

Safeguarding and child protection policy

Approval	Designated Safeguarding Lead/Welfare Officer	Date
Trustees of Barnsley Community Gymnastics Academy	Ellie-Mae Farrell	20/09/2023

Version	Summary of policy	Date
1.0	Combined Safeguarding Policies for Children and Adults at Risk of Barnsley Community Gymnastics Academy	20/09/2023

Monitoring & Review

This policy will be annually monitored, and a full policy review will take place every three years. A policy review may also be conducted in response to any of the following occurrences:

- Changes in legislation or guidance.
- Changes in governance of the sport.
- Changes in the nature or size of Barnsley Community Gymnastics Academy (BCGA)
- A procedural review taking place following a significant case.

At Barnsley Community Gymnastics Academy (BCGA), we are committed to safeguarding and protecting all of our members from abuse; particularly children whose safety and wellbeing are central in everything we do. Child Protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare but is specifically the work done to protect specific children who are suffering or are likely to suffer, significant harm.

The trustees of BCGA have an important leadership role in embedding a no-tolerance approach towards all forms of abuse and taking steps to prevent other forms of harm which include:

- Poor or unsafe practice.
- Discrimination, harassment, and victimization.
- Bullying or hazing; and
- Extremism.

Roles and responsibilities

The overall responsibility for safeguarding children and adults at risk in gymnastics rests with the Board of trustees of BCGA. BGCA has appointed a Welfare trustee who is responsible for the implementation of this policy and who will work in partnership with British Gymnastics, and coaches to ensure the participants are properly safeguarded in accordance with the law.

BGCA accepts our responsibility to implement robust arrangements and procedures to safeguard and protect our participants and will:

- Provide effective leadership to promote and implement the policy and minimise incidents of harassment and abuse.
- Develop a skilled and competent safeguarding workforce.
- Develop and implement standards of conduct that establish appropriate behaviours and boundaries for individuals in positions of trust and athletes.
- Develop and implement appropriate training to recognise, identify and respond to signs of harassment and abuse.
- Ensure children and their parents, adults at risk and other athletes are consulted and, where appropriate, fully involved in decisions that affect them.
- Implement appropriate practices for sharing information, where it is necessary to protect a child or adult at risk with relevant statutory agencies and other stakeholders, including relevant gymnastics organisations.
- Ensure any suspicions and allegations involving abuse of a child or adult at risk are reported in line with the applicable statutory guidance and where it relates to a BGCA member.
- Provide appropriate support to the individual(s) involved in incidents or concerns, and, including the person who reported the concern.
- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements are in place for all BGCA activities.
- Develop and implement safe recruitment procedures to prevent unsuitable individuals from being appointed to positions of trust and responsibility.
- Have appropriate systems and processes in place to make sure children and adults at risk are protected from harassment and abuse.
- Take action against any coaches or volunteers where arrangements for safeguarding and/or behaviours fall below the expected standard required.

We, BGCA, are accountable for having in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and others who may be at risk and we take responsibility for:

- Ensuring the board of trustees take leadership responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements.
- Designate an individual or group of individuals with responsibility for safeguarding (Welfare Officer) whose role is to promote safeguarding and provide a safe environment for children and adults at risk and to respond to any concerns of harassment and abuse that are brought to their attention.
- Promoting the safeguarding and welfare of all participants, including those who are children and adults at risk.
- Ensuring that young people and adults at risk are listened to and are involved in decision making.
- Ensuring staff and volunteers receive appropriate supervision and safeguarding training and are competent to carry out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk.
- Ensuring any suspicions and allegations of abuse to children and adults at risk involving a member of BGCA are reported to our Welfare Officer, the relevant

statutory authorities and to British Gymnastics Safeguarding Team.

