



www.leannecouchconsulting.com

Safeguarding & Child Protection Training

Leanne Couch



Desired Outcome

Have a greater understanding of Safeguarding and Child Protection and how it relates to your role working with children and young people.

We will cover what abuse is and how to identify and respond to it.



Acknowledge:

- Sensitive material
- Working together
- Feel free to take a break, coffee
- Not to bear heavy on your shoulders

Safeguarding Children

1. Minimise the risk that our actions or inactions cause harm to any child
2. Have the tools to identify and respond when a child/young person needs support/help
3. Limit the risk of being the target of allegations and complaints



Recognise the Vulnerabilities

- Financial difficulties
- Child with special needs
- Unemployment
- Substance misuse
- Parents separating
- Undiagnosed mental illness
- Isolated from family and whanau, friends
- Family violence
- Transient families

Toxic Trio

Legal Definition – Child Abuse

“...the harming (whether physically, emotionally, sexually), ill treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person”

S. 2 Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Get Rid of the Myths, Sexual Abuse

“Children are abused by strangers”

90% of abuse happens by somebody the child knows

“All abusers are male”

Although the majority of reported cases involve males as alleged offenders, the number of reported female abusers is increasing and women also sexually abuse both boys and girls

“Abusers are usually single”

85-95% of people who sexually abuse children they are in heterosexual relationships

“Victims are always female”

The number of boys reporting sexual abuse has increased.

Child Sexual Abuse Online

When sexual exploitation happens online, young people may be persuaded, or forced, to:

- Send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- Take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone
- Have sexual conversations by text or online

Abusers may threaten to send images, videos or copies of conversations to the young person's friends family unless they take part in other sexual activity.

Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped.



Disclosures

- **Directly** – making specific verbal statements about what's happened to them
- **Indirectly** – making ambiguous verbal statements which suggest something is wrong
- **Behaviourally** – displaying behaviour that signals something is wrong (this may or not be deliberate)
- **Non-verbally** – writing letters, drawing pictures or trying to communicate in other ways

What to do if a child/young person tells

- Take it seriously
- Listen carefully
- Take your time, go at their pace, do not interrupt them
- Record the conversation in the child's/young persons words (Report of Concern Form)
- Explain what will happen next

TELL

EXPLAIN

DESCRIBE

Dealing with Disclosures

Acknowledge

“Thank you for telling me”

“It’s good that you’re able to begin to talk about it”

Safety

“I need to check if you, and the people around you are safe”

“Are you worried about the safety of yourself or anyone else”

Support

“Have you had an opportunity to talk to anyone about this before?”

“Would you like to talk to someone about how you feel about this now?”

Follow Up

“It has taken a lot of courage to tell me about this today, When you go home tonight, if you start getting upset, who will you go to for support?”

What not to do if a child/young person tells

- Ask leading questions or formally interview the child
- Make promises you cannot keep
 - ‘You should have told someone before’
 - ‘I can’t believe it! I am shocked!’
 - ‘Oh that explains a lot’
 - ‘No not...he’s a friend of mine’
 - ‘I won’t tell anyone else’
- Promise confidentiality
- Permit personal doubt to prevent you from reporting the allegation to the designated person or police
- Do not take any action that might undermine any future investigation, such as interviewing the child or potential witnesses or informing the alleged perpetrator or parents/caregivers
- Do not keep the information to yourself

Tui Ora

Tamariki Ora



Wellstop

Barnardos

Women's Refuge

Shakti

ORANGA TAMARIKI HELPLINE

0508 326 459

The helpline is a free, 24-hour service which provides advice to anyone worried about a child, you do not have to give your name

Safeguarding Staff



You need to **protect yourself** against the unwarranted allegations of abuse between you and a child/young person (unfortunately it is the world we live in).

Don't put yourself in a position for someone to question you.

