

## **Alleged Abuse and or Neglect**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Employer's framework for managing allegations of child/client abuse and/or neglect which are received.

### **2. POLICY**

- 2.1 The Police or Child, Youth and Family are the only two organisations that have the legal mandate to investigate allegations of abuse or neglect.
- 2.2 When dealing with allegations of suspected abuse and neglect, the welfare of the child is the first and paramount consideration.
- 2.3 The allegations will be taken seriously, when a child talks about abusive behaviour beyond the normal experience for their age, perpetrated on them by a trusted person, it is most likely they are telling the truth.
- 2.4 All information gathered about the allegations must be recorded on the file. Information needs to be factual, concise, timely (written as soon as possible after the disclosure), signed and dated
- 2.5 If possible do not work alone – one the initial disclosure has been made the Employee will consult with Team/Practice Leaders and/or Managers before commencing any further action.
- 2.6 It is the responsibility of the Team/Practice and/or managers to decide what course of action is to be taken.
- 2.7 It is the Employees responsibility to report the information to the Manager who will report it to Child, Youth and Family or Police

### **3. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 3.1 Individual Employees are responsible for following the above principles and practices where appropriate.
- 3.3 The Team/Practice Leaders and/or managers are responsible for ensuring that such allegations are dealt with in accordance with this policy and internal procedures.

### **4. COMPLIANCE**

- 4.2 Any established breach of this policy may constitute serious misconduct and will be dealt with in accordance with the Employer's Policy on Discipline and Dismissal Procedures for Serious Misconduct.

### **5. REFERENCES**

- 5.1.CYF Standards for Approval 2000

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<b>Responsibility for Procedure:</b>	Managers
<b>Approving Authority:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Reference:</b>	Operations

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