



the lovelace theatre group

Lovelace safeguarding procedure

31st January 2017

We're all responsible for reporting concerns about a child's welfare.

If you feel a child is in immediate danger – Then call the Police on 999 or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 – Straight away.

“...the duty to report should be triggered when a professional becomes aware that the child is ‘at risk of, or likely to suffer significant harm’. “
NSPCC website

Should a child approach a member of Lovelace Theatre Group in order to report suspected abuse such as (including but not limited to) bullying, cyber bullying, teacher/peer concerns, then this person is required to go to the elected Junior Representative, from the current Committee. Once the Junior Representative is aware then is required to go to a separate elected member of the Committee. At no time should only one member of the committee be left with the responsibility of reporting, shouldering the burden alone.

This issue will need to be discussed discreetly, and then a parent or guardian must be informed of the divulged information, as soon as possible, at this point if it is felt that the Police or other agencies should be involved then this decision should be left with the parents.

If the child has asked that the parent is not informed then the two committee members must talk to the child in order to establish why they do not wish their parents to know and the decision has to be made on whether contact must be made to the police or NSPCC.

Should a child approach a member of Lovelace Theatre Group in order to report suspected abuse involving a parent or family member such as including (but not limited) emotional, physical and sexual abuse, this person is required to go to the elected Junior Representative, from the

current Committee. Once the Junior Representative is aware then is required to go to a separate elected member of the Committee. At this time the Police or the NSPCC are required to be contacted immediately as this constitutes immediate risk – the reporting child MUST be informed that this is to occur and the reasons why, and MUST be reassured that where necessary they will be kept safe. . At no time should only one member of the committee be left with the responsibility of reporting, shouldering the burden alone.

To consider:

The level of knowledge could range from ‘known abuse’, through ‘beyond reasonable doubt’, to ‘reasonable suspicion’ of abuse; alternatively there could be suspicion on a ‘balance of probabilities’ that abuse is taking place or simply ‘any suspicion’ that abuse is taking place within the institutional/organisational setting. The higher the level of ‘knowledge’, the higher the level of proof required and the greater the obstacles to prosecution. The risk at the higher end of the proof range is that a law is ineffective because so few cases reach the evidential threshold. On the other hand, a higher level of knowledge reduces the possibility of a high number of cases overwhelming investigating and prosecuting bodies. At the other end of the continuum, the lower the level of knowledge, the more cases that are likely to be reported which will call into question the level of quality.