

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFEGUARDING MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

At Actively Promoting Change Ltd (APC), we understand the critical importance of adopting proactive approaches to reduce the risk of harm and abuse to vulnerable children and young people in our proposed residential children's homes. We plan to implement robust preventive measures, aimed at reducing the risk of harm and exploitation of children and young people, alongside rigorous procedures to address any concerns about a child or young person being harmed or subjected to exploitation.

With Liverpool being a high-crime city we acknowledge that there is a higher risk of vulnerable children and young people engaging in antisocial behaviour, criminal activity and falling victim to both criminal and sexual exploitation. This Safeguarding Management Strategy sets out how APC Ltd aims to protect, prevent and effectively manage such risks.

Risk Assessments

- APC Ltd will carry out thorough risk assessments which address all the children/young person's needs before agreeing to place them in our services. Should risks be identified where APC Ltd feel they are unable to meet safety needs, APC Ltd will not agree to place the child or young person.
- Where safety risks are identified and APC Ltd feel we are able to provide adequate safety measures that can reduce the level of risk, APC Ltd will agree to placing the child or young person and produce care plans which are tailored to the individual reflecting all safety needs. All children and young people are assessed around their vulnerabilities, specific needs, behaviours and risk to exploitation.
- Locality Risk Assessments are carried out and regularly reviewed to identify any risks within the local area that may cause harm to a child or young person. Locality Risk Assessments include measures put in place to reduce the level of any risks identified. For APC Ltd to carry out Locality Risk Assessments with accurate and up-to-date information, APC Ltd will engage with Local Authorities, Merseyside Police and other relevant community organisations to gather insight into localised threats.
- Where a child has already been placed with us, and new safety risks have been identified, risk assessments will be carried out to ensure APC Ltd can put protective measures in place to reduce those risks. Care plans are updated to reflect any changes to a child or young person's safety needs. Should the outcome of a risk assessment suggest that APC Ltd are unable to reduce the risk of harm to the child/young person, we will work closely with the Placing Authority and other agencies involved, to re-home the child/young person within, or outside of APC Ltd services.

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Physical Security Measures

- All of APC Ltd.'s Children's Residential Homes have CCTV within communal areas. This allows us to monitor and oversee behaviours of children and young people when they are not in direct line of sight. We feel this will reduce opportunities of antisocial behaviour within the home, as well as allow us to review any incidents that do occur. APC Ltd have planned to install a CCTV doorbell at the front of the property for security and deterrent purposes. Dependant on assessed needs, we may also install external CCTV.
- Where possible, APC Ltd will use safety apps and software with children and young people who have mobile devices to monitor their location and online activity.
- APC Ltd will implement network controls on the homes internet in aim to block harmful content and monitor online activity. Our staff will also work with Children/Young People to educate around being safe online.
- To prevent any unauthorised absences where a child may be at risk of absconding during the nighttime, dependent on assessed needs, APC Ltd may use door alarms on children and young people's bedroom doors. These would alert the staff when an individual leaves their bedroom during the night. In addition, window locks may also be installed which will prevent windows being opened wide enough for the individual to escape from, as well as prevent unauthorised access into the property.

Collaborative Partnerships

- Once our services open, APC Ltd aim to work in close partnership with Merseyside Police and meet with local Police Officers. Where appropriate, we aim to introduce our children and young people to the local Police Officers and encourage a sense of familiarity and trust to build positive relationships.
- APC Ltd aim to obtain a "information sharing agreement" from the police when the services open. This agreement facilitates information being shared with the Manager of the Children's Home regarding the status of people living within the local area, who would pose a risk to young people. This agreement would allow appropriate risk reduction measures to be implemented to lower the risk posed by any potential offender, specifically an offender that could sexually exploit the young people.
- APC Ltd will foster Multi Agency approaches and always pursue the expertise of various professionals around reducing the risk of harm and exploitation with children and young people.

