



Mellow Parenting

PROMOTING PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Mellow Parenting

SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF HARM

Date	Created February 2015 Revised August 2019
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Introduction

Mellow Parenting is a Scottish Charity incorporated in 2006 based in Glasgow, Scotland (UK). We work in the UK and internationally.

We want every child, wherever they are in the world, to be part of a safe and nurturing family that will allow them and future generations the best possible start in life.

We are a **training organisation** with a family of early intervention parenting programmes.

Work alongside:

Practitioners, Services and local authorities
Academics and Researchers
Policy makers

Key Activities:

- Train the early intervention workforce in our programmes and foundation courses
- Support the workforce to deliver our programmes and evaluate their effectiveness
- Deliver Mellow groups in conjunction with partner organisations
- Research and develop new programmes
- Provide Mellow practitioners with ongoing support and professional development
- Advocate for the importance of the early years and the need for secure attachment

Values

• **NURTURING**

We believe that nurturing relationships are vital to healthy development. This value runs through the organisation from staff to practitioners to families.

• **INCLUSIVE**

Mellow Programmes are accessible to every parent and child that would benefit from attending regardless of their race/religion/gender/age/sexuality/disability/socioeconomic status or geo-graphical location. We listen to, reflect and learn from the views and experiences of all those we work with.

• **QUALITY**

All Mellow Programmes are robustly evaluated and tested for effectiveness and feasibility. Our evidence base ensures the highest standard of group delivery and optimal outcomes for parents and their children. This value runs through the organisation which follows the ISO 9001 accreditation system and has high governance standards.

Purpose and aim of the Safeguarding policy

Safeguarding is the action that an organization takes to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults to protect them from harm including physical, emotional sexual and financial harm and neglect. - OSCR

From a child protection perspective, Safeguarding includes:

- *Protecting children from maltreatment*
- *Preventing impairment of children's health or development*
- *Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;*
- *And taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes*

Mellow Parenting is committed to protecting people from harm including all forms of exploitation, abuse and harassment. This involves proactively identifying, preventing and guarding against all risks of harm exploitation and abuse and having transparent accountable systems for reporting and learning. Safeguarding includes child protection but goes further and extends to all vulnerable beneficiaries. In addition to our Safeguarding Policy we also have anti-bullying/harassment, non-discrimination and whistleblowing policies.

When they set up and deliver Mellow Parenting groups, all trained practitioners should follow the Good Practice Guidelines set out in Appendix 1. When we develop a new international partnership our due diligence involves checking what Safeguarding procedures and policies are in place and how they are implemented.

This policy is governed by the laws and regulations of Scotland. It applies to anyone acting on behalf of Mellow Parenting in any capacity including (and not limited to), employees, trustees, trainers, consultants, interns, temporary staff, and volunteers. We expect those working for Mellow Parenting to adhere to our values and ensure that their behaviour and conduct promotes a positive safeguarding culture.

Our day-to-day work brings some of our direct employees into contact with vulnerable people including pregnant women, babies, children, young people and adults with learning disabilities/difficulties. Children who attend Mellow Groups may already be on the child protection register.

When we deliver Mellow Groups we visit families at home, film parent-child interactions and participate in activities with both children and adults. The nature of the Mellow Group means that we seek to create a 'safe' space to build trust and healthy relationships with the families that we work with. This may lead to individuals disclosing information about historical and or current abuse.

Legal and Policy Basis of the Policy

This policy takes cognisance of national policies, priorities and guidance, including:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989
- Getting it Right for Every Child
- Data Protection Act 2018
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (“PVG Act”)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000
- The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
- Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002
- Mental Health Scotland Act 2015
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
- Part V of the Police Act 1997
- OSCR strategy and guidance
- SCVO Safeguarding Guidance

The Scottish Government has provided explicit legislation and guidance regarding the protection of children and adults at risk. Local authorities have a statutory duty to promote inter agency cooperation to safeguard both children and adults at risk. Some of these provisions relate specifically to either children or adults and many apply to both, determining the joint and separate actions required. Mellow Parenting has both legal and statutory obligations that arise from legislation including the Adult Support and Protection Scotland Act 2007, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, and other related legislation, regulation and guidance.

