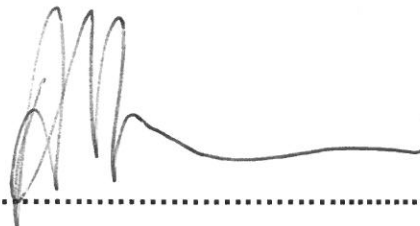


Guidelines on Dealing with Challenging Behaviour for Children & Young People's Projects

Review Date: January 2023

Next Review Date: January 2024

Operations Manager's Signature:



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ACCURO (CARE SERVICES)

Guidance on Dealing with Challenging Behaviour for Children & Young People Projects

1. Introduction

Accuro recognises that all behaviour is meaningful communication. Children on the autistic spectrum and with a variety of other needs may exhibit behaviours which reflect their condition.

All strategies need to be appropriate to the needs and understanding of each child / young person. Staff need to recognise that children and young people's behaviour may be caused by physical discomfort e.g. thirst, hunger, becoming overheated or pain; or sensory overload e.g. noise, light, temperature.

We believe that all presenting behaviours, whether belonging to service users or staff, are communications and as such efforts should be made to understand and respond appropriately to them.

2. Procedures

All children and young people attending Accuro settings have a Care Needs and Risk Assessment updated 12-monthly. Staff should familiarise themselves with a child's plan that they are working with.

Children and young people who are likely to present behaviour that challenges have additional sections within the care and risk plan that detail proactive and responsive strategies to manage the behaviour as safely as possible for that person.

If a child or young person is very likely to display challenging or aggressive behaviour, they will have a Positive Behavioural Support plan attached to the Care Needs and Risk Assessment which provides further information on strategies including wait/protect responses (see appendix ii)

In response to behaviour that challenges, staff should:

- employ a calm and empathetic approach. Use simple language and acknowledge their frustration, show them you understand.
- consider the function of the behaviour: is it escape / avoidance / tangible / sensory? Is the behaviour easily solved by meeting their need at that time?
- take the steps necessary to ensure the safety of the child, other children, staff and volunteers. This may include removing other members from an escalating situation or making the area safe by removing hazards.

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Guidance on Dealing with Challenging Behaviour for Children & Young People Projects

- consider that the child or young person may benefit from using a quieter area and should be offered the opportunity to have some space, whilst being continually supervised as appropriate.
- only intervene physically if the child is at risk of causing danger / harm to themselves or others. If physical intervention is instigated this must reflect the organisation's policy on restraint.

Any corporal/physical punishment, the withholding of food/drink, and shouting is forbidden in all circumstances.

Following any incident, the Project Co-ordinator or Deputy will instigate a staff discussion to reflect on the reasons for the behaviour displayed and to plan to minimise the risk of incidents occurring again.

3. Record Keeping

- All incidents of behaviour that challenges should be documented and reported to the office so that behaviour patterns can be monitored in order that any additional requirements for equipment and training can be addressed
- Incidents of challenging behaviour should be documented on an ABC chart. This enables staff to access any behaviour patterns that may emerge
- The senior member of staff present will ensure that the child's family/carer is informed of the incident at the earliest opportunity.
- Co-ordinator to update child/young person's Care and Risk Plan and any Positive Behaviour Plans to reflect any emerging behaviour(s) and include updated response strategies

4. Training and Development

Training and development of staff plays a crucial role in promoting positive behaviour and supporting those whose behaviour challenges.

Many of Accuro staff hold certificates in positive behavioural support and de-escalation and refresher training is held regularly.

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Appendix 1

ABC CHART

Child's Name DOB

DATE/TIME BEHAVIOUR OCCURRED.	ACTIVITY WHAT ACTIVITY WAS GOING ON WHEN THE BEHAVIOUR OCCURRED	ANTECEDENT WHAT HAPPENED RIGHT BEFORE THE BEHAVIOUR WAS TRIGGERED	BEHAVIOUR WHAT THE BEHAVIOUR LOOKED LIKE	CONSEQUENCE WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE BEHAVIOUR, OR AS A RESULT OF THE BEHAVIOUR

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Appendix 2

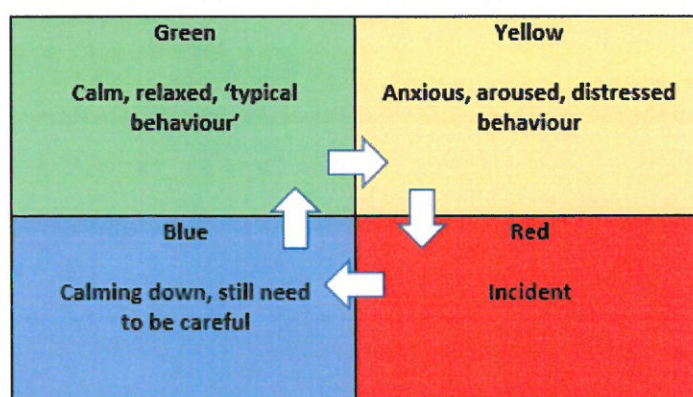


Behavioural Support Plan

Name:		Clubs attended:	
Date:		Review by:	

Profile:

Function:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensory overload (too much noise)• Sensory seeking• Escape/avoidance of non-preferred activities• Tangible (to gain something material)
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Appendix 2 continued



Strategies for each stage

GREEN ZONE	Looks like:
Proactive strategies	<i>Strategies to support the child or adult to stay happy and calm by meeting their needs, therefore reducing the chances of the behaviour occurring. The aim is to keep them in this phase as much as possible.</i>

YELLOW ZONE	Looks like:
Responsive strategies to early warning sign behaviour	<i>Many episodes of challenging behaviour occur because the early warning signs are not recognised. Here we need to take quick action to support the person to return to the Green "Proactive" phase as quickly as possible to prevent behavioural escalation.</i>

RED ZONE Incident	Looks like:
Strategies to manage behaviour as safely and quickly as possible	<i>More restrictive interventions (such as physical restraint) should be a last resort / used in emergency situations only. Physical interventions are not considered a good long-term plan.</i>

BLUE ZONE Calming down - but still need to be careful	Looks like:
Soothing strategies	Consider: