

Multi-agency Working Policy

Statement of Intent

Little Acorns understands the benefits of and is committed to multi-agency working. We ensure that we have close links with agencies and professionals, such as Social Care, Health Visitors, Speech Therapists, Special Education Needs Co-ordinators, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Community Paediatrics, Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAHMS), Educational Psychologists, Police, Bracknell Forest Council advisors, Pre-school Alliance etc. and we call on them for advice and support when necessary.

Aim

We aim to ensure that children in our pre-school achieve the five outcomes for children identified in the Children Act 2004.

The five outcomes are:

- Be Healthy – physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- Stay Safe – prevention and protection from harm and neglect
- Enjoy and Achieve – education, training and recreation · Make a positive contribution to society
- Achieve Economic and Social Well-being.

The following principles will underpin all our work with children and young people. Our approach will be:

- child centred
- rooted in child development
- support the achievement of best possible outcomes for children
- holistic in approach
- ensure equality of opportunity
- actively involve children and families
- build on strengths as well as identifying and addressing difficulties
- be multi/inter-agency in approach
- be a continuing process rather than an event
- be designed to identify and provide the service required, and to monitor the impact its provision has on a child's developmental progress · be informed by evidence.

Providing Services

All policies and services take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare and the five outcomes of children, young people, and vulnerable adults; and so far, as possible will be informed by the views of children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families or carers.

This means that Little Acorns, in collaboration with its partners, will provide a range of preventive and statutory services to safeguard and promote these outcomes by ensuring that services to children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families or carers are provided safely and effectively, and are accessible.

Working Together

Good interagency and multi-disciplinary working is promoted and maintained both within Little Acorns and with other organisations. Standards of practice in work with children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families or carers are regularly reviewed in line with relevant national Guidance.

This means:

- Ensuring that Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Children Board is provided with appropriate support to carry out its duties in partnership with other local organisations in Bracknell.
- Commissioned organisations providing services to children, young people, vulnerable adults, their families, or carers and to schools will demonstrate standards of safeguarding compliant with those of the Bracknell Safeguarding Children Board.
- Information is shared efficiently and effectively in respect of issues that may affect the safety and welfare of children, young people, or vulnerable adults. Clear protocols are in place and understood by staff, so ensuring that information is shared appropriately and as the law prescribes.
- Concerns are shared early to try and prevent any problems escalating.

Staff Awareness

All staff employed by the setting who have access to children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families or carers, and those who have access to sensitive information, will have induction and on-going training so that they know of the appropriate procedures and personnel in place, and of their role in responding to concerns about children, young people, vulnerable adults, and other safeguarding matters. Additionally, line management and/or supervision is in place to appropriately support staff.

Safe Employment

Robust procedures are in place to ensure staff, that have access to children, young people and vulnerable adults or access to sensitive information about children, young people and vulnerable adults are employed safely.

We achieve this by:

- Ensuring our recruitment and vetting procedures prevent unsuitable people from having contact with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- Staff who work or have contact with children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families or carers have appropriate safeguarding and safe working practices training, including induction, consistent with their role and function. This training will reflect the necessity for effective multi-agency and inter-professional working – both within the setting and with other organisations.