Any safeguarding concern received by Mellow Parenting must be raised to OSCR through their notifiable events email: notifiabel@oscr.org.uk

Roles and Responsibilities

The purpose of this document is to provide information and guidance in relation to the duties and procedures to be adopted to safeguard a child or adult at risk of harm who are identified by a Mellow Parenting employee.

This policy is intended to ensure that all Mellow Parenting employees are familiar with the terms and supporting legislation; understand the need for rapid inter agency collaboration, intervention and communication; and have a clear understanding of the mechanisms that should be adopted in relation to both child and adult protection.

Safeguarding work is aimed at protecting children from abuse and neglect and safeguarding adults at risk of harm. It includes work to prevent abuse and neglect as well as the response to situations where individuals have been or are being mistreated.

Mellow Parenting works with partners and agencies who have safeguarding policies in place. As part of our due diligence when forming new partnerships we will request a copy of their safeguarding procedures. When we run groups directly we receive referrals from partner agencies and the group participants are known to the service that refers them. It is therefore our duty as an organisation to ensure that we liaise and communicate with the referrer if we have a safeguarding concern. In these circumstances, the safeguarding

policy of the organisation who made the referral will take precedence over the Mellow Parenting Safeguarding Policy.

When representatives of Mellow Parenting visit partner organisations in other countries, in whatever capacity they are also subject to the safeguarding policies of the partner organisations.

In the event that a safeguarding concern is raised about a Mellow Parenting employee or consultant whilst abroad, the Safeguarding Officer or CEO will investigate and take action under both Mellow Parenting's procedures and the partner organisation procedures.

This policy has been divided into two sections. The first details actions to be undertaken in relation to the identification and/or referral where there are child safeguarding concerns. This section clearly outlines communication, governance and procedural arrangements, and includes forms for recording and referral purposes.

The second section outlines the processes to be undertaken should Mellow Parenting have concerns about the welfare of an adult. This includes definitions of an 'Adult at Risk of Harm' and the resulting action. Supporting forms and paperwork are included to ensure that appropriate action, partnership working and Mellow Parenting reporting arrangements are fully considered and utilised.

Who is bound by this policy?

This policy is binding on all people who work for or with Mellow Parenting in whatever capacity: board members, staff, trainers, interns and volunteers. All concerned are required to read and sign this policy as a declaration that they have understood and accept this policy.

SECTION ONE

Child Protection

The Scottish Government, through the core components of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), have placed a duty on public services to work together and promote a shared approach and accountability to meet the requirements of existing and future Children and Young People's legislation.

Mellow Parenting recognises the values and principles of GIRFEC and the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) and that the requirement to protect and safeguard children from harm is everyone's responsibility.

The risk of harm to a child or young person will always be more important than the need for professionals or organisations to keep information confidential; relevant and proportionate information sharing is one of the core components of GIRFEC.

When dealing with child protection issues, relevant information should be shared and stored taking cognisance of the Data Protection Act, 2018.

Definition of a Child

For the purposes of this policy a child is anyone who has not attained the age of 16 years. Those aged 16 and over are supported by the Adults at Risk of Harm section of this Policy.

Types of Harm and Abuse (see Appendix 4)

- Physical
- Neglect
- Emotional
- Sexual

Definition of Child maltreatment

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child.

Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children, including the unborn child. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

Witnessing intimate partner violence – seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another – is child abuse.

Policy Objective

The objective of this procedure is to set out the actions that must be taken to protect and safeguard children in the event of a concern about their wellbeing.

