

## Section2: Procedures

### 2.1

#### *Child Protection & Procedure*

Red Ridge adopts the Child Protection principles as laid out in the government document 'Working to Safeguard Children 1999.' The following section will highlight some of the chief issues in the document. A full copy is on file, at the end of the 'Operating Procedures.'

'All children deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. They should be enabled to:

- Be as physically and mentally healthy as possible
- Gain the maximum benefit possible from good-quality educational opportunities
- Live in a safe environment and be protected from harm
- Experience emotional well-being
- Feel loved and valued, and be supported by a network of reliable & affectionate relationships
- become competent in looking after themselves and cope with everyday living
- have a positive image of themselves, and a secure sense of identity including cultural and racial identity
- develop good inter-personal skills and confidence in social situations

If they are denied the opportunity to achieve their potential in this way, children are at risk not only of an impoverished childhood, but they are also more likely to experience disadvantage and social exclusion in adulthood.'

Section1.1 page 1 'Working to Safeguard Children 1999'

Red Ridge recognises that individuals in its care must be protected from harm of both a physical and emotional nature. Recent revelations regarding abuse & neglect of children in residential settings is obviously of major concern to Red Ridge. Safeguards against similar abuse are therefore in place. Again these follow the recommendations set out in the 'Working to Safeguard Children 1999' document.

'These safeguards include that :

- children feel valued and respected and their self-esteem promoted
- there is an openness on the part of the institution to the external world and external scrutiny, including general openness with families and the wider communities
- staff are trained in all aspects of safeguarding children; alert to children's vulnerabilities and risks of harm; and knowledgeable about how to implement child protection procedures
- children have ready access to a trusted adult outside the institution

- complaints procedures are clear, effective, user friendly and readily accessible to children & young people
- a code of conduct is in place instructing staff of their duty to their employer and their professional obligation to raise legitimate concerns about the conduct of colleagues or managers
- staff & carers are alert to the risks to children in the external environment from people prepared to exploit the additional vulnerability of children living away from home

Section 6.5. page 63 'Working to Safeguard Children 1999'

#### *Allegations of Abuse made against Carers*

Any allegations of abuse made against Red Ridge employees will be taken seriously and investigated.

The Manager will make initial investigations into the allegation and Social Services will be informed. It will be the responsibility of Social Services to take formal investigative action. If the offence is of a criminal nature the Police must be informed at the first opportunity.

The full procedure can be found on page 66 of 'Working to Safeguard Children 1999.'

#### *Allegations of Abuse made against Peers*

'Children, particularly those living away from home, are also vulnerable to abuse by their peers. Such abuse should always be taken as seriously as abuse perpetrated by an adult. It should be subject to the same child protection procedures as apply in respect of any child who is suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm from an adverse source. A significant proportion of sex offences are committed by teenagers and, on occasion, by younger children. Staff in a residential setting need clear guidance and training to identify the difference between consenting and abusive, appropriate or exploitative peer relationships. Staff should not dismiss some abusive sexual behaviour as 'normal' between young people and should not develop high thresholds before taking action.'

Section 6.6. page 64. Working to Safeguard Children 1999'

## **Protection of Children**

Red Ridge Procedure for reporting any suspicions of abuse or neglect.

On initial allegation of abuse or neglect the registered person should be contacted immediately.

The registered manager will liaise and co-operate with any local authority, which may be making investigations into child abuse or neglect.

Once the registered person has been informed they will promptly inform the child's local placing authority of any suspicions of abuse or neglect.

Any child protection investigations or outcomes will be reported promptly to the local authority and the Care Commission in line with regulation 30 concerning any child in the home.

Any written report of an incident, investigation or outcome concerning a child in the home will be kept on file in the main office.

Any child that has made any allegation will be protected, staff the allegation is against will not be permitted to work at the home until written notification of the outcome is given. This is to ensure further protection of the child.

Staff members working in the home may at any time contact one of the following by using the phone about any concerns of abuse or neglect.

The Registered person: Peter Jones (01938) 810821

The police 999 or 112

An officer of the commission (01597) 829319

Local authority (01597) 826000

N.S.P.C.C. Child Protection Helpline. 0800 800 5000

Child and staff at the home will have access to a phone and numbers of the commission and local authority will be displayed on the notice board.



