

YOUTH SERVICES

'Youth and Community Workers (YCWs) have close contacts with children and young people, and should be alert to signs of abuse and neglect and how to act upon concerns about a child's welfare. Local Authority youth services should provide written instructions consistent with local ACPC procedures, on the circumstances in which YCWs should consult colleagues, line managers and other statutory authorities when they have concerns about a child or young person.

The instructions should emphasise the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people while acknowledging the importance of maintaining confidentiality between the young person and the YCW, insofar as this is consistent with the young person's welfare. Local voluntary youth organisations should seek guidance from their national bodies, or from the ACPC. On how best to safeguard the children and young people for whom they are providing a service.'

('Working Together to Safeguard Children' - DH 1999)

CHILD PROTECTION

DES Circular 4/88: Youth Service (extract)

"Youth and Community Workers (YCW's) have close contacts with children and young people and they too should be alert for signs of abuse. Much youth work depends for its effectiveness on the quality of individual relationships based on confidentiality but ultimately the appropriate agencies must be informed of suspected or identified abuse. Like school staff, YCW's need tact and sensitivity to maintain a young person's trust whilst providing for his or her safety. LEA's should define in documented procedures the circumstances in which YCW's should consult colleagues, line managers and other statutory agencies recognising the importance of maintaining confidentiality between the young person and the YCW so far as is consistent with safety."

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES



Managing Allegations and Concerns of Child Abuse

an information leaflet for Youth Workers



DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE

If any member of Kingston Youth Service receives a disclosure of either physical or sexual abuse, the Worker must:

- ◆ Listen and believe what the young person is saying
- ◆ Reassure the young person (confirm that they were right to tell, reassure that they will not be blamed, confirm that their account is being taken seriously) but not conduct an in depth interview.
- ◆ Explain to the young person the procedure to be followed and in particular the requirement of the Worker to report to their line manager (this is based on the fact the, having received the information, the Worker has a duty to act).
- ◆ Reassure the young person that only a minimum number of people will need to be involved and that the matter will not be discussed with colleagues or other members.
- ◆ Report the disclosure immediately to the line manager.
- ◆ Identify with the line manager the support needs of the young person and the Youth Worker him/herself.
- ◆ Keep an accurate written record of what the young person said. The record should be retained by the Youth Worker but may be requested by Social Services investigative officers at a later date.

SUSPICION OF ABUSE

If any member of Kingston Youth Service notices any signs or injuries which leads to the Worker to suspect that the young person may have been abused, the Worker must:

- ◆ Act with care and caution.
- ◆ Report immediately to their line manager the reasons for those suspicions.
- ◆ Identify any support that may be required for the young person.
- ◆ Keep an accurate written record of the reasons for the suspicions.

In all circumstances – of either disclosure or suspicion of abuse – the line manager should contact the Social Service Duty Officer, who will then follow the procedures established by the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

CONTACT NUMBERS

My Line Manager is:

.....

Tel......

Mob......

ASKK 020 8547 5888

**BEACONSFIELD CHILDREN RE-SOURCE CENTRE
020 8547 6587**

**OUT OF HOURS DUTY TEAM
020 8770 5000**