

# Nugent Adoption Safeguarding Policy



Families



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Corporate Trustee: Nugent Care 2019 Ltd (Company No: 12227571), Registered Charity 1187072.  
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## Introduction

Up until June 2024, Nugent Adoption Safeguarding Policy was published as a joint document alongside the Nugent Adoption Statement of Purpose. This has now been separated to ensure it sits as a separate policy but also aligns with Nugent’s wider organisational safeguarding policy:

[Safeguarding Policy.pdf](#)

## Safeguarding Children – Adoption Specific

### Legislative and regulatory context of safeguarding children who are being adopted:

- [The National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2014](#)
- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41> (Children Act 1989)
- [The Adoption Agencies \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2013](#)
- [The Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations \(amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [The Children Act 2004](#)
- [The Children and Families Act 2014](#)
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/23/contents> (Children & Young People Act 2008)
- [Data Protection Act 2018 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
- [The Adoption and Children Act 2002](#)
- [The Adoption \(Intercountry Aspects\) Act 1999](#)
- [Children and Adoption Act 2006](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(2024\)](#)

## **Allegations Against Prospective Adopters**

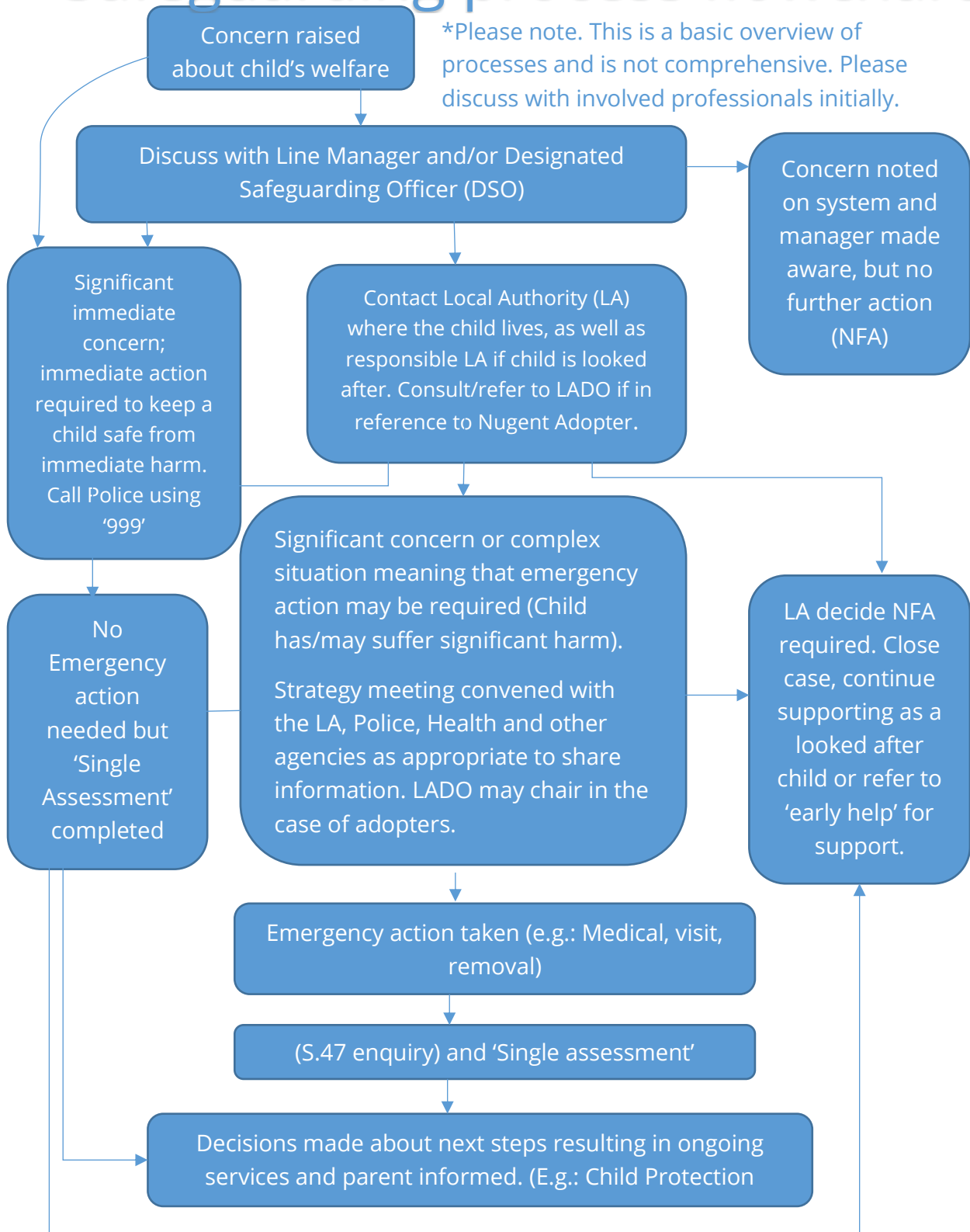
Nugent Adoption recognises that within adoption, all workers, foster carers and adopters could fall under the remit of a Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) should a concern be raised in respect of them, and additional processes may follow.