Safeguarding Staff

- Avoid private/unobserved situations- changing rooms, toilets
- Risk Assessment- (learn from past mistakes)
- Assess the situation- if you need others arrange it- another male/female
- Travel arrangements – driving children alone in the car/minibus (Policy)
- Be wary of working alone unobserved- how can you make it more transparent?
- Keep private life separate – children should not know about your private life/adult topics - drinking etc



Safeguarding Staff

Electronic Boundaries



- You will all be familiar with the news articles of **teachers who are struck off, prosecuted**, and their **careers ruined** from forming inappropriate relationships with students outside of the classroom.
- In today's electronic age, it is all too common for children to have phones = access to texting and the variety of social media platforms. The minimum age is 13 for Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram etc.
- If you **receive a message or friend request** from a current or past child from your professional role **you must**:
- Decline the request / don't reply, report to your supervisor, and inform child's parent / school if appropriate.

Nothing else is acceptable

NZ Sport Examples

Former Tall Black sentenced for indecently assaulting teen

Convicted sex groomer
overseeing girls' sports

Whanganui sports coach jailed for sexual conduct with a 13-year-old

Paedophile cheerleading coach scandal: Pressure on Govt to make police vetting mandatory

Rapist recalled to prison after parole breach

Surf lifesaving star was sexual predator

Gross exploitation: Auckland youth worker groomed, sexually abused 12yo girl in his care

Football coach found guilty of grooming and molesting young girls

Nelson 'stalwart' of Kiwi table tennis admits sex offences

Sports trainer gets 10 years jail for rape

Rotorua coach sentenced for indecently assaulting 12-year-old

NZ Examples

- James Parker – Deputy Principal, Kaitia- Manipulated a community- students disclosures ignored. 74 accounts
 - Robert Burrett- teacher/principal/caretaker/bus driver- 13 schools across NZ, last in Christchurch 30 years of teaching from first complaint
 - Alosio Taimo, Rugby Coach/Teacher Aid - Auckland- Found guilty 95 charges- 2018, 30 years of offending
 - Nikola Marinovich – convicted in 2013 (2 years 7 months) Total Cheer Executive Director - Child sexual abuse images found in 2019- 4,685 while on bail went on to work with children as a camera man.
- MANY PEOPLE KNEW
 - MANY PEOPLE HAD CONCERNS
 - EACH INCIDENT ALONE MEANT NOTHING

Children's Act 2014 (VCA)

