

Date: 6th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Information for parents and carers placing their children with registered early years education and care providers in Brighton & Hove: Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Procedures

As you may know, the valuable services offered by providers of early education and care for children under the age of eight years are subject to regulation by Ofsted. The purpose of regulation is to protect children, to provide reassurance to people who are arranging for their children to be cared for by a childcare professional and to ensure that services meet the requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Ofsted Early Years and Childcare Inspectors carry out regular inspections.

If the provider has any reason to think that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering significant harm, they are required to contact the Front Door for Families. The staff in the team will follow the procedure set out by the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) and take any action that is required. For further details see the BHSCP website: <http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/>

If this does occur, it can be distressing for parents/carers. It is important to remember that the guiding principles of these procedures state firstly that 'the welfare of the child is paramount', and that 'parents will be afforded the right to honesty, full information as appropriate and the opportunity to express their views and challenge actions'. In exceptional circumstances parents/carers will not always be informed straight away in cases where this may place children or others at risk.

Sharing of information between practitioners and organisations, including schools, is essential for keeping children safe because it supports effective identification, assessment, risk management and service provision. Personal information will be shared appropriately in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

We have asked providers to bring these matters routinely to the notice of all parents/carers so that you are fully aware of the procedure they will follow in these circumstances. Each provider has a copy of the guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', published by the Department for Education. This is also available online via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Yours sincerely,



Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning.