

## **SELF HARM**

### **1 Purpose**

Some of the young people that we look after are potentially at risk of harming themselves deliberately. Such behaviour can take many forms e.g. overdosing, cutting, drugs, solvent or alcohol use, using ligatures. All self-harm incidents should be regarded as potentially serious.

### **2 Scope**

All residential houses and educational establishments.

### **3 References**

Health & Safety  
Risk Assessments

### **4 Definitions**

4.1

### **5 Action**

#### **Action**

- 5.1 All children looked after must have an up-to-date RISK ASSESSMENT. This assessment should always consider the potential for self-harm.
- 5.2 On becoming aware of an incident remove all 'related' dangerous objects (or minimise opportunities to inflict harm) from the area around the young person.
- 5.3 Make an urgent assessment of the injury/impact to the young person. Where drugs/tablets are involved try to gain information on the number of tablets taken, strength of tablets, the amount of time passed since ingestion of tablets etc.
- 5.4 Where judged necessary support the young person to go to the A&E department of the local hospital. In the interim apply First Aid treatment if necessary and if possible. If possible, have a sample of the tablet available to show medics if drugs are involved.

#### **Person Responsible**

Registered  
Manager  
/Senior  
Teacher

- 5.5 If the young person refuses to go to A&E seek a medical opinion (e.g. phone NHS Direct, GP, AED) and act on the advice given. If you feel the situation is urgent do not hesitate to phone for an ambulance.
- 5.6 Subsequent to following advice above or attending clinic/hospital etc. write an Incident Report. This must be completed prior to going off duty. Ensure that colleagues are fully aware of all advice/ treatment recommended. Report the incident to the child's Social Worker or Emergency Duty Team and if applicable complete Notification to CIW as soon as possible, but no later than the next working day.
- 5.7 Inform the Registered Manager as soon as possible.
- 5.8 The Registered Manager will actively consider the need for further support to staff/the child and will encourage the Social Services Department to convene and/or attend a Planning Meeting to consider the implications of events.

## **6 Documentation**