

## **Child Protection Whistle Blowing Policy:** **Guidance for Employees**

This guidance is written for staff working with children and young people working in education settings and should be read in conjunction with the Trust's Confidentiality Reporting Procedure (Whistleblowing policy).

Staff must acknowledge their individual responsibilities to bring matters of concern to the attention of senior management and/or relevant agencies. Although this can be difficult this is particularly important where the welfare of children may be at risk.

You may be the first to recognise that something is wrong but may not feel able to express your concerns out of a feeling that this would be disloyal to colleagues or you may fear harassment or victimisation; these feelings, however natural, must never result in a child or young person continuing to be unnecessarily at risk. Remember it is often the most vulnerable children or young person who is targeted. These children need someone like you to safeguard their welfare.

***Don't think what if I'm wrong - think what if I'm right***

### **Reasons for whistle blowing**

- Each individual has a responsibility for raising concerns about unacceptable practice or behaviour
- To prevent the problem worsening or widening
- To protect or reduce risks to others
- To prevent becoming implicated yourself

### **What stops people from whistle blowing**

- Starting a chain of events which spirals
- Disrupting the work or project
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Fear of repercussions or damaging careers
- Fear of not being believed

## **How to raise a concern**

- You should voice your concerns, suspicions or uneasiness as soon as you feel you can. The earlier a concern is expressed the easier and sooner it is possible for action to be taken
- Try to pinpoint what practice is concerning you and why
- Approach someone you trust and who you will believe will respond
- Make sure you get a satisfactory response - don't let matters rest
- Ideally you should put your concerns in writing
- A member of staff is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation but you will need to demonstrate sufficient grounds for the concern

## **What happens next**

- You should be given information on the nature and progress of any enquiries
- Your employer has a responsibility to protect you from harassment or victimisation
- No action will be taken against you if the concern proves to be unfounded and was raised in good faith.
- Malicious allegations may be considered as a disciplinary offence

## **Self reporting**

There may be occasions where a member of staff has a personal difficulty maybe a physical or mental health problem, which they know to be impinging on their professional competence. Staff have a responsibility to discuss such a situation with their line manager so professional and personal support can be offered to the member of staff concerned.

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where personal difficulties raise concerns about the welfare or safety of children

## **Further advice and support**

Full details can be found on Nottingham City's Safeguarding Children Board's website, <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies>.

It is recognised that whistle blowing can be difficult and stressful. Advice and support is available from your line manager, the HR department and/or your professional or trade union

***"Absolutely without fail - challenge poor practice or performance. If you ignore or collude with poor practice it makes it harder to sound the alarm when things go wrong"***

With acknowledgement to Sounding the Alarm - Barnardos

## Key Contact Information

Name	Role	Email	Telephone
Kelly Lee	Head teacher	headofschool@sneinton.nottingham.sch.uk	0115 9151370
Vernon Lloyd	Chair of Governors	Vernon.lloyd@transformtrust.co.uk	01159151370
Children & Families Direct	Children's Social Care	candf@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	0115 8764800
Rebecca Meredith	CEO, Transform Trust	headteacher@sneinton.nottingham.sch.uk	0115 915 1370 07710 935416
Rachel Hannon	HR, Transform Trust	Rachel.hannon@transformtrust.co.uk	
Public Concern at Work	Support & Guidance	<a href="mailto:whistle@pcaw.co.uk">whistle@pcaw.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.pcaw.co.uk">www.pcaw.co.uk</a>	020 7404 6609 (Advice Line) 020 3117 2520 (General Enquiries) Fax: 020 7403 8823
Alison Michalska	CEO, (C&F) Local Authority	Alison.michalska@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	0115 876 3332