- Taking action to address any poor practice and behaviours such as bullying and harassment that occur within our organisation.
- Ensuring participants, volunteers and staff within our organisation know what to do if they are concerned about someone's welfare and promote a culture where everyone is encouraged to raise concerns without fear of negative repercussions.
- Ensuring, where appropriate, that children and adults at risk are aware of behaviour that is not acceptable and how they can help to keep themselves safe.
- It is essential that everyone involved in gymnastics is fully aware of the early signs of abuse and understands the appropriate steps to report these concerns.
- Anyone who has reason to believe that a child or adult at risk has or is experiencing abuse has a duty to report it to the Welfare Officer, who shall report to the relevant statutory authority and to BCGA where the abuse is connected to their role in the sport.
- Failure to comply with the policy and associated procedures will be investigated and may ultimately result in disciplinary action against the individuals concerned.

Duty of Care

BCGA has a responsibility for the safety and welfare of gymnasts, coaches, volunteers, officials, visitors, and others on their premises.

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that participants are protected from harm whilst taking part in gymnastics at BCGA. This is legally termed as the 'duty of care' and is particularly significant when dealing with children and young persons in the club.

For the purpose of this document and all Safeguarding policies, children refers to any person under the age of 16 years and a Young Person as being over 16 but under 18 years, irrespective of their role.

When working with children, an adult who carries out a supervisory role takes on certain responsibilities while the child is in their care. This may include:

- Holding a responsibility for care and wellbeing during training.
- Safe dispersal after training.
- Providing first aid.
- Providing/consenting to emergency medical treatment.
- Supervision/chaperoning.
- Team managing.

To fulfil the 'duty of care', BCGA will make sure that the following areas are properly covered:

- Safeguarding and Welfare.
- Safe Environment, including safe apparatus and equipment.
- Safe development of the individual through appropriate physical and psychological preparation and progressive skill development in line with coaches' qualifications and discipline specific syllabus.
- Provision of suitable first aid support and emergency procedures.
- Exercising reasonable care at all times.

BCGA follows the appropriate safeguarding and welfare guidelines set out by British Gymnastics, and within a coach's qualification their duty of care includes knowledge of the following documents and reference to policies when required. Where a coach has not followed any of the following procedures, which may result in an allegation, these documents will be referenced in the investigation. All coaches of BCGA are advised to read the following:

British Gymnastics Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/documents/departments/membership/safeguarding-compliance/safeguarding-and-protecting-children/5727-safeguarding-and-protecting-children-policy-1/file>

Safeguarding children-safe environment

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/documents/departments/membership/safeguarding-compliance/safeguarding-and-protecting-children/7769-safeguarding-children-safe-environment-06-2016/file>

Safeguarding children-safe recruitment

https://cdn3.british-gymnastics.org/images/2014.08.14-Safe-Recruitment_SG--Protecting-Children_V1.0_2014_FINAL.pdf

Social networking guidelines

https://cdn3.britishgymnastics.org/images/Social_Networking_Guidelines_v2.0_20180315.pdf

Health, safety, and Welfare Guidance-Safe trips

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/documents/footer-menu-items/british-gymnastics/7982-h-s-guidance-safe-trips/file>

Criminal records check policy and guidelines

<https://www.british-gymnastics.org/documents/departments/membership/safeguarding-compliance/criminal-records-checks/5367-bg-criminal-records-check-policy-and-guidelines/file>

Welfare Officers

Although the responsibility for safeguarding falls on everyone, a critical element in safeguarding is the designation of an individual or individuals who is/are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people by:

- Responding to safeguarding, child protection and poor practice concerns.
- Providing support and advice in the implementation of procedures that safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Assisting the club or event to be more child-focused on its activities, e.g. involving children in decision making processes.

All safeguarding concerns are to be reported to the Welfare Officer. However, to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, the trustees will act as the team of Welfare officers responsible for dealing with safeguarding concerns. Where possible, a representative from the coaching team will be included in the team for knowledge of gymnastics, however, they will not be part of the case management.

Safeguarding concerns should be reported following the procedure set out in **Appendix 1** and incident reports should be recorded using the form in **Appendix 2**. All safeguarding concerns should be reported using the contact details highlighted in **Appendix 3**.

Provision of Safe Environment

Open training policy

At BCGA, our aim is to work in partnership with parents/carers to provide an open training environment whilst ensuring the safety of our coaches and gymnasts is our main priority. In our current environment, we are restricted with providing a spectator area therefore we have provided the members with the following:

For our recreational section in the club we are providing in-house competitions and Club Festivals at times throughout the year. This is communicated at the beginning of the year to all our members.

For our development squads we provide parents with feedback outlining their progress and written reports, per member throughout the year (between January & April / September & December).

For all our elite performance squads, throughout the year parents have an opportunity to observe their child at competition environments.

Non-recording CCTV cameras in the waiting area allow parents to view the sessions in real time.

Coaches can be available to speak to about individual progress or concerns on request by contacting them via the admin team (stated in the club's handbook).

Our provision of an open training environment is much wider than simply providing BCGA parents with a viewing area. It involves creating a culture of openness between the club and parents.

This will include:

- Regular written and oral communication with parents.
- Providing regular feedback on a child's progress.
- Opportunities to discuss the child's progress and training regime.
- Opportunity to raise concerns and receive feedback on the outcome • Encouraging parents to become involved in the club.
- Encouraging parents to attend events or keep in close contact with their child. • Setting up closed discipline Facebook pages.

Supervision and Mixed Age Group Training

BCGC follows the British Gymnastics ratio policy for essential, appropriate ratios for supervision of children. Staff are trained in their supervisory responsibilities. Ratios should be determined by considering age, the type of activity and where it is taking place.

Ratios:

- Minimum 1:16 low level floor activity of a level 2 coach
- 1:8 for apparatus work
- 1:6 for preschool where possible
- 1:12 TeamGym
- Where events are external to the regular club training venue, a minimum ratio of one adult to ten gymnasts is required. This ratio should be increased for gymnasts aged under eight years.
- In addition, there are a minimum of two responsible adults present in the gym. This ensures there is supervision in the event of an accident or incident that requires one of the adults to leave the group to accompany a child.

Mixed Age Groups

BCGA aims to minimise adults from training in the same environment as children. We have a responsibility to ensure coaches consider the differences in needs based not only on age but also experience and stage of development for each of the participants.

Where we have adults training in the same space as children, the club has a responsibility to create a safe environment for all its participants, and where necessary, this includes putting safeguards in place to protect children and adults.

Consideration is given to the type of music played to ensure it is appropriate for all ages. Swearing is also prohibited during trainings that involve mixed age groups, and no photography or filming is allowed that involves anyone under the age of 18.

Provision of care

Pre-school Children

Parents of children under four years of age and of children who require assistance to use the toilet must remain with their child on site during the class. BCGA requires that parents of children aged 3-4 years remain nearby and contactable in case their child becomes distressed or requires assistance.

Flexibility/Stretching Exercises

There is a range of techniques and types of exercise for extending flexibility that involve the application of force. These techniques can also lead to the person applying the force coming into proximity with the gymnast and having prolonged contact with areas of the gymnast's body. British Gymnastics is in the process of issuing specific training modules in respect of stretching and their guidance will be followed at all times.

Coaches must follow the following guidelines:

- Use slow, progressive, and prolonged stretching exercises, within the "discomfort zone", rather than what might be excessive force.
- Avoid exercises that place the coaches and gymnasts' body in "close proximity" and might be unnecessary by the less-informed parent or observer.
- Be sensitive to how the exercise might be perceived by the parents and children.
- Consider holding a parents' forum to explain the flexibility training techniques, so that the parent is more aware and therefore less likely to misinterpret the techniques being used.
- Use partner exercises with more experienced gymnasts where possible.