Raising Concerns

When preparing for or running a Mellow Group if a Mellow Parenting employee has concerns regarding the wellbeing or safety of a child, they should follow the guidelines set out in Appendix 1. It is most likely that the employee will be working in a partnership context with a referring agency. If this is the case they should raise the concern with their key contact in that agency and follow their procedures. On return to the office they should

report their concern to the safeguarding officer or if not available, the CEO. The concerns raised will be documented in accordance with Mellow Parenting Risk Register and associated documentation. This is reviewed at quarterly Board Meetings.

If the concern is not raised within a partnership context and the employee wishes to proceed with a referral, then the safeguarding officer must report this referral to the Duty Social Work Officer or, in an emergency (threat to life), to the Police. Each local authority area will have specific arrangements available from the local Child Protection Committee or Multi Agency Screening Hub.

If a referral is required, it is important that this is made by the person witnessing the child's situation as soon as reasonably practicable. The consent of parents/carers is good practice, however is not required and in some cases not appropriate, and attempts to seek consent should not delay the creation of a referral. Under no circumstances should a referral be delayed. ¹

It is *not* the responsibility of Mellow Parenting to investigate concerns. The role of Mellow Parenting personnel is to pass on information to the relevant services.

The safeguarding officer will arrange for a written report, using the Child Protection/Wellbeing form (Appendix 2), to be sent to Social Work and/or Police by recorded delivery or hand delivered within twenty-four hours of the concern being raised.

Historical Abuse

The term 'historical abuse' refers to reports of neglect, emotional, physical and sexual abuse which took place before the victim was 16 (or 18, in particular circumstances) and which have been made after a significant time lapse. The complainant may be an adult but could be a young person making reports of abuse in early childhood. The reports may relate to an individual's experience in the family home, community or while they were a looked after and accommodated child in a residential, kinship or foster care setting.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014 provides guidance on dealing with the disclosure of historical abuse.

Key messages for practice:

- When a report of historical child abuse is received by any agency consideration must be given to the investigation of any current child protection concerns.
- Consideration needs to be given as to whether the individual involved needs support and protection as an adult at risk.
- Services supporting or taking part in the investigation of individuals reporting historical abuse should be mindful of potential barriers to reporting abuse.
- The individual's need for support must be balanced with the need to protect any child/children who may currently be exposed to any risk from the suspected or reported perpetrator(s).
- Individuals reporting historical abuse should be offered ongoing emotional support.
- Local guidelines should identify referral routes to local services that specialise in childhood abuse and trauma.

¹ Although those providing services to adults and children may be concerned about the need to balance their duties to protect children from harm and their general duty towards their patient or service user, the overriding concern must always be the welfare of the child. Whenever possible, consent should be obtained before sharing personal information with third parties but concerns about a child's safety must always override the 'public interest' in maintaining confidentiality or obtaining consent from families. The safety of the child is always the paramount consideration. National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2010.

- Local guidelines should have clear protocols in place in relation to recordkeeping and record management.

Allegations Made Against a Mellow Parenting Employee

Where a child protection allegation is made against a Mellow Parenting employee it must be treated seriously. To ensure the wellbeing of the child involved, the person against whom the allegation is made shall refrain from running Mellow Groups until the outcome of further investigations.

Following the due process, if an allegation is unfounded, the employee shall continue with their existing duties immediately.

An employee, working in a Regulated Position as set out in the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (“PVG Act”), who is subject to a child protection allegation in their personal life, must inform the CEO who will follow procedure above.

Allegations Made Against a Mellow Parenting Trainer

Mellow Parenting trainers have a duty to inform the Mellow Parenting CEO if an allegation has been made against them. During the investigation period the trainer will not be involved in delivering training. The trainer has a duty to inform Mellow Parenting of the outcome of any enquiry against them. Following the due process, if an allegation is unfounded, the trainer will be able to resume work.

Allegations Made Against a Mellow Parenting Board Member

Mellow Parenting board members have a duty to inform the Chair of the Board if an allegation has been made against them. During the investigation period the board member will step down. The board member has a duty to inform Mellow Parenting of the outcome of any enquiry against them. Following the due process, if an allegation is unfounded, the board member will be reinstated.

