

child's immature and growing body.

- Emotional Abuse: the persistent emotional ill treatment of a young person, likely to cause severe and lasting adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve telling a young person they are useless, worthless, unloved, inadequate or valued in terms of only meeting the needs of another person. It may feature expectations of young people that are not appropriate to their age or development. It may cause a young person to be frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted which may make the young person frightened or withdrawn.
- Ill treatment of children, whatever form it takes, will always feature a degree of emotional abuse.
- Emotional abuse in filming may occur when a young person is asked to relate unpleasant experiences or make self-incriminating statements on video or audio recordings, or is expected to perform at levels that are above their capability.
- Other forms of emotional abuse could take the form of allowing children or young people to undermine their own dignity by recording them name calling bullying or using the camera or audio recordings to spread rumours.
- Planned Industry filming shoots will be designed to prevent children and young people from disclosing information that could be held against them at any time in the future (e.g. lead to future employment discrimination), or cause them future discomfort or embarrassment (ghosts that come back to haunt them).
During film editing further scrutiny will be applied to ensure all material which could cause children or young people under 18 discomfort, embarrassment or future negative repercussions, is excluded from the film.
- Bullying may come from another young person or an adult. Bullying is defined as deliberate hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. There are four main types of bullying
 - It may be physical (e.g, hitting kicking slapping), verbal (e.g, racist or homophobic remarks, name calling graffiti, threats, abusive text messages), emotional (e.g, tormenting ridiculing humiliating ignoring isolating from the group), or sexual (e.g, unwanted physical contact or abusive comments).
 - In the media, bullying may arise when a parent or film maker (producer, director, camera or audio operator) pushes the young person too hard to disclose certain information or perform to a desired standard.
 - Neglect occurs when an adult fails to meet the young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, to an extent that is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development. For example, failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing failing to protect from physical harm or danger, or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
 - Neglect in interviewing and filming could occur when the personnel present do not keep the young person/people safe, or expose them to undue cold/heat or unnecessary risk of injury.
 - Sexual Abuse occurs when adults (male and female) use children to meet their own sexual needs.

This could include full sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse and fondling. Showing young people pornography or talking to them in a sexually explicit manner are also forms of sexual abuse.

- The Industry requires that children and young people aged under 16, and those aged under 18 who are looked after by local authorities or are under a court order, are only interviewed and recorded in the presence of 2 or more Industry personnel. The FMI requires that a parent or legal guardian of any child aged under 16, signs a consent form permitting the FMI to interview and/or film the child prior to the child being interviewed and/or filmed.

4. Indicators of Abuse

Even for those experienced in working with child abuse, it is not always easy to recognise a situation where abuse may occur or has already taken place. Most people are not experts in such recognition, but indications that a child is being abused may include one or more of the following:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- An injury for which an explanation seems inconsistent
- The young person describes what appears to be an abusive act involving them
- Another young person or adult expresses concern about the welfare of a young person
- unexplained changes in a young person's behaviour e.g., becoming very upset, quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper
- Inappropriate sexual awareness engaging in sexually explicit behaviour
- Distrust of adult's, particularly those whom a close relationship would normally be expected
- Difficulty in making friends
- Being prevented from socialising with others displaying variations in eating patterns including over eating or loss of appetite
- Losing weight for no apparent reason, becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt

Signs of bullying include:

- Behavioural changes such as reduced concentration and/or becoming withdrawn, clingy, depressed, tearful, emotionally up and down.
- An unexplained drop off in performance
- Physical signs such as stomach aches, headaches, difficulty in sleeping, bed wetting, scratching and bruising, damaged clothes, bingeing e.g., on food, alcohol or cigarettes
- A shortage of money or frequent loss of possessions

- It must be recognised that the above list is not exhaustive, but also that the presence of one or more of the indications is not proof that abuse is taking place. It is NOT the responsibility of those working in FMI to decide that child abuse is occurring. It IS their responsibility to act on any concerns.

5. Use of Photographic/Filming Equipment at Group or Public Events

There is evidence that some people use filming events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young people. All Industry personnel should be vigilant and any concerns should be reported.

All parents should be made aware, and required to give their consent when Industry personnel use recording equipment to record their child even if only in crowd scenes e.g. during a lesson in a classroom.

6. Responding to Suspicions and Allegations

6.1 Introduction

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in FMI in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities so that they can then make inquiries and take necessary action to protect the young person. This applies BOTH to allegations/suspicions of abuse occurring within the industry and to allegations/suspicions that abuse is taking place elsewhere.

This section explains how to respond to allegations/suspicions.

6.2 Receiving Evidence of Possible Abuse

- We may become aware of possible abuse in various ways. We may see it happening, we may suspect it happening because of signs such as those listed in sections 2.3 & 3 of this document, it may be reported to us by someone else or directly by the young person affected.
- In the last of these cases, it is particularly important to respond appropriately. If a young person says or indicates that they are being abused, you should:
 - Stay calm so as not to frighten the young person
 - Reassure the child that they are not to blame and that it was right to tell
 - Listen to the child, showing that you are taking them seriously
 - Keep questions to a minimum so that there is a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. The law is very strict and child abuse cases have been dismissed where it is felt that the child has been led or words and ideas have been suggested during questioning. Only ask questions to clarify inform the child that you have to inform other people about what they have told you. Tell the child this is to help stop the abuse continuing.

6.3 Safety of the child is paramount

- If the child needs urgent medical attention call an ambulance, inform the doctors of the concern and ensure they are made aware that this is a child protection issue
- Record all information
- Report the incident to the relevant Industry Officials
- To ensure that information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record should always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern. In recording you should confine yourself to the facts and distinguish what is your personal knowledge and what others have told you. Do not include your own opinions.

Information should include the following:

The child's name, age and date of birth

The child's home address and telephone number.

6.4 Reporting the Concern

- All suspicions and allegations **MUST** be reported appropriately. It is recognised that strong emotions can be aroused particularly in cases where sexual abuse is suspected or where there is misplaced loyalty to a colleague. It is important to understand these feelings but not allow them to interfere with your judgement about any action to take.
- The Industry expects its members and staff to discuss any concerns they may have about the welfare of a child immediately with the person in charge and subsequently to check that appropriate action has been taken.
- As mentioned previously in this document the FMI are not child protection experts and it is not their responsibility to determine whether or not abuse has taken place. All suspicions and allegations must be shared with professional agencies that are responsible for child protection. Social services have a legal responsibility under The Children Act 1989 to investigate all child protection referrals by talking to the child and family (where appropriate), gathering information from other people who know the child and making inquiries jointly with the police.
NB: If there is any doubt, you must report the incident: it may be just one of a series of other incidences which together cause concern

Contact details

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NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Further links can also be viewed on our website.

This policy was last reviewed on: 22nd March 2021

Signed: Carol Gilby EKO Company Director

Date: 22/03/21

Any questions Please Contact Empire Kids Official Ltd (EKO)