

EYPUK CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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Policy Statement

Our Policy and our commitment at EYPUK is to take all reasonable measures to safeguard and promote the welfare of each delegate in our care and:

- to protect each delegate from any form of abuse, whether from an EYP representative or another delegate;
- to be alert to signs of abuse both in EYPUK and from outside;
- to deal appropriately with every suspicion or complaint of abuse;
- to design and operate procedures which promote this policy and which, so far as possible, minimise the impact upon the innocent of unfounded allegations;
- to be alert to the needs of delegates with medical conditions;
- to operate robust and sensible health and safety procedures;
- to take all practicable steps to ensure that premises at EYPUK events are as secure as circumstances reasonably permit;
- to operate clear and supportive policies on drugs, alcohol and substance misuse;
- to consider and develop procedures to deal with any other safety and welfare issue which may be specific to individual delegates at an EYPUK event or in the area surrounding the event;
- to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in accordance with section 157 Education Act 2002 and associated regulations.

Aims of this Policy

- To raise awareness of all representatives of EYPUK of the need for child protection
- To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all EYP representatives
- To develop a structured, confidential, internal procedure to be followed by all members of the EYPUK community in cases of suspected abuse
- To promote understanding and sensitivity towards delegate protection
- To support the delegate's development in ways which will foster security, confidence and independence

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Aims of this Policy

EYPUK representatives are in a unique position to identify abuse in delegates and to provide information for the Designated Member of Staff (DMS) of EYPUK.

As professionals we have the responsibility for the moral, social, cultural and spiritual welfare of the delegates in our care.

EYPUK recognises its duty to work with other agencies in protecting delegates from harm and in responding appropriately to abuse.

“The protection of the delegate is the over-riding aim of any intervention. Delegates should be seen as individuals and their rights, needs and welfare must remain paramount. In any conflict of interest this principle must be upheld.”

Procedural Responsibilities

All representatives of EYPUK, especially session officials such as Orgas, Chairs, Journos and Jurors should recognise their role in the welfare of delegates and their responsibilities if they suspect Delegate Abuse. Within EYPUK, all representatives should directly report any concerns about a delegate's welfare to the Designated Member of Staff (DMS).

The Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection

- The Designated Members of Staff for Child Protection are:
- The DMS will co-ordinate action on delegate abuse within EYPUK, ensuring that all representatives are aware of their responsibilities in relation to child protection.
- He/she will liaise with all appropriate authorities.
- He/she will be the first point of contact for parents, delegates, external agencies and any other matters of delegate protection.
- He/she should advise and act upon all suspicion, belief and evidence of abuse reported to him/her.

Duty of Representatives

Every EYPUK representative is under a general legal duty to:

- To protect delegates from abuse
- To be aware of EYPUK's child protection procedures and to follow them

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- To know how to access and implement the procedures, independently, if necessary
- To keep a sufficient record of any significant complaint, conversation or event which should be dealt with as set out below (in Record Keeping).
- To report any matters of concern to the DMS

Signs of Abuse

Whilst no list can be comprehensive and vigilance is always required, the following may be signs of abuse:

- The delegate says he/she has been abused or asks a question which gives rise to that inference.
- There is no reasonable or consistent explanation for a delegate's injury; the injury is unusual in kind or location; there have been a number of injuries; there is a pattern to the injuries.
- The delegate's behaviour stands out from the group as being either extreme model behaviour or extremely challenging behaviour; or there is a sudden change in the delegate's behaviour.
- The delegate is reluctant to go home, or has been openly rejected by his/her parents or carers.

Procedures

Initial complaint:

EYPUK representatives suspecting or hearing of a complaint of abuse:

- Must listen carefully to the delegate and keep an open mind. Representatives should not take the decision as to whether or not the abuse has taken place.
- Must not ask leading questions, that is, a question which suggests its own answer.
- Must reassure the delegate but give no guarantee of absolute confidentiality. The member of staff should explain that they need to pass the information on to the Designated Member of Staff who will ensure that the correct action is taken.
- Must keep a sufficient written record of the conversation. The record should include the date, time and place of the conversation and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names not initials. The record must be kept securely and handed to the D.M.S.

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Responding

Any EYPUK representative who has concerns about a delegate must report their concerns to the Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection.

If the suspicions in any way involve another EYPUK representative such as an Orga, Chair, Journo or Juror the matter needs to be brought to the attention of the Chairperson of EYPUK who will act in accordance with procedures (The Management of Allegations and Concerns Regarding the Professional Conduct of Staff).

Record Keeping

Any representatives such as Orgas, Chairs, Journos or Jurors receiving a disclosure of abuse from a delegate or young person, or noticing signs or symptoms of possible abuse in a delegate or young person, will make notes as soon as possible (within the hour if possible), writing down as exactly as possible, what was said or seen, putting the scene into context, and giving the time and location. Dates and times of events should be recorded as accurately as possible, together with a note of when the record was made. All records must be signed and dated clearly.

All records of a delegate protection nature (hand written or typed) will be given to the DMS for safe - keeping. This includes child protection conference minutes. Access to any records will be on a “need to know” basis.

Allegations Against EYPUK Representatives

EYPUK has procedures for dealing with allegations against representatives that aim to strike a balance between the need to protect delegates from abuse and the need to protect representatives from false or unfounded allegations.

Suspension will not be an automatic response to an allegation. Full consideration will be given to all options, subject to the need to ensure:

- The safety and welfare of the delegate or delegates concerned; and
- The need for a full and fair investigation

Allegations Against Delegates

A delegate against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be suspended from the EYPUK event and EYPUK’s policy on behaviour, discipline and sanctions will apply.

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Abuse of Trust

The Sexual Offences (amendment) Act 2000 established a criminal offence of the abuse of trust affecting EYPUK representatives who are in a relationship of trust with 16-18 year olds; a relationship of trust being one where an EYPUK representative is in a position of power or influence over a delegate by virtue of the work or nature of the activity being undertaken.

The legislation is intended to protect young people in education who are over the age of consent but under 18 years of age.

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Child Protection Policy: Appendix A

1 Types of abuse and their signs and symptoms

The department of Health guide 'Working together to safeguard children' describes 4 categories of abuse for registration.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a delegate's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the delegate's development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a delegate from physical harm or danger, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a delegate's basic emotional needs. Non-organic failure to thrive may be a feature or a result of neglect.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a delegate. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a delegate whom they are looking after. This is commonly described as 'Munchausen syndrome by proxy'.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a delegate or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the delegate is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving delegates looking at, or in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging delegates to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a delegate such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the delegate's emotional development. It may involve conveying to delegates that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on delegates. It may involve causing delegates to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of delegates. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a delegate, though it may occur alone.

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2 **Confidentiality**

Promises that cannot be kept should not be made to a delegate. Do not promise confidentiality.

Information received from a delegate should only be given to the appropriate and relevant person, such as the DMS.

Other EYPUK representatives such as Orgas, Chairs, Journos and Jurors need only know enough to prepare them to act with sensitivity.

The delegate should be kept informed of who knows, and what they know, at all stages of the procedure.