Discussing Child Protection Concerns with a Child

A child may approach a Mellow Parenting employee to disclose an issue of abuse or risk. The child should be informed that the employee has a responsibility to pass on any necessary information if they think the child is at risk of significant harm.

At no time will the child be questioned other than for clarification of something that has been said. The employee should listen carefully to what the child is saying, making it clear that they take the issue seriously. The employee will make a record immediately following the discussion and include date, time, location, outcome of discussion and any witnesses. This should be signed by the person witnessing the concern and countersigned by the safe guarding officer or CEO.

Such circumstances can be very difficult and stressful. To support Mellow Parenting employees, the line manager will provide the employee with a thorough debrief and refer them for further support if required.

Responding to a Disclosure

Do’s

- Take the individual to a quiet comfortable private area
- Listen carefully
- Reassure them you are taking what they say seriously
- Write down what they say in their own words
- Store documentation in a locked cupboard

Don'ts

- Interrogate the individual
- Make false promises
- Put words into the individuals mouth
- Approach the accused

SECTION TWO

Adults at Risk of Harm

This policy defines Mellow Parenting's responsibilities in relation to 'Adults at Risk of Harm'. The purpose of this policy is to provide information and guidance in relation to the duties and procedures to be adopted, whenever an Adult at Risk of Harm is identified.

To fulfil responsibilities, as defined within the Adult Support and Protection Act 2007 (the Act), Mellow Parenting will report and cooperate with key partner agencies including Social Work, Police and Health professionals. The aim is to support the wellbeing of any individual considered to be an Adult at Risk of Harm.

The Act places responsibilities on Social Work, Police and/or Health professionals to make arrangements to protect or safeguard adults deemed to be at risk of harm. Social Work has been defined as the lead agency and is responsible for co-ordinating the risk assessment and risk management planning.

The Act defines what constitutes an Adult at Risk of Harm and also places a 'duty' on relevant services and agencies to report and cooperate. Where Mellow Parenting employees consider that a person(s) meets the 'Adult at Risk of Harm' criterion, that individual must be referred to Social Work and /or Police depending upon the circumstances.

To comply with the Act, each Local Authority has an 'Adult Protection Committee' (APC) with an independent Chairperson responsible for coordinating all inter-agency adult protection work. Mellow Parenting has a responsibility to provide local APCs with any information, which the committee may reasonably require for the purposes of performing its functions. This committee is made up of representatives of Social Work, Police, Health and a range of other agencies.

Definitions and Guidance

Adult at Risk of Harm is a person (aged 16 or over) who meets the following three criteria:

- Are unable to safeguard their well-being, property, rights or other interests
- Are at 'risk of harm' (either from another person's behaviour or from their own behaviour), and
- Because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

The presence of a particular condition or disability does not automatically mean that a person is an adult at risk of harm. A person can have a disability or condition but be perfectly able to look after their own health, safety and well-being. Their circumstances as a whole should be considered, all three elements above must be met to be an Adult at Risk of Harm as defined by legislation.

It may not always be possible to determine if an individual fits the specific definition and criteria. For avoidance of doubt, where any person is suspected to be an Adult at Risk of Harm they should be treated as such, until their status is deemed otherwise by Adult Protection professionals within the relevant Local Authority. In the interim, the guidance in this Policy should be implemented.

What is Harm?

“Harm” includes all harmful conduct and, in particular, includes:

- Physical harm
- Psychological harm (e.g. causing fear, alarm or distress)
- Conduct which causes self-harm
- Neglect

An adult is at ‘Risk of Harm’ if:

- Another person’s conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed
- The adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct, which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm
- There is neglect either by another person with carer responsibility or by the adult themselves

Mellow Parenting Employees should be aware that family, neighbours, friends, paid staff, volunteer helpers or peers might carry out abuse. We need to be sensitive to the power which exists in relationships where one person is dependent upon another for their care, where one person has more status or credibility than the other, or where one person controls access to resources or to contact with other people. **Abuse or the suspicion of abuse must always be taken seriously and understood from the perspective of the victim.**

(See Appendix 4 for Guidance on Types of Harm that might affect an Adult at Risk of Harm)

Raising Concerns

The Mellow Parenting employee who is concerned about an Adult at Risk of Harm should discuss the issue with the Safeguarding Officer and if appropriate the CEO. The concern will also be raised with the referring agency.