Photography and Use of Imagery

General Principles Concerning the Use of Photographs or Recorded Images

BCGA is committed to ensuring that all publications and media represent participants appropriately and with due respect. It is not the intention of BCGA to prevent parents from taking pictures of their children, gymnasts of their friends, or enthusiasts of the sport of gymnastics, but rather to ensure that photographic practices are carefully managed, and effective prevention measures are in place to deter anyone with undesirable intentions from taking and publishing inappropriate images.

BCGA complies with the following guidelines:

- Ensure that gymnasts and/or the person with parental responsibility is fully aware, in advance of the details of where images of the gymnast may be published and are afforded the opportunity to object.

- No personal information, other than their **name and their club**, will accompany published images
- While some editing of images is acceptable, images taken of gymnasts should not be modified, merged or manipulated in a way which might cause embarrassment or distress to the subject or cause the final image to be inappropriate.
- The person responsible for advertising and marketing will be aware of children who are under a court order are not recorded or published without permission. This will be kept confidential and the welfare team will be informed of these individuals. It is the Club Manager's responsibility to inform the welfare department of any children that fall under this category.
- Any instance of the use or publication of inappropriate images of gymnasts should be reported to the welfare team who may then inform the appropriate authorities and/or consider any further action.
- All members are requested consent at the enrolment point to use their image/identification in any promotional material at BCGA
- All images of BCGA gymnasts are securely stored on unencrypted club computers, located on site and club tablets.
- Coaches must not use any personal equipment such as phones or tablets etc or personal social media platform (whether to publish or store).
- Coaches only use devices belonging to the club.
- In circumstances, where consent is withdrawn, BCGA will adhere to existing Data Protection legislation and guidance provided by the Information Commissioners Office. The Act states that where consent has been removed, the relevant organisation must conform to such a request within a reasonable amount of time. Whilst this is not further defined in law, BCGA will do so as soon as possible and provide confirmation to the person(s).
- The club welfare team should be informed of any inappropriate use of imagery on social media platforms or websites or any other form of media, which is not in keeping with this guidance.

Personal Photography

BCGA does not wish to discourage the use of video or photographic equipment at events for appropriate use but will take all reasonable precautions to protect gymnasts against the possible inappropriate use of films or photographic images. BG Photography Regulations require anyone organising a gymnastic event to regulate the taking of photographs and apply, as a minimum, the BG Conditions for Photography at Gymnastic Events.

If the event organiser/welfare officer (or authorised representative of the event organiser/welfare officer) suspects inappropriate photography or filming, the officer/organiser should exercise his/her powers under the conditions to request the person to leave the venue and to surrender any film and/or delete any images relating to the event. Any person at an event, who has any concerns about any images being taken, by any person, should bring them to the attention of the competition organiser or other designated person.

Use of Video as an Aid to Coach analysis

The use of video equipment can be a valuable aid to coaching. The points below have been implemented to safeguard against inappropriate practice:

- Inform the performers and the person with parental responsibility the purpose of the filming as a coaching aid. This is communicated in the squad pack.
- Ensure that there is at least one other responsible adult present in addition to the person filming.
- All video recording is stored securely on club iPads, which is kept in the offices, encrypted, to avoid inappropriate or unauthorised use and deleted when it is no longer required for coaching purposes.
- No imagery should be stored on personal tablets/phones

Transporting Gymnasts

The following guidance relates to coaches who transport gymnasts to training or events/competitions. Additional guidance is provided for the official provision of transport by a club for away event.

