

Child Protection Policy and Procedure

Interchange Outer East is a safe place for children, and believes children should not be abused.

All people involved with Interchange have the right to feel safe and supported with IOE.

Child abuse includes, but is not only:

- **Emotional / psychological**
When children do not get the love, or attention they need to feel good about themselves. Lots of teasing, ignoring, and yelling are examples of this type of abuse.
- **Neglect**
When a child doesn't get the food, water, house, health care or warm clothing they need.
- **Physical**
When a parent or carer hurts a child deliberately. This is illegal and includes hitting, shaking, throwing, burning and biting. It also includes giving children dangerous things such as drugs, alcohol or poison.
- **Sexual**
When an adult involves a child in any sexual activity. This may include kissing, touching genitals, or having sex. This also includes making a child look at anything pornographic.

This policy is mostly about children and young people involved with Interchange Outer East, but it protects all people that Interchange supports, no matter how old they are.

Interchange will always try to protect a person, by stopping abuse when it has occurred, and preventing further abuse, to make sure the person feels safe.

It is very important to report child abuse, to help keep children and young people safe.

If abuse is not reported, it is likely to continue and be very harmful to the person.

Some of the signs that may make you think someone is being abused:

A child or young person tells you that they are being abused or hurt

You see lots of bruises or injuries on a child or young person, with no reason

You see a child or young person is very scared of lots of things

You notice that a person doesn't trust the adults they know

You see a child or young person who is always angry or sad

You find out that a child or young person has lots of nightmares

If a young person tells you that they are being abused, tell them they have done the right thing and that you believe them. Listen to them and tell them that it is not their fault.

If you think or know someone is being abused, report it to someone who works in the IOE office.

You can report that you think someone is being abused without anyone saying that it was you, and you don't need proof.

Any person who thinks abuse is happening can also ask for help from Child Protection Ph: 1300 360 391 or (03) 9843 6000