

## FACTSHEET 3

# Child Protection Policy Advisory Service

## Designated Person for Child Protection



### What is a 'Designated Person for Child Protection'?

Each organisation or service should have someone who holds the responsibility for child protection for that organisation. This designated person is sometimes referred to as a Child Protection Champion, Co-ordinator or Lead.

### What are the roles and responsibilities of the 'Designated Person for Child Protection'?

The designated person (DP) has the responsibility within their agency for ensuring child protection is a key focus, and that appropriate protocols and procedures such as child protection policy implementation, staff training and support, are in place. This role is not a 'job' within itself, but usually sits as a function of an established role.

Responsibilities include:

- Being a source of advice and support for staff who may have child protection concerns
- Ensuring the Child Protection Policy is reviewed regularly, and that staff are well informed
- Ensuring required staff have received child protection training, and that this is recorded
- Ensuring practices and procedures within the organisation have a child protection lens applied
- Overseeing the maintenance and confidentiality of child protection records and documentation

### What does a 'Designated Person for Child Protection' require to perform this role?

It is essential that the DP has comprehensive training or experience of child protection to be able to fulfil this role. It is also helpful if the DP has a keen interest in child protection generally.

### Who should hold the role of a 'Designated Person for Child Protection'?

Selecting the right person for this role is very important. The DP needs to be available and accessible to staff for advice and guidance, whilst also holding a position of authority to be able to influence the organisation and effect change where necessary.

**Child Matters offers a policy advisory service to assist with your organisation's child protection policy at any stage from inception to implementation and beyond**

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