

## Parents' Guide to Gingerbread Corner's Safeguarding Procedures

As a Childcare Centre, we have a duty to safeguard children and promote their welfare both whilst they are in our care and within the community.

In the past, there have been several tragedies which have shaped the Government's advice and guidance to organisations working with children, and the focus is now on prevention.

Gingerbread Corner's Safeguarding Procedure requires staff to log any niggling worry or doubt about any aspect of a child's well-being to Gingerbread Corner's Safeguarding Officer, who is our Chief Executive, Sue Dzendzera. All our records are kept secure and confidential in line with our Data Protection Policy.

In the vast majority of cases, one of our staff will have a chat with you regarding the concerns. Occasionally, we will feel that a referral to Social Services would be in the family's best interests and we will discuss that with the parent. Very rarely – and this has only happened less than a handful of times in 35 years - if a child is thought to be in immediate and significant danger, parents may not be spoken to before a referral is made.

We of course make every effort to work in real partnership with our clients and to build effective relationships, and the child's welfare and well-being must be our paramount concern. We therefore must act in what we believe is the best interest of the child.

If you would like any further information, please ask at Reception for a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and Guidance, or by all means have a chat with Leanne or with the Chief Executive, Sue Dzendzera.