

BUSHIDO BUDO KAI **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE**

Bushido Budo Kai and any affiliated groups / clubs / organisations (herein referred to as 'BBK') has a duty through its members, staff and volunteers to protect from abuse the children and young people who they come into contact with.

- 1) The *Children Act 1989* identifies four categories of abuse:

Physical Abuse – Actual or likely physical injury to a child or young person under age 18, or failure to prevent physical injury.

Sexual Abuse – Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or young person. The child may be dependent or developmentally immature.

Emotional Abuse – Severe or persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection likely to cause adverse affects on the emotional or behavioural development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill treatment.

Neglect – The persistent, or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, resulting in the significant impairment of a child's health or development, including non organic failure to thrive.

- 2) **Historical Abuse**

There may be occasions when an adult will disclose abuse (either sexual or physical) which occurred in the past, during their childhood. This information needs to be treated in exactly the same way as a disclosure or suspicion of current child abuse. The reason for this is that the abuser may still represent a risk to children now.

- 3) **Awareness**

As a member, trustee, paid staff or a volunteer etc... you are not responsible for diagnosing abuse. However, you do have a responsibility to be aware and alert to signs that all is not well with a child or young person. Not all concerns about children or young people relate to abuse, there may well be other explanations. It is important to keep an open mind and consider what you know about the child and its circumstances.

You may need to consider some basic questions:

- Is there a need to protect the child immediately
- Does the child need urgent medical attention
- Do you need to bring in the Police or Social Services immediately

- 4) **What to do**
As someone in a child care role as well as a citizen, when abuse is observed you must take the following action:
- 4.1) Inform the person who has disclosed the information that it cannot be kept confidential and will have to be passed on to appropriate agencies
 - 4.2) Never promise a child or young adult that you can keep something they tell you a secret.
 - 4.3) Inform BBK's Child Protection Officer, Ian Llewellyn either by phone on 07836 619600 or in writing marked 'Private and Confidential' to the address noted, or contact Anne Barnes, Welfare Officer to BBK, or write to BBK or go directly to the Police, Social Services or the NSPCC
 - 4.4) Keep a written record of everything that you have seen or heard and if appropriate what you said or did in response, this may be required in evidence sometime after the event
 - 4.5) Do not be afraid of taking action, the welfare of a child or young person is the absolute priority
 - 4.6) DO NOT TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS, ALWAYS INFORM THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE AS IN 4.3 ABOVE

5) **What will happen next?**

- Your local Social Services should respond promptly and sensitively
- Social Services and the Police will take responsibility for investigating the suspected abuse
- Social Services and the Police may talk to the child in detail and will, as far as possible, keep the parents informed
- It is extremely rare for the child to be removed from the home and will only happen if the child is at extreme risk
- The aim of any intervention will be to support the child within their own family. Help will be offered to both the child and the family to reduce or remove the risk of harm.

6) **Remember**

- You may be the only person the child trusts enough to tell
- You are acting to protect a vulnerable member of society
- Do not make assumptions about a person or a family, keep an open mind
- Do not ask leading questions or make assumptions about what may have happened
- If in doubt, seek advice from anyone mentioned in 4.3 above

CONTACT DETAILS

Ian Llewelin
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Tel: 07836 619600 or 0117 9650065

Anne Barnes
Welfare Officer
Bushido Budo Kai
Tel: 07870 858815

Police – 0845 456 7000 **or** 999

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000