Staff Training & Development

- All staff must undergo a robust Induction period of two weeks when being employed to work within APC Ltd.'s Children's Residential Homes. This Induction includes

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training on our Policies and Procedures around Safeguarding children and young people which includes:

- Different types of abuse including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Extremism & Radicalisation
- Signs of abuse and exploitation
- How to deal with disclosures of abuse
- How and when to report concerns
- What to do if concerns are not dealt with correctly
- Regulations that underpin Child Protection policies
- Recording and documenting correctly.

Staff have constant access to all Policies and Procedures regarding safeguarding and Exploitation. In addition, Induction includes core training that must be completed prior to employee's working within the Residential Children's Homes. Core training includes the following courses:

- Safeguarding Children & Young People
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Child Criminal Exploitation
 - Prevent Extremism and Radicalisation
- All training must be renewed annually.
- All staff must undergo regular supervision and reviews from management which look at their performance and competencies around safeguarding Children and Young People.

Child-Centred Approaches

- APC Ltd will work in collaboration with external organisations who provide awareness programmes to vulnerable children and young people around personal safety, recognising threats, healthy relationships and how/where to seek help.
- APC Ltd foster open communication between staff and children and young people to allow them to feel comfortable reporting concerns or disclosing information.
- APC Ltd will develop personalised safety plans tailored to each child/young person's needs and circumstances. Safety plans will be regularly reviewed and amended in accordance with any changes to a child's safety needs.

Operational Safeguards

- APC Ltd will always ensure safe staffing levels within our Residential Children's Homes. Where there are unforeseen staff absences, management have contingency plans in

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place which include agency staffing. Should the rare circumstance of agency staff being unavailable, management would attend the service to ensure safe staffing levels.

- APC Ltd have curfew policies in place that have corresponding safety plans tailored to each individual and their vulnerabilities. All children and young people living within APC Ltd children's Residential Homes are made aware of curfew times when they are placed within the setting, and what happens when curfews are not followed. Safety Plans and protocols are then followed when a child or young person has not arrived home by the time of their curfew and there is an unauthorised absence of the individual.
- APC Ltd have a Missing from Home Policy which is summarised as followed:
A young person will be considered "missing" if they leave the house without permission and their whereabouts are unknown, or if they fail to return at a pre-arranged time. Once it is suspected that a young person is missing, a thorough search of the house, garden, and immediate area will be conducted. If the young person is not located after this search and 20 minutes have passed (unless otherwise specified in the risk assessment and safety plan), the police will be notified.
Following the police report, staff will inform the young person's social worker (or the Emergency Duty Team if outside of office hours) and, if appropriate, notify the family. All relevant information recording including times of phone calls, will be documented. Our policy is to contact the police immediately if there is any concern for the safety of the young person. When the young person returns, either independently or through staff or police intervention, their immediate needs will be attended to. At an appropriate time, staff will discuss the reasons for their absence. The young person has the right to speak to or request a visit from their Social Worker or Independent Visitor.
- APC Ltd will ensure Behaviour Management protocols are followed for all children and young people in our services. We adopt a behaviour management approach that focuses on the positive progress a young person is making, using a system of rewards and consequences. All our young people are supported through a firm, fair, and consistent approach. Clear expectations of acceptable behaviour are given to all children and young people when they are placed with us. APC Ltd are committed to working with the children around setting boundaries and rewarding positive behaviour. Consequences to poor behaviour, including breaking curfew arrangements will be followed through fairly but consistently.
- APC Ltd ensure that incident reporting is carried out consistently, accurately and timely. We understand where incident reports are made involving the behaviours and actions of a child or young person, they allow us to identify behavioural patterns that could indicate safeguarding concerns. Incident reporting also allows us to record any emerging threats. For example, if an incident happens with a member of the public in the community that is concerning towards the safety of the children and young

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people in our service, staff can implement risk mitigation strategies. Incident reporting will have external oversight from Ofsted which determines our compliance with regulatory safeguarding frameworks.

Emergency Preparedness

- APC Ltd have an Emergency On-Call system in place 7 days a week, all year round. Emergency On-Call is operated by Management who are competent in responding to and dealing with crisis/emergency situations and/ or safeguarding issues relating to the children and young people.