's dignity, respect, personal beliefs and preferences
- K17 how to work in partnership with children, young people, key people and others
- K18 how to manage ethical conflicts and dilemmas in your work
- K19 how to challenge poor practice

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- K20 how and when to seek support in situations beyond your experience and expertise

Theory for practice

You need to know and understand:

- K21 the nature and impact of **factors that may affect the health, wellbeing and development** of children and young people you care for or support
- K22 theories underpinning our understanding of child development and factors that affect it
- K23 theories about attachment and its impact on children and young people

Communication

You need to know and understand:

- K24 the importance of effective communication in the work setting
- K25 factors that can have a positive or negative effect on communication and language skills and their development in children and young people
- K26 methods and techniques to promote communication skills which enable children and young people to express their needs, views and preferences

Personal and professional development

You need to know and understand:

- K27 principles of reflective practice and why it is important

Health and Safety

You need to know and understand:

- K28 your work setting policies and practices for monitoring and maintaining health, safety and security in the work environment
- K29 practices for the prevention and control of infection in the context of this standard

Safeguarding

You need to know and understand:

- K30 the responsibility that everyone has to raise concerns about possible harm or abuse, poor or discriminatory practices
- K31 indicators of potential or actual harm or abuse
- K32 how and when to report any concerns about abuse, poor or discriminatory practice, resources or operational difficulties
- K33 what to do if you have reported concerns but no action is taken to address them

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Handling information

You need to know and understand:

- K34 legal requirements, policies and procedures for the security and confidentiality of information
- K35 legal and work setting requirements for recording information and producing reports including the use of electronic communication
- K36 principles of confidentiality and when to pass on otherwise confidential information

Specific to this NOS

You need to know and understand:

- K37 how and where to access information and support that can inform your practice when protecting children and young people from danger, harm and abuse
- K38 **types of harm or abuse**
- K39 theories relevant to children and young people with whom you work about involving children and young people in assessing, planning, implementing, reviewing health and care services and plans
- K40 theories relevant to children and young people with whom you work about the family and society
- K41 theories relevant to children and young people with whom you work about identity and self-esteem, loss and change
- K42 theories relevant to children and young people with whom you work about support for those who have experienced harm and abuse
- K43 the effects of stress and distress on children and young people
- K44 the effects of abuse on children and young people
- K45 the impact on children and young people of disruption, including placement disruption
- K46 support available for children, young people and parents with additional needs
- K47 needs and circumstances which make some children and young people, their parents, families and carers more vulnerable to harm and abuse
- K48 how to recognise the direct and indirect consequences of allegations and disclosures of abuse
- K49 key terms and legal requirements relating to the investigation of abuse
- K50 legal requirements for evidence and the implications of involving an authorised professional at an early stage of disclosure
- K51 the importance of not pressurising the child, prompting or asking leading questions
- K52 how to evaluate and present different types of information from various sources
- K53 the importance of distinguishing between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources, opinion and hearsay

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K54 methods and approaches for supporting children and young people who have experienced harm and abuse

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

The details in this field are explanatory statements of scope and/or examples of possible contexts in which the NOS may apply; they are not to be regarded as range statement required for achievement of the NOS.

Note: Where a child or young person finds it difficult or impossible to express their own preferences and make decisions about their life, achievement of this standard may require the involvement of advocates or others who are able to represent the views and best interests of the child or young person.

Where there are language differences within the work setting, achievement of this standard may require the involvement of interpreters or translation services.

Harm and abuse may include neglect; physical, emotional and sexual abuse; financial abuse; bullying; self harm; reckless behaviour

Key people are those who are important to a child or young person and who can make a difference to his or her well-being. Key people may include family, friends, carers and others with whom the child or young person has a supportive relationship.

Others are your colleagues and other professionals whose work contributes to the child or young person's well-being and who enable you to carry out your role

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Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

The details in this field are explanatory statements of scope and/or examples of possible contexts in which the NOS may apply; they are not to be regarded as range statements required for achievement of the NOS.

All knowledge statements must be applied in the context of this standard.

Factors that may affect the health, wellbeing and development may include adverse circumstances or trauma before or during birth; autistic spectrum conditions; discrimination; domestic violence; family circumstances; foetal alcohol syndrome; harm or abuse; injury; learning disability; medical conditions (chronic or acute); mental health; physical disability; physical ill health; poverty; profound or complex needs; sensory needs; social deprivation; substance misuse

Types of harm or abuse may include physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, neglect, institutional abuse, bullying, abuse relating to social networking media

Values

Adherence to codes of practice or conduct where applicable to your role and the principles and values that underpin your work setting, including the rights of children, young people and adults. These include the rights:

To be treated as an individual

To be treated equally and not be discriminated against

To be respected

To have privacy

To be treated in a dignified way

To be protected from danger and harm

To be supported and cared for in a way that meets their needs, takes account of their choices and also protects them

To communicate using their preferred methods of communication and language

To access information about themselves

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