



## Child Protection Statement and Policy

### What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding legislation and government guidance says that safeguarding means:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

and

“undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.”

[Working together to safeguard children \(1.18 HM Government 2010\)](#)

Tai Chi For You LTD is committed to providing an environment for young people which is safe, fun and follows recommended good practice. We are committed to planning our work so that situations, in which abuse may occur, are minimised.

It is our policy to take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all children and young people involved in activities run. We strive to work to good practice in health and safety and in safeguarding young people in our charge and promote their development.

Our Policy will be available to any young person using our services or a member of the public on request.

Policy

### Tai Chi For You LTD

- a. We strive to follow good employment practice in relation to staffing and to ensure the safeguarding of children. Both Company Directors that work for Tai Chi For You LTD are in possession of Criminal Records Bureau Disclosures.
- b. All staff are told to actively protect themselves from risk of accusation and not to assume that their “good name” will protect them.
  - Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions.
  - Staff will ensure their behaviour remains professional at all times, including their dress and use of language.
  - Physical contact should not occur. The Tai Chi practised by Tai Chi For You LTD has a strict no touch policy.
  - All staff are aware of the need for maintaining appropriate and professional boundaries in their relationships and never engage in any sexual relationship with club members in or out of the club
  - Staff should avoid working in one to one situations but where this is necessary they should ensure there is visual access and remote or secluded areas should be avoided

- Staff will never allow or condone bullying or racism by adults or other club members
  - Adults should not transport club members in their cars without the express agreement of parents except in cases of emergency.
- c. All staff are made aware that allegations are taken seriously by Tai Chi For You LTD and appropriate action pursued.

### **Activities conducted by Tai Chi For You LTD**

We have the following procedures in place to safeguard participation. We will:

- Ensure the ratio of staff to young people is appropriate for the activity. A member of the school will be expected to be present
- Ensure roles/responsibilities of staff are understood by all adults and young people
- Ensure that a register of members and session attendees has been done
- Carry out prior risk assessments
- Record and report all incidents and accidents
- Ensure safety procedures are understood by all staff
- Maintain and have available a fully equipped first aid kit
- Ensure all adults and young people know what to do in an emergency

### **Allegations of Abuse within Tai Chi For You LTD**

Where there is a complaint of abuse against a member of staff, there may be any one of three types of investigation:

- a. A disciplinary or misconduct investigation (internal)
- b. A child protection investigation (Social Services)
- c. A criminal investigation (Police)

The results of the Police and Social Services investigation may well influence any internal disciplinary investigation we undertake.

### **Allegations of Abuse Outside of Our Youth Work**

The Four Categories of Abuse are:

- Physical Abuse - includes hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning /scalding, drowning, suffocating and factitious or induced illness
- Neglect - may involve persistent failure to provide adequate food, shelter and/or clothing, protect a child from physical harm or danger, ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- Emotional Abuse - is the persistent emotional ill treatment so as to cause severe and adverse effects on a child's emotional development – some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment although it may occur alone
- Sexual Abuse - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities - whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. It may include physical contact including penetrative acts or non – penetrative acts such as looking or producing pornographic material, watching sexual activity or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Our staff may be aware of abuse in a number of ways:

- A child may tell them
- A person may have reported an incident, or may have a strong suspicion
- They may have the suspicion themselves

