

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:

Liz Wilson (Head of Leisure)

T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21170 M: 075 4004 8517

Thelma Browne (Head of HR and OD)

T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21003 M: 077 3919 0852

Emma McManus

(Centre Manager of Fermanagh Lakeland Forum)
T: 0300 303 1777 ext. 21600 M: 078 7242 4247

Amanda Whiteman

(Centre Manager of Omagh Leisure Complex)
T: 028 8224 6711 or 0300 303 1777 ext: 20705

Family Intervention Centre

Enniskillen: 028 6634 4000

Omagh: 028 8225 4500

Sport NI: 028 9038 1222

PSNI: 101

South West Acute Hospital (out of hours)

028 6638 2000

Western Health and Social Care Trust Adult
Safeguarding Service: 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 and Code of Practice 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 (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 Child Safeguarding Officer or by visiting www.fermanaghomagh.com.

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

A child can be defined as anyone under the age of 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 In-direct).

Although this is not an exhaustive list, more information on the abuse situations outlined above can be found within the Council's Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Practice.

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

Inappropriate Behaviour

- Petting or fondling
- Inappropriate physical contact between an adult and a child
- Sexually explicit behaviour in games
- Adults behaving suspiciously e.g. watching children or spending an inordinately long time in changing area/cubicle/toilet or play areas where there is no obvious reason for their presence
- Adults who have strayed into an area restricted for children only
- Those who are seen looking over/under cubicles or who appear to have an interest in more than one cubicle
- Adults whose behaviour is causing distress to children e.g. rough play, horseplay
- Use of inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Use of photographic equipment without proper permission

Employees should treat everyone with respect and also be aware that it is possible for children to be abused by other children and actions should be taken in the event of one child abusing another

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, inappropriate touching of a child
- Inappropriately or unreasonably restrain 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, have them on their own in a vehicle or take a child to the toilet.