BCGA coaches do not take children alone on car journeys, except in unforeseen circumstances. * In such circumstances, the welfare team must be notified, and the following are practical requests to help alleviate transport problems:

- The parents aware (highlighted in the squad joining pack) that it is the coaches' responsibility to coach and not to provide transport for their child.
 - When a child accepts a place in a squad, the parent should be asked to commit to ensuring the child attends all training sessions and to be responsible for making the necessary transport arrangements.
 - We encourage parents to share transport with other parents.
 - Transport gymnasts in groups.
 - It is unacceptable for coaches to transport one child alone and in the case of transporting a group of gymnasts, best practice would require two responsible adults in the car. (This does not include another coach who is themselves under 18 years). However, in exceptional circumstances where the provision of two responsible adults is not possible and subject to prior consent from all relevant parents, a coach could transport a group of gymnasts (not individual) without another adult present.
- This is subject to the following conditions:
- The driver must ensure there are central pick-up and drop-off points to ensure they are not alone with a child.
 - The driver should also provide parents with full details of any planned breaks in the journey and departure and arrival times.
 - Gymnasts must be seated in the back of the car with booster seats if required.
 - The Club Welfare Officer should be made aware of the arrangements and called immediately.

* Unforeseen would only apply in the event of an accident or where something unexpected has happened and there is no other alternative but to take a child alone in the car and to fail to act would put the child at risk of harm. Where these situations are unavoidable, and whenever possible, the full consent of either the Welfare Officer, Head coach or Official and the child's parents should be obtained.

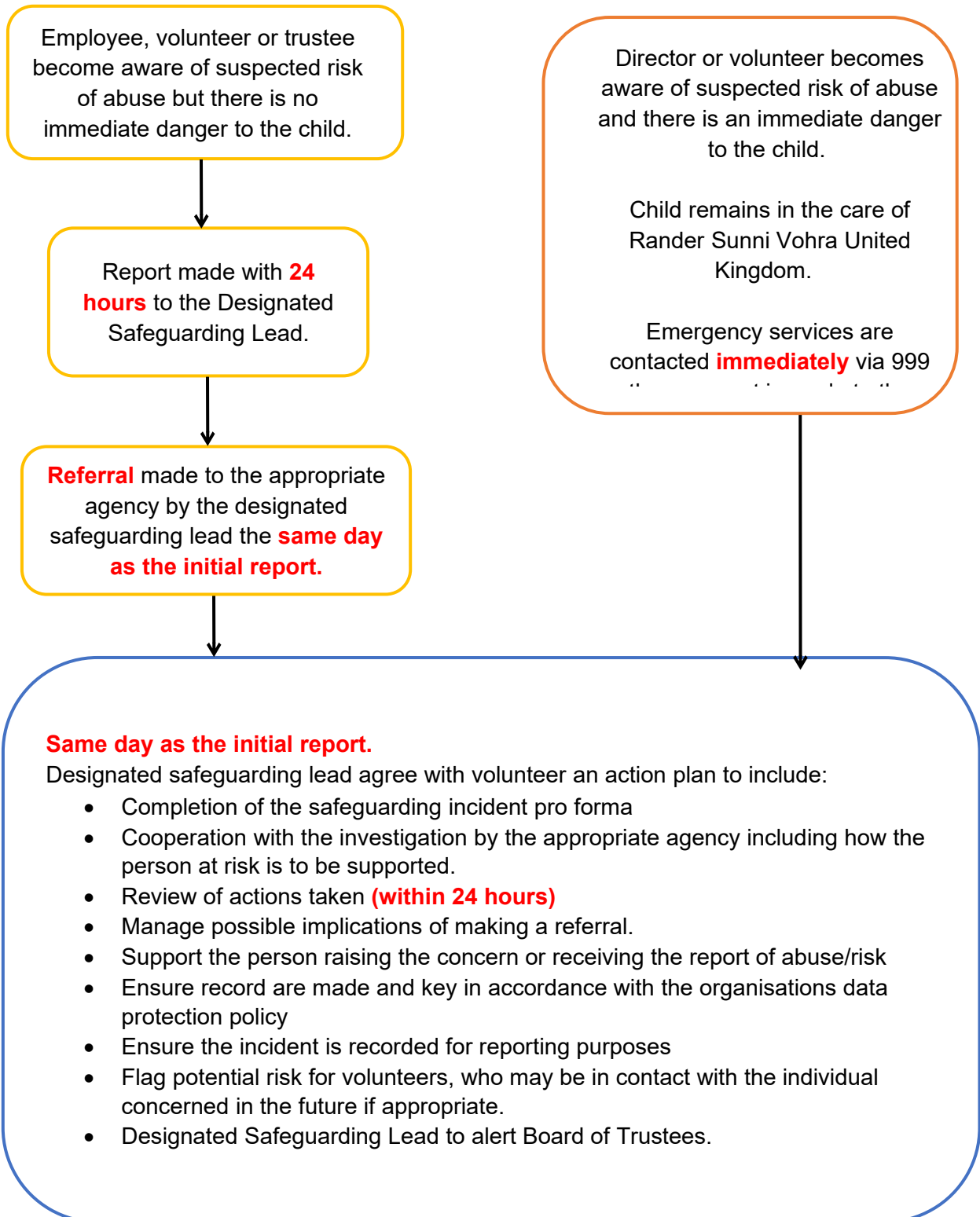
The above guidelines still comply when transporting to coaching courses, regional/national squad training or competitions.

