

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Rochdale Training feels it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for safeguarding children, young people or an adult in need throughout all the activities which the centre undertakes. This means that staff and visitors must be alert to possible concerns about every learner, and to report these in a proper fashion. Rochdale Training has a safeguarding policy: parents/learners may request a copy of this.

It is important for parents/learners to be aware that:

- Staff and visitors in the centre have a duty to report concerns about a child, young person or adult in need, whether this means the child, young person or adult in need may be in need of additional support or help of some kind or whether it is thought that a child, young person or adult in need may have been abused or be at risk of abuse.
- There are several categories of abuse. These include but are not limited to: physical, sexual, emotional, neglect.
- In some cases, Rochdale Training is obliged to refer children, young people or adults in need to social care staff, for them to be assessed for their needs or if an investigation into possible abuse is required. In many cases there will already have been discussions between centre staff and the parents/carers, and the situation and concerns will not be a surprise. However, parents/carers may not be told that Rochdale Training has made a referral to social services if it is thought that this might put the child, young person or adult in need at risk.
- Social care tries to carry out its enquiries in a sensitive fashion. It has to gather information and generally it can be open with parents/carers about the steps being taken.
- If you think your child, young person or adult in need may have been abused you can contact the social care office or the Local Authority's Access & Welfare Service direct. If you think the abuse may have happened in the centre, contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers:

Rachel Yates: Operations Manager

Landline: 01706 631417 ext 159

Mobile: 07860 919379

Email: safeguarding@rochdaletraining.co.uk

Josh Harper: Level 2 Engineering Mentor

Landline: 01706 631417 ext 155

Mobile: 07377 400379

Email: safeguarding@rochdaletraining.co.uk

- If you think your child has been hurt, arrange to visit your doctor.
- If centre staff need to express concerns about a child, young person or adult in need or refer to social care, it is understood that this can cause distress or anger for the parents/carers. It is important that all parties – parents and centre staff – try to discuss these matters as calmly and sensibly as possible.

For parents' enquiries please contact:

Rachel Yates, Operations Manager/ Safeguarding Lead.

Landline: 01706 631417

Email: ryates@rochdaletraining.co.uk

Online safety information for parents and carers

Understand the risks children may need to deal with:

What they might see or do:

- Seeing or sharing of violent, sexual and pornographic content
- Inaccurate or false information and extreme views
- Promotion of harmful behaviours including self-harm, anorexia and suicide
- Over-sharing of personal information
- Actively or unintentionally getting involved in bullying or hurtful behaviour

Who they might meet:

- People who bully, intimidate or frighten
- People posing behind fake profiles for:
 - Mischief-making
 - Sexual grooming and stalking
 - Blackmail and extortion
 - Identity theft and hacking

How could this affect them:

- Fear of missing out leading to excessive use or exaggeration
- Getting upset by things they have seen and being uncertain about what to do
- Engaging, or being pressured into engaging in more risky behaviour either by accident or by design

Practical tips to help minimise the risks your child might face:

It's good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them. Work through safety and privacy features on the apps that your child is using or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them.

Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

- Ask them to show you which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
- Explain how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts and images.
- Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled, sharing their location unintentionally.
- Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them.
- Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them.

For more information:

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings and advice and tips about how to talk to your children at:

- www.childnet.com/sns
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety
- www.parentzone.org.uk
- www.parentzone.org.uk (www.parentzone.org.uk)
- www.askaboutgames.com

Online safety at Rochdale Training:

At Rochdale Training, children's and learners' welfare is well promoted and one of our core values.

We use "Sophos" "Watch Guard", "Cisco Meraki" and "Barracuda" to help us filter and monitor online content. These packages will block any inappropriate content such as: hate crimes, serious violence, chat rooms and games. A weekly report is produced showing online activity meaning inappropriate usage can be checked and challenged. The aim is to keep our learners as safe as possible. With this in mind, learners will not be able to use Rochdale Training's wi-fi without permission. If inappropriate usage is found, sanctions may be put in place, but more importantly pastoral support and education will take place.

Although learners may be asked to use "online methods" to help with their study, specific websites relevant to the subject area will be recommended. We also use a secure online e-portfolio for learners to gather their evidence. Only authorised users i.e. tutor's and managers will be able to contact a learner through this system. This will always be in relation to their qualification or in response to support required.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding online safety at Rochdale Training, please don't hesitate to contact one of the Safeguarding Officers.

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