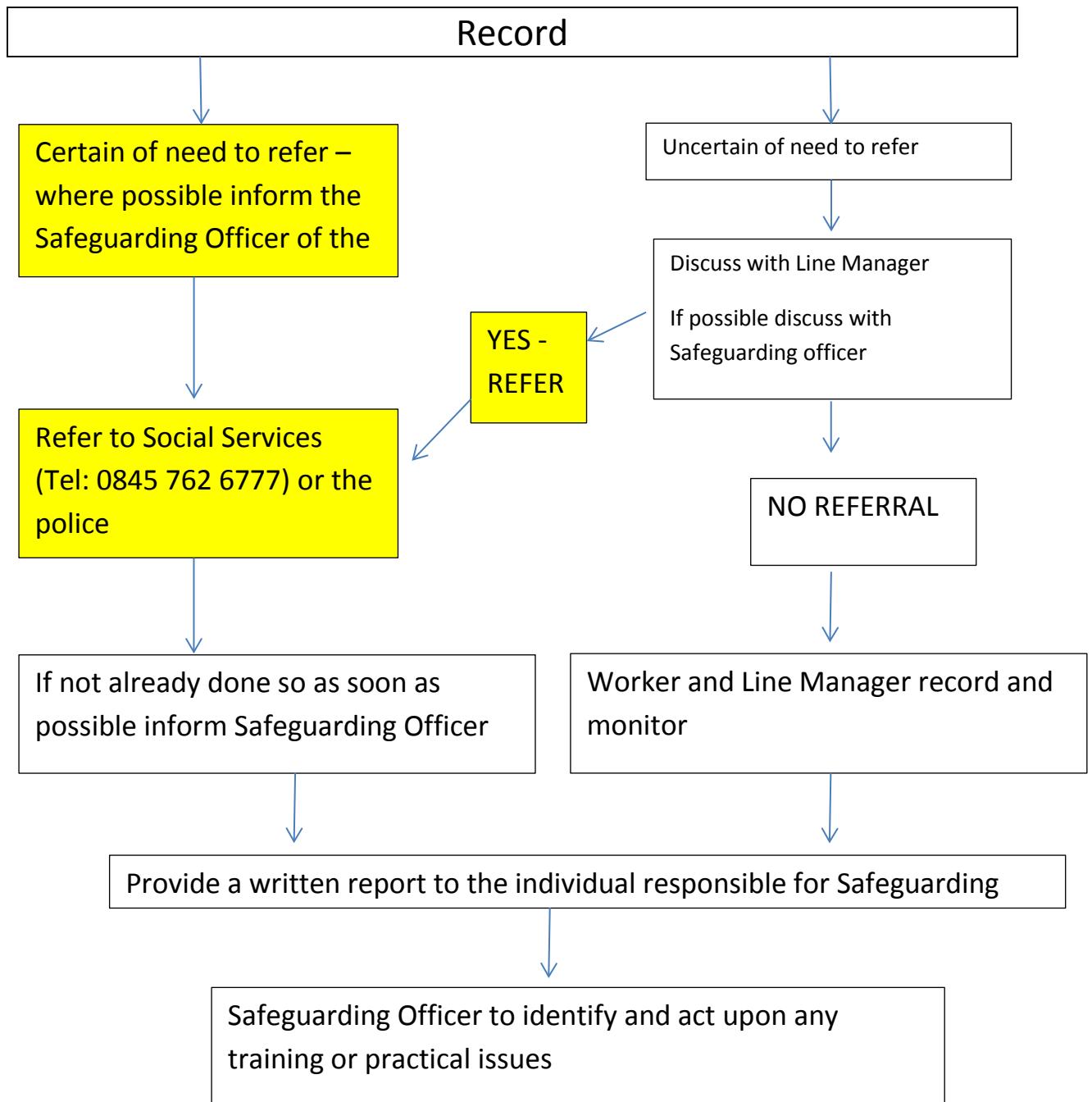
In many situations however, the signs will not be obvious and decisions about what actions to take can be difficult. The following signs and indicators are not exhaustive, and we understand that the presence of one or more indicators is not proof that abuse is actually taking place.

- Has an injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- Describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her
- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child
- Shows unexplained changes in behaviour; e.g becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden uncharacteristic outbursts of temper
- Shows inappropriate sexual awareness, including explicit language
- Shows sexually explicit behaviour

### **Safeguarding Process**

The following diagram shows the safeguarding process that all staff of Tai Chi For You LTD will follow if they have concerns for a young person's wellbeing (see below).

**WORKER IDENTIFIES AN ISSUE REGARDING A YOUNG PERSON**



- Useful Numbers
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
  - Samaritans 08457 909090