**Guidance of dealing with a disclosure from a child**

**STAFF WILL:**

* listen carefully to the child and believe what they are saying;
* not promise confidentiality, as information may need to be passed on so the child and family can receive additional support;
* only ask for clarification if something is unclear and will not ask ‘leading’ questions;
* report disclosure to the designated safeguarding lead as soon as possible, certainly by the end of the working day;
* only discuss the issue with colleagues that need to know about it; and
* will write up the disclosure and pass it to the designated safeguarding lead. It is likely they will have a discussion with the DSL prior to this.

QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE ASKED TO CLARIFY YOUR REPORT TO ROUNDERS ENGLAND; SOCIAL CARE AND THE POLICE AS NECESSARY:

* WHAT HAPPENED?
* WHERE DID IT HAPPEN?
* WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
* WHO WAS PRESENT WHEN IT HAPPENED?
* HAS IT HAPPENED BEFORE?
* WHAT HAPPENED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT?
* WHAT HAPPENED BEFOREHAND?
* DID ANYONE SAY ANYTHING DURING THE INCIDENT?
* HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE ELSE?
* IT IS OK TO STATE WHY YOU ARE CONCERNED BY THIS DISCLOSURE BUT NOT TO GIVE PERSONAL OPINION

‘Leading’ questions will often mean that a disclosure cannot be used as evidence against a perpetrator so please be aware of what this terminology means.

A leading question is a question which subtly prompts the respondent to answer in a particular way. Leading questions are generally undesirable as they result in false or slanted information. For example:

**Do you have problems in your relationship with dad? Did dad hurt you?**

This question prompts the person to question their relationship with their father. In a subtle way it raises the prospect that there are problems and possibly that they may be the perpetrator of abuse

**Tell me about your relationship with your family members.**

This question does not seek any judgment and there is less implication that there might be something wrong with the relationship.