

SECTION 10: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

SECTION 10.2: SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS

10.2.1 All children and young people living away from home including those in penal institutions are entitled to receive the same standards of care and protection from harm that they would receive from any reasonable parent.

There are a number of essential safeguards which every agency should take in every setting where it holds the responsibility for children and young people living away from home to prevent harm:

- Young people feel valued and respected and their self esteem is promoted.
- There is openness on the part of the institution to the external world and external scrutiny, including families and the wider community.
- Workers are trained in all aspects of safeguarding; alert to children's vulnerabilities and risks of harm; and knowledgeable about how to implement the child protection procedures.
- Young people have access to a trusted adult outside the institution and are made aware of the help they could receive from Childline and other help lines.
- Complaints procedures are clear, effective, user friendly and readily accessible to children and young people, including those who are disabled and for whom English is not their first language.
- Recruitment and selection processes are rigorous.
- There are clear procedures available for workers to voice their own concerns about other staff without prejudicing their own position and prospects.
- There is a respect for diversity and sensitivity to race, culture, religion, gender, sexuality and disability.
- It should be noted that children and young people living away from home are more vulnerable to abuse by other children and young people.

10.2.2 It is a contractual requirement imposed by the Youth Justice Board that each Young Offenders Institution must maintain and follow policies and procedures within the Safeguarding Children handbook.

10.2.3 In order to ensure the safeguarding of young people from Stockport who are living away from home in penal institutions, every effort will be made by the Youth Offending Team to ensure that they are appraised of the policy and that the young people are made aware of this. This policy should complement routine pastoral, complaints and investigation arrangements within YOI. These obligations are to be discharged in consultation with their local Safeguarding Children Board.

10.2.4 If information comes to light from whatever source that a young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering significant harm the information must immediately be shared with the duty governor.

10.2.5 If a formal referral is made to Children's Social Care a strategy discussion/meeting will take place in accordance with their Safeguarding Children policies and

procedures, led by the Local Authority within which the young person is living. This should include information shared by the Supervising Officer from Stockport YOT/ Children's Social Care

10.2.6 The strategy discussion/ meeting must agree:-

- Measures necessary to safeguard the young person's welfare, and
- Whether a formal Child Protection enquiry/investigation should be initiated by Children's Social care and the Police, and the remit and timescale for this.
- If a young person is on a Care Order there should be regular contact maintained with him/her.

10.2.7 When a young person is remanded to a Secure Unit, the Safeguarding Children Unit will undertake statutory reviews in line with the Children Act guidance for Looked After Children.