A telephone referral should be made to the Local Social Work Office (Duty Officer) or Social Work out-of-hours service. The safeguarding officer will ensure the concerns are documented using the Adult at Risk of Harm form (Appendix 3). This form can also be sent to Social Work if requested.

Appendix 1

Good Practice Safeguarding Guidelines for Setting up and Running Mellow Groups

1. All Mellow Parenting practitioners must know and use the Safeguarding guidelines of their own organisation.
2. Safeguarding issues are never ignored.
3. Agree with referrers what information you need from them before the referral is accepted. If there is a child protection plan ask to see it.
4. Agree with referrers what information they will get back from you. Ideally Mellow Parenting should not be prescribed under any order nor used as an assessment in safeguarding.
5. It is better not to attend or write reports for case conferences etc but if you must it should never be done without discussion with the parent. If needed, you can indicate the parent is attending the group regularly.
6. It is possible to accept referrals under a mandate as long as careful engagement with the parent confirms they want to get something out of the group, not merely comply with a demand from outside.
7. Make sure the group rules are clear on what confidentiality really means; (who is within the boundaries of the professional team i.e. children's group staff, supervisor etc)?
8. Anything discussed in the group should be regarded as confidential unless there is a risk to a child or parent.
9. When child protection issues occur in the group either from a parent or a child, it is best to discuss them openly in the group. It is advisable not to see any parent individually during the course of the group as this creates divisions in the group dynamics.
 - It is important that you show that:
 - You will take action to protect children
 - You are open in what you do
 - You are not shocked or afraid of what you hear but will act on it calmly
10. Safeguarding overrides all other concerns but it can almost always be done within the agreement that you gave parents.

Appendix 2

Mellow Parenting - CHILD PROTECTION FORM

Nature of Referral:

Child Protection if child/ren are at risk of harm.

Mellow Parenting personnel should use this form to record and share appropriate information with regard to child protection concerns.

Personnel should record the known facts about the concern and avoid making assumptions or providing personal opinions. Only insert what you know, do not worry about blank spaces, do not investigate the matter with the child or anyone else concerned. The referral must not be delayed because of missing information.

For a Child Protection concern the referral should be made initially by telephone and then this form must be submitted within 24 hours, or a timescale agreed with the agency receiving the referral, of the concern being noted. The original must be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Referrer Details: Name and job title:

Are the parents/carers aware of this referral?

Yes/No

PRIMARY PARENT /CARER'S DETAILS:

Name:

Gender:

Telephone No:

Age:

Address, include postcode if known:

CHILDREN'S DETAILS

If possible, include each child's name, age/D.O.B and School/Nursery:

Please detail communication needs of the children:

Living situation:

Type of accommodation, who lives in the home and the condition of the children's living environment.

REASONS FOR THE REFERRAL:

Please give brief details of the situation leading to this referral. Include specific incidents known – dates, times, frequency or injuries, together with evidence as appropriate. Use the child’s own words where possible.

Please summarise any risks to the children

What action has been taken to reduce any immediate risk?

GENERAL PRACTITIONER DETAILS:

Name:

Telephone No:

Address:

OTHER PROFESSIONALS/AGENCIES INVOLVED, PARTICULARILY HEALTH VISITOR

Name:

Agency:

Contact details:

Name:

Agency:

Contact details:

DETAILS OF THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE CAUSING HARM:

Name

Relationship to child/ren

Address

REFERRER SIGNATURE:

PRINT NAME:

Gender

DATE

Appendix 3

Mellow Parenting – ADULT REFERRAL FORM

Nature of Referral:

Adult of Risk of Harm or Adult in Need of Support

Referrer Details: Name and job title:

Is the person aware of this referral? Yes/No

PERSON'S DETAILS

If possible, include name, age/D.O.B:

Please detail communication needs:

Living situation:

Type of accommodation, who lives in the home and the condition of the living environment.

REASONS FOR THE REFERRAL:

Please give brief details of the situation leading to this referral, include past incidents recorded.

Please summarise any risks:

What action has been taken to reduce any immediate risk?

GENERAL PRACTITIONER DETAILS:

Name:

Telephone No:

Address:

OTHER PROFESSIONALS/AGENCIES INVOLVED.

Name:

Agency:

Contact details:

Name:

Agency:

Contact details:

DETAILS OF THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE CAUSING HARM:

Name:

Relationship to the adult:

Address:

REFERRER SIGNATURE:

PRINT NAME:

Gender

DATE

Appendix 4: Guidance on Types of Harm that might affect an Adult at Risk of Harm

Many vulnerable adults have to rely on others to help them with basic day-to-day living. Whilst the majority have excellent care provision, some are at risk of harm. This could be due to another person, or people, deliberately taking advantage of the adult. But it could also be the adult who is unintentionally putting them self at risk, simply because they don't have the right level of support in place.

Harm can take the following forms:

Financial harm

Vulnerable adults can be easy prey for thieves and bullies. Whether it's taking a valuable piece of jewellery or a few pounds from a purse, it's still stealing and is against the law. There are also less obvious forms of financial harm. A person can be pressured into giving someone money because they have been made to feel sorry for them or obliged to them. In extreme cases, people have been pressured into changing their Will and signing away their property.

Physical harm

This is when a person deliberately hurts someone else by punching, kicking, slapping, or shaking. Making aggressive physical contact with someone is known as assault. It is against the law to hurt someone intentionally.

Psychological harm

Words do hurt. Especially when used to frighten, threaten, humiliate or control another person, or making them feel isolated. Vulnerable people can be targets for others taking advantage of them; for example, using their home and belongings or pressuring them into being involved in illegal or socially unacceptable behaviour.

Sexual harm

Sexual activity requires permission, known as 'consent'. However, in order to give consent a person must fully understand what they are consenting to. They also need to understand that they have the right to refuse to do anything they don't feel comfortable with – at any time – even if they have previously given permission.

It is a serious crime to coerce, threaten or force someone to engage in any type of sexual activity.

Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not being cared for properly, either by themselves or by the person or authority responsible for them. A neglected person may not have enough food to eat or be living somewhere that's cold, dirty or damp, or they may not be fully dressed or appear to have washed. They may be being denied important medical and social care. It is important that everybody gets the professional help they need, especially if they take medication.

Self-harm and self-neglect

Self-neglect is the inability to perform activities of daily living, even though the adult understands the need to do them. It can include an inability to recognise unsafe living conditions. However, adults have a right to make their own decisions, including the use of alcohol and drugs, even if that means they choose to remain in situations or indulge in behaviour which others consider inappropriate. Without any additional vulnerability, such as an illness or disability, adult protection intervention would not normally be appropriate.

<http://www.actagainstharm.org/what-is-harm>

Appendix 5 National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

What is child abuse and child neglect?

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of age - or developmentally - inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or exploiting or corrupting children. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of indecent images or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect may also result in the child being diagnosed as suffering from „non-organic failure to thrive“, where they have significantly failed to reach normal weight and growth or development milestones and where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated. In its extreme form children can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation. This can lead to serious long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young children in particular, the consequences may be life-threatening within a relatively short period of time.

Appendix 6

Declaration by Mellow Parenting board member, employee, consultant, intern or volunteer

I have read and understand this SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF HARM, and by signing here, indicate my commitment to the policy. I sign in the presence of the Mellow Parenting Safeguarding Officer and confirm that I have reviewed the policy with the Safeguarding Officer and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Name:

Signature:

Name of Safe Guarding Officer:

Signature:

Date of signatures: