



First Steps Bath

OUR SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

First Steps (Bath) is committed to creating a culture of safety and maintaining an environment in which the welfare, safety and protection of children are paramount. We do this by:

- Recognising that all children have the right to feel and be safe.
- Protecting them from all forms of abuse including neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse.
- Ensuring that our staff and volunteers are carefully selected and trained to take responsibility for helping the children in their care to be safe.
- Listening to children and parents, and providing them with the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have.
- Promoting inclusion, anti-discriminatory practice and British values part of the Prevent Strategy. (Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism)
- Supporting parental understanding of how to keep themselves and their children safe from relevant risks such as domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and extremism, including when using the internet and social media and Female Genital Mutilation, (FGM) and child sexual exploitation (CSE).
- Working in partnership with other agencies and with parents/carers to support and strengthen their capacity to safeguard their children.
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse.
- Appointing a Lead Officer for Safeguarding in each service.
- Ensuring that information is shared appropriately with other agencies in a timely fashion and where possible in partnership with parents but that access to confidential information is restricted to those that need to know within First Steps, and within appropriate external authorities.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and activities regularly and work with the LA to effect service improvements following the Serious Case Review, and Child Death Review Process.
- Following carefully the procedures for safer recruitment in the selection of staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management oversight for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Please see the Policies and Procedures folder for the full policy.

The lead officer for Safeguarding at First Steps Twerton Children's Centre:

Louise Hewings, Children's Services Manager

First Steps (Bath) Safeguarding Lead: Roz Lambert, CEO

R. Lambert