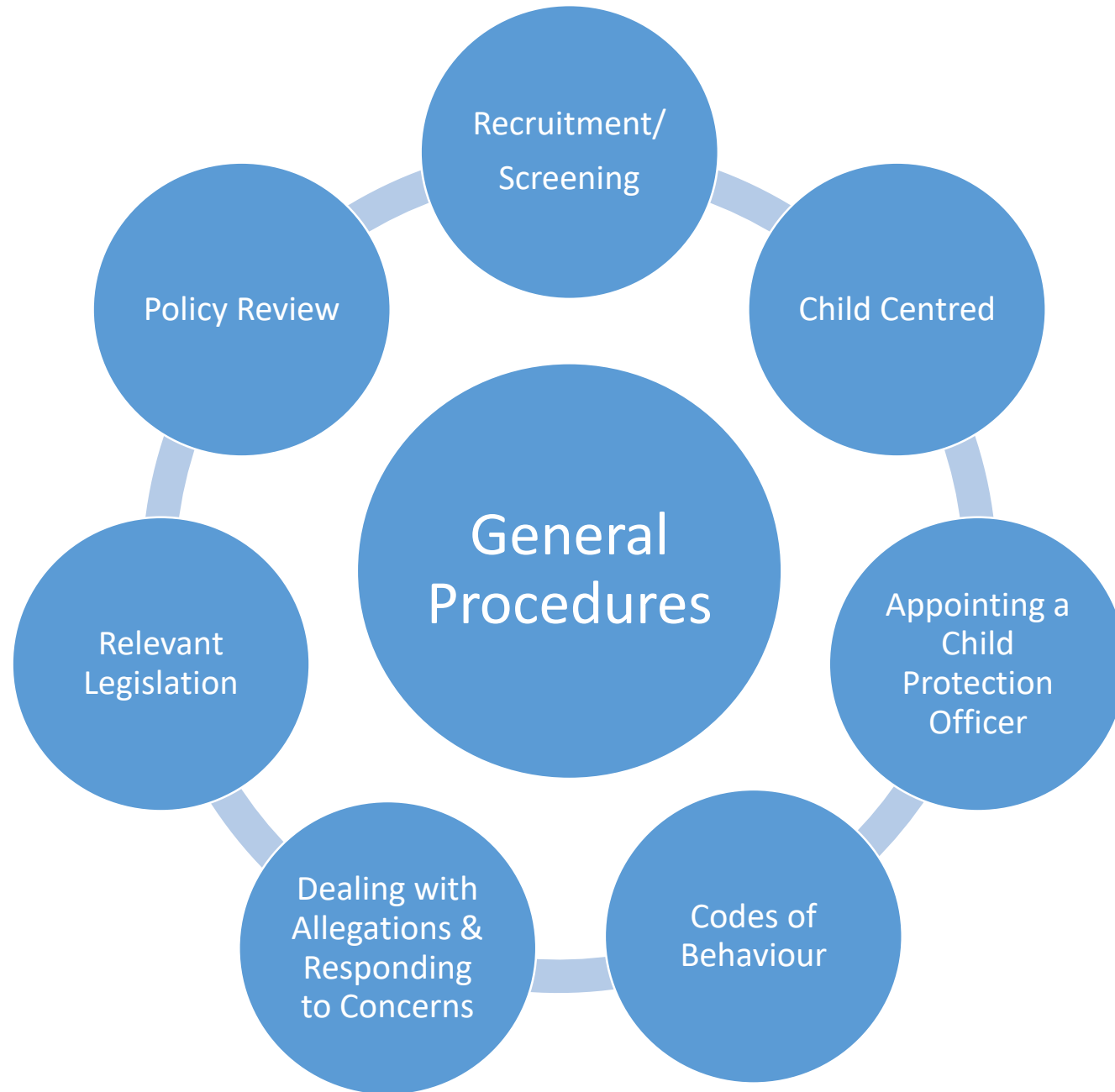
NZ Legislation- create a safer Aotearoa

State Sector/ Government funded organisations

Child Protection Policies

Safety Checking





Designated Person/People (DPCP)

- Organising suitable training for the implementation of the policy and procedures and any subsequent updates, (ensuring it is imbedded and part of the organisation)
- Being available for advice and support for staff who have child protection concerns.
- Responding to information about concerns for a child as soon as practicably possible.
- Ensuring the child protection policy and procedures are consistently applied by all staff in all situations of actual, disclosed, or suspected child abuse and neglect.
- Overseeing the recording, monitoring, review and actioning of child protection concerns and documentation.
- Making Reports of Concern to Oranga Tamariki where required.

WANT TO DO IT!!

Safety Checks

The regulations require that the worker safety checks include:

- Application Form
- Interview
- Identity verification
- Police vetting
- Reference checks (at least 2)
- Employment verification checks (5 years)
- Checks with professional registration bodies or licensing authorities (teachers, nurses, physiotherapists)
- Risk assessment that considers the specific child safety related risk.

Take-away Steps from this Training

- Go about your normal roles, with the added confidence that you know what to do if any of these situations occurred.
- Remember: **Indicators do not necessarily prove that a child has been abused.** They are clues that alert us that abuse may have occurred and that a child may require help or protection.
- **You aren't investigators** – it is the responsibility of Oranga Tamariki or the Police to conduct an assessment or investigation - so **don't go looking for, or questioning, every little thing.**
- **Seek help if you need it**

Support



0508-744-633



The **0800 Family Violence Information Line (0800 456 450)** provides self-help information and connects people to services where appropriate.



Online Directory for all support services in your local area

Child Protection & Safeguarding Children Training



- Tailored training for staff & volunteers
- Child Protection Officer Training
- Policy Development

www.leannecouchconsulting.com



Facebook & Instagram stay up to date

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Questions?

"We have to break the cycle of hurting children and sending them into adulthood as hurting humans who believe that children must be hurt to grow into healthy humans.

A hurting human is not a healthy human, and a hurting humanity cannot create a healthy, peaceful world."

L.R. Knost