Afternoon training:

It is the Heads of Discipline responsibility to inform the welfare team when consent has been given by the school for the gymnasts to attend afternoon training. A risk assessment is completed for each session, and confirmation sent to the appropriate professional body at the school for the coaches responsible in the session who hold a DBS and SPC certificate. Any changes to the coach in charge will be communicated direct to the school through the welfare officer.

Appendix 1

Procedure for Reporting and Managing Safeguarding Concerns



Appendix 2

Safeguarding Pro Forma

Safeguarding incident record.

Check to make sure your report is clear to someone else reading it. Incident date refers to the date of the recording of the incident (this should be the date you are made aware of the concern), if you have any information regarding a relevant past incident add into the details of concern section.

This will be the main record of the safeguarding incident and will need updating until the concern is closed.

Breach of confidentiality may include:

Was the information shared with an outside agency?

(Indicate with 'Yes' where relevant below and provide details)

- 999 Ambulance or Police:

- 101 Police – Welfare Checks:

- Safeguarding Adult Team (Name of person receiving the referral/ location/ phone number):

- Safeguarding Children and Family Services Team (Social services: name of person receiving the referral/ location/ phone number):

Form completed by		Date	Job title/ Role
Information about the person you have a safeguarding concern for:			
Full Name	DOB/Age	Gender	Additional needs: (e.g. health/disability/social/housing/other)
Current Address:			
Email:		Telephone Number:	
G.P Details if known:			
If concern raised by a third party add their details here			
Significant others if known (relatives, carers, friends, health/ social care/ other professionals)			
Name	Relationship to Person	Address	Telephone number
Details of Concern			
Date of Incident:			

What happened/ what is the concern?

Has the person involved expressed what they want to happen? Do they have mental capacity to make an informed decision?

Breach of Confidentiality – Information Sharing: Y/ N

Is the person concerned aware that the information has been shared with outside agencies and why?

Did the person give permission for the information to be shared with outside agencies?

What needs to happen? Note actions, including names of anyone whom your information was passed to and when

Status

Recommendation	Action	Responsible	Date Completed	Progress Update

Children: Is there a child or children or vulnerable adult in the household even if not the subject of the immediate safeguarding concern: **Y/N**

Details:

Inform	Date
Safeguarding Lead: Ellie-Mae Farrell	
Board of Trustees Aware	
Record Keeping	
Recorded securely on CRM System	

Appendix 3

Useful Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Officer for BCGC: Ellie-Mae Farrell

Email Address:

Telephone number:

Police:

Non-Emergency: 101

Emergency: 999

Local Authority:

Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership: 01226772423, 01142202020

Early Help Hub: 01872 322277

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000