The LADO Process and procedure for St Helen's Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership as well as a flowchart for the possible need to refer to the DBS, Ofsted and more can be found in Nugent's [Safeguarding Policy.pdf](#) (P36-37).

Much of this process is covered in the wider Safeguarding policy, but Nugent recognises that Adopters are not employees or professionals working with a child. As such, allegations may be even more distressing and upsetting and have a lasting impact on the family in a way that other settings within the organisation would not see.

Aspects such as referrals to the LADO may have an even more far-reaching impact and Nugent understands the need to support adopters in this time, regardless of actions or outcome. The Adoption team will work closely with Adopters to explain the process and what is happening, and any questions should be answered as quickly and fully as possible, but a basic overview flow of this process to show actions is as follows:

# Safeguarding process flowchart



## **Non-recent abuse (Historic Allegations)**

Whilst this could apply to the wider Nugent services, the long-lived nature of the Adoption provision requires a need for more information to be included above what is mentioned in the Nugent [Safeguarding Policy.pdf](#). This wider policy must continue to be followed.

### *Definition*

Non-recent abuse is an allegation of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse made by or on behalf of someone who is 18 years or over, relating to an incident which took place when the alleged victim was under 18 years old. Allegations can be made by:

- An adult, making an allegation of abuse when they were under 18 years of age, that occurred at least one year before it was reported
- A child making an allegation of abuse that occurred at least one year before it was reported
- An individual who reports an allegation, on behalf of another child or adult, that occurred at least one year before it was reported

Nugent recognises that whilst the abuse is historic, the action taken must be no less swift than in cases where a concern may be current.

### *Why is the policy important?*

In recent years, there have been increasing reports of child abuse in several institutions e.g. in BBC premises, the NHS, in children's homes, religious institutions and in schools. Allegations particularly of sexual offending involving children have been made against people in prominent positions in public life e.g. those in the media. Those with experience in this specialist field believe there are likely to be further victims who have not felt able to come forward for the following reasons:

- Fear of reprisals
- The degree of control exercised by the abuser
- Shame or fear that the allegation may not be believed
- Unable to before but now aware that the abuser is being investigated for a similar matter.

An allegation of this nature can be received by any individual working for Nugent Adoption. Non-recent abuse allegations could be made against relatives, friends, carers, people in public prominence and/or a position of trust, or any other person who currently has, or previously had contact with children, young people or adults at risk. Disclosures normally, but not always, take place when the victim is no longer in circumstances where they consider themselves at risk from the perpetrator. When an allegation is received action must be taken because:

- The alleged abuse may not have been an isolated incident. It might be current and be perpetrated by the same person or someone else
- It comes to light that the non-recent abuse is part of a wider setting of institutional or organised abuse
- There is a probable likelihood that a person who abused a child/ren in the past may still be doing so

- The perpetrator may still be working with or caring for child/ren
- Criminal prosecutions may still take place even though the allegations are historic in nature and may have taken place many years ago.

*Receiving an allegation of non-recent abuse*

Nugent's [Safeguarding Policy.pdf](#) details general guidance on how to respond to allegations of abuse.

Please see the following flow chart for an overview of how to respond to non-recent abuse allegations. Please note that within this process the purpose of this is to have the factual information of the allegations to report – not to investigate the allegations. Whilst the reporter will not be a child, being mindful of the 'Achieving Best Evidence' principles is recommended.

[Safeguarding Children as Victims and Witnesses | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

Should the concern relate to a person of any public prominence, consideration about a referral to '[Operation Hydrant](#)',

***See next page for flow-chart regarding Non-Recent Abuse allegations.....***

# Non-recent abuse flowchart

Non-recent abuse Concerns raised. Worker must try where possible to ascertain:

- Name and contact details of the person making the allegation.
- Name & identifying information of the individual who the allegation is about
- Name of any children involved
- Date and time
- Key information about the nature of the non-recent abuse allegation
- Establish, where possible, if the alleged perpetrator is still working with or caring for children
- Establish whether other agencies are involved

Discuss with line manager and/or designated safeguarding officer (DSO) (same day)

Nugent Adoption is working with the service user

Nugent Adoption is not working with the service user

Refer to children's service and/or the Police and LADO as necessary. Continue to provide service where possible.

If allegation relates to current employee or volunteer. Refer to disciplinary and safeguarding process as needed, including further referrals about fitness to

Refer to children's service and/or the Police and LADO as necessary. Non-recent abuse allegation should not impact upon possible entitlement and access to a service should they want this

Work with any police or children's services safeguarding process as required.

Keep manager and DSO updated with any changes.

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Manager/DSO to escalate if needed to consider publicity and impact (within GDPR guidance)

Write up contemporaneous case notes as soon as possible and record updates on electronic systems