What should you do if you have concerns?

You may have concerns about child protection or child safeguarding issues at any of the Council facilities or organised events/activities.

Please remember, as Council employees you are not responsible for deciding whether child abuse has taken place, however you are responsible for reporting concerns to your Line Manager who will in turn report this to the Designated Child Safeguarding Officer.

Good guidance for this is:

- **Listen**
- **Record** your concerns or what you have been told (word for word)
- **Report** to your supervisor/duty officer/line manager or to the Council's Designated Child Safeguarding Officer.

Useful Contacts:

FODC Designated Safeguarding Officers:

Ian Davidson
T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21167

Louise Horner
T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21189

Emma McManus
T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21600

Rena Weir
T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 20125

Damian Maguire
T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21246

External Contacts:

Family Intervention Centre
Enniskillen: 028 6634 4000
Omagh: 028 8225 4500

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0800 800 5000

PSNI Non Emergency: 101

South West Acute Hospital (Out of Hours): 028 6638 2000

Western Health and Social Care Trust Adult Safeguarding Team: 028 6638 2000

Lifeline: 0808 808 8000 (freephone):

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Child Safeguarding

(Guidance to the Policy and Code of Practice)

(Council Staff/Volunteers)



More information on Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Child Safeguarding Policy can be found online at **www.fermanaghomagh.com or by telephoning 0300 303 1777**

These guidelines have been produced by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to provide information about child protection and the procedures that must be followed.

More information on Child Safeguarding can be obtained by contacting the Council's Designated Safeguarding Officers or by visiting **www.fermanaghomagh.com**

The Council believes that all children have the right to be protected from abuse and harm at all times and in all situations. The Child Safeguarding Policy aims to safeguard the personal safety of all children using Council facilities and/or services.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council define a child as anyone under 18 years of age, however child abuse is not easily quantified. Everyone, especially those who work with children and young people, has a legal and moral duty to help protect children from abuse and mistreatment.

Possible abuse situations may include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying including physical, verbal, emotional and cyber bullying

The above examples are not an exhaustive list. More information on the situations outlined above and other examples can be found within the Council's Child Safeguarding Policy.

All Council employees are provided with training on the policies and all employees are expected to act in accordance with the policy at all times

Inappropriate Behaviour

- Petting or fondling
- Inappropriate physical contact between an adult and child
- Sexually explicit behaviour in games
- Adults behaving suspiciously e.g. watching children or spending an exceptionally long time in changing area/cubicle/toilet or play area where there is no obvious reason for their presence
- Adults present in an area for children only
- Those seen looking over/under cubicles
- Adult behaviour causing distress to children e.g. rough play
- Use of inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Use of photographic equipment without proper permission

Council Employees and Volunteers must never:

- Let an allegation from a child go unreported
- Engage in rough/inappropriate games with children
- Allow or engage in appropriate touching of a child
- Inappropriately or unreasonably retrain a child
- Make sexually suggestive comments to or within earshot of a child
- Allow children to use inappropriate language or behaviour
- Do things of a personal nature for children that they can do themselves

Where possible employees should avoid spending time alone with a child.