



FACT SHEET: Children and Licensed Premises

The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board expects that where children are allowed at licensed premises, a safe, family friendly environment will be provided. To achieve this the Safeguarding Board must consider whether there is risk to children including moral, psychological or physical harm and take appropriate steps to ensure that risk is appropriately managed.

What is a licensed premise?

A licensed premise is a designated area in which regulated activities take place, for example where alcohol is on sale, and there is provision of entertainment or other 'licensable activities'.

There is a broad range of licensed premises including: off licences, pubs, clubs, sports venues, theatres, outdoor events, parks, restaurants, hotels, shopping centres and gambling premises. Some schools and religious establishments are licensed premises.

Who is responsible for safeguarding children?

Under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005, the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board is the designated Responsible Authority for the protection of children from harm and as such, has a statutory duty to ensure premises operate responsibly in relation to safeguarding children.

Under this legislation, the premises management has a legal responsibility to protect children and young people and must be able to demonstrate 'due diligence' regarding child welfare.

Parents/carers who take children to licensed premises also have a responsibility for supervising their children there, unless alternative and appropriate arrangements are in place.

For further details see **chapter 3.14** in Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Procedures.

Which children does this apply to?

The Safeguarding Children Board aims to protect all children at licensed premises, including if they are:

- Customers
- Students
- Working at the premises
- Involved in the provision of performance/entertainment
- Visiting or living at licensed premises.

What are the risks and what action should be taken if there are concerns?

The risks vary, depending on the type of premises and activities taking place. Risks may include:

- Children witnessing dangerous or inappropriate adult behaviour
- Exposure to substance misuse/drug related paraphernalia
- Criminality
- Lack of adult supervision
- Underage drinking
- Underage gambling
- Sexual exploitation

Work in partnership with the licensed trade will take place with support to them to resolve issues. This includes providing advice, materials and free training. If this approach is not appropriate, we may agree an action plan with the premises management and other agencies. If necessary, the Safeguarding Children Board will take positive action using licensing legislation to address concerns; this may result in an application to review a premises licence, which can result in the licence conditions being modified to restrict children's access, a change to the premises management, or the licence being suspended or revoked.