



Safeguarding your Child

Help for parents

In this factsheet we want to offer practical help and support for you with respect to the safety of and the rights of your child when accessing childcare/playcare.

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A revised duty was issued in April 2007.

Schools and further education providers have an equivalent duty through the Education Act 2002, and must have regard to the statutory guidance, Safeguarding Children in Education, issued in September 2004.

Every Child Matters: Change for Children 2003. This document set out a national framework stressing the need for early intervention and cooperation amongst all agencies involved in the health and welfare of children.

In Sheffield there is the Sheffield Safeguarding Children's Board which aims to ensure local organisations work effectively together to safeguard Sheffield's children and young people and protect them from harm.

This means that there is more than enough support around for the people who are offering to deliver childcare or playcare.

Future Changes

The Vetting & Barring Scheme was produced with the intention of tightening up the existing process for checking people wanting to work on a regular basis with children and vulnerable adults. A recent review of the proposed scheme has resulted in it being scaled back to 'common sense levels'. These changes should become law in early 2012. In the meantime, the safeguarding regulations which were introduced in 2009 will continue to apply. It states that:-

- if your organisation works with children or vulnerable adults and you dismiss or remove a member of staff or a volunteer because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult (or there is a risk of harm), or you would have done so if they had not left, you must tell the Independent Safeguarding Authority
- a person who is barred by the ISA from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups
- an organisation which knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups will also be breaking the law

Visit First Point 8.30am to 5.30pm or ring us on 275 6699

8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

First Point is in the city centre at Howden House, Union Street - close to the Peace Gardens.

www.sheffield.gov.uk/firstpoint www.asksid.net



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The new scheme will cover employees and volunteers in the education, care and health industries. (See useful contacts for further information).

What do I need to look out for as a parent?

Ofsted Registered Childcare

Most people who want to provide childcare for children aged under eight, for more than two hours in any one day, **must** register with Ofsted before they can become childcare providers. There is a second group of people who can choose whether to join the **voluntary part of the Childcare Register**, which is open to those who want to register but do not have to do so. This group includes:

- people who care for children aged 8 years+
- home-based carers such as nannies who work in the parents' home
- other providers not currently required to register such as those who provide sports coaching or certain other activities
- provision where parents remain onsite or in close proximity to their children such as shoppers' crèches operating up to 4 hours each day

Check out our factsheet "A Guide to Registration and Ofsted".

Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Checks

All registered childcare providers must have a full enhanced CRB check.

In the case of childminders, anyone over the age of 16 years living or working in the house where care is provided must also be CRB checked. People such as cleaners or regular visitors may also be checked.

The Criminal Records Bureau is an Executive Agency of the Home Office which provides criminal records information by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain work, especially that involving children or vulnerable adults. You should ask to see a copy of the CRB check.

The pages will be numbered (1 of 3, 2 of 3 etc.) so you can be sure you have all the pages. The form will show details of any criminal convictions and will clearly state that this person is not allowed to work with children if that is the case.

You should treat the CRB check with sensitivity and keep any information in confidence.

Registered childcare workers cannot work without a clear, full enhanced CRB check.

In some play provision (play centres) where the parent stays in the centre with the child, they hold the view that they don't need CRB checks because you are there and they are not responsible for your child – you are. Even so, it is worthwhile asking if they have them. Without a CRB check the provider could be employing someone who is unsuitable to work with children.

Child Protection Policy

If you are taking your child to an activity, group or centre, do they have a child protection policy in place? All agencies working with children, young people and their families should have one which shows they are taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised.

The policy should outline their safe recruitment procedures for staff, reporting procedures for allegations of abuse, including contacts in children's services or social services, and as a parent you are entitled to ask for a copy.

Children's and Young People's Rights

Children and young people have rights which are set out in law. Children have a right to be safe and not to be treated badly. Ask for our factsheet on Children's and Young People's Rights.

Who do I talk to if I have any concerns about keeping children safe?

If you have concerns that a child or children is in danger of being harmed you should take action straight away, regardless of whether the provider is registered. You can contact the Children's Social Care Services Emergency Duty Team (see contacts on next page) or the police on 101. See also 'Useful Contacts' for useful websites and further guidance.

If you have issues with a registered childcare provider you should raise them with the provider first if you feel confident to do so. You can also contact Ofsted if the issue is concerning the care of the children and if you are not satisfied with the provider's response. (See below for details of Ofsted).

If you have issues with an unregistered provider you should raise them if possible with the provider in the first instance and then contact the Sheffield City Council Children's Social Care Services (see below).

Health and Safety/First Aid

You should expect that every childcare or playcare provider has a health and safety policy and that staff will have received some health and safety training. You should ask when the training was done and who did it.

All registered childcare workers should have a first aid certificate. In some organisations they will be up on the wall. Emergency First Aid covers how to deal with emergencies, Emergency First Aid Children and Babies provides training on how to deal with emergencies which would be specific to small children and babies. Some methods and techniques need to be adapted for smaller bodies. These are usually for a minimum of 12 hours but may be less.

A First Aid at Work Certificate equips someone to be a first aider in the workplace supporting staff and clients who need first aid attention, sometimes called a Full First Aid Certificate. This is a more intensive course which lasts 3-4 days and has an exam at the end.

Useful contacts and information

Sheffield Information Link

Tel: 0114 249 8271 (out of hours answerphone)

9 Leopold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GY

Email: info@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Website: www.sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Sheffield's Family Information Service. Additional support for families requiring childcare and other services for children and young people in Sheffield.

SIGN (Sheffield Information Giving Network)

Tel: 0114 266 9476 (out of hours answerphone)

Email: sign@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm, drop in and phone service

Free information for parents and carers with children or young people with special needs or disabilities.

OFSTED

Tel: 0300 123 1231 - Helpline

Tel: 0300 123 4666 – Complaints and Concerns

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

www.ofsted.gov.uk

Sheffield City Council Children's Social Care Services

Tel 0114 273 4855 (including Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team)

Useful websites:

- **Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board:** www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org.uk
- **Every Child Matters:**
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DfES%200672%202003>
- **For information on the new Vetting and Barring scheme:**
<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=2>
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/campaigns/Vetting/index.htm>

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