

August 2018

Dear Parents

**Information for parents placing their children with registered daycare providers in
Brighton & Hove
Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Procedures**

As you may know, the valuable services offered by providers of day 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 Welfare Requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

OFSTED's Childcare Inspectors carry out regular inspections. If the provider has **any** suspicions or concerns 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 Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and take any action that is required. The LSCB website is here:
<http://www.brightonandhovelscb.org.uk/>

If this does occur, it can be very distressing for parents. 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 will not always be informed straight away in cases where this may place children or others at risk

We have asked providers to bring this matter routinely to the notice of all parents 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



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