



## **HOME-START DACORUM**

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### **HOME-START DACORUM CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Home-Start Dacorum has a signed agreement with Home-Start UK to work in accordance with the Policy and Practice Guide. This includes Child Protection procedures and is up-dated according to current legislation. At all times, Home-Start Dacorum staff and Management Committee members will work within the legal framework and in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and Herts Area Child Protection Committee (Herts ACPC).

Home-Start volunteers are given training on the initial preparation course on the Role of the Social Worker and Child Protection, in line with the current procedures followed by Herts County Council Children, Schools and Families Department and Herts ACPC. This training is always done by a qualified Social Worker and this procedure forms part of Home-Start Dacorum's contract with Children, Schools and Families. Volunteers will receive continuous training in Child Protection every three years.

Home-Start volunteers are instructed to pass on Child Protection concerns to a member of staff as soon as possible. (A list of contact details is provided at the back of this document.) The Organisers will take the decision regarding referral following appropriate consultation with one of the designated members of the Management Committee who are familiar with Child Protection procedures. The organisers have the ultimate responsibility for making a referral to Children, Schools and Families, which will be followed up by a written report. Co-ordinators are also responsible for regularly reviewing support in accordance with Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines and noting any concerns. In emergency situations where a child is at immediate risk and where a member of staff cannot be contacted, the volunteer will notify the appropriate agency (Police or Children, Schools and Families) immediately as per the guidelines attached.

Attached to this policy are the Home-Start Dacorum Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures, which form the basis of Child Protection Training for volunteers.