



Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Take Part's services from harm.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Take Part, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Last updated: 26 October 2023

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Legislation provides the framework for safeguarding and child protection in England. It makes clear the expectations and requirements around duties of care to children and creates accountability for these.

In England, child safeguarding legislation is covered by three main acts:

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

Together, these provide the framework for child protection and safeguarding.

Children Act 1989

The Children Act 1989 provides the legislative framework for child protection in England. Key principles established by the Act include:

- the paramount nature of the child's welfare
- the expectations and requirements around duties of care to children.

Children Act 2004

This is strengthened by the Children Act 2004, which encourages partnerships between agencies and creates more accountability, by:

- placing a duty on local authorities to appoint children's services members who are ultimately accountable for the delivery of services
- placing a duty on local authorities and their partners to co-operate in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people.

Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amends both the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004 and received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. Key provisions include:

- the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel was established to review and report on serious child protection cases that are complex or of national importance (Sections 12 to 15).
- the previous model of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) has been replaced by local safeguarding partners who will publish reports on local safeguarding practice reviews (Section 17).

- child death review partners are required to review each death of a child normally resident in their area and identify matters that are relevant to public health and safety and children locally (Section 24).
- local authorities must appoint personal advisers for care leavers up to the age of 25 (Section 3).
- Social Work England is created as a regulatory body for the social work profession in England (Section 36).
- relationships education will be provided to primary school children and relationships and sex education will be provided (instead of sex education) in secondary schools (Section 34).

Policy and guidance

Working together to safeguard children (PDF) (Department for Education, 2018). The Department for Education (DfE) published an updated version of the key statutory guidance for anyone working with children in England in July 2018. It sets out how organisations and individuals should work together and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- Role description for the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Child protection records retention and storage
- Behaviour Code for Adults working with Children and Young People
- Behaviour Code for children and young people
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Safer recruitment
- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision and support
- Adult to child supervision ratios.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding.
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [*more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/for-organisations*]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Contact details

Nominated Child Protection Lead:

Name: Louise Coker

Email: louise@wearetakepart.com

Deputy Child Protection Lead(s)

Name: Roxy Verdon

Email: roxy@wearetakepart.com

Name: Samantha Thirsk

Email: sam@wearetakepart.com

Trustee/Senior Lead for safeguarding and child protection

Name: Lucy Rennie

Email: charity@wearetakepart.com

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 26 October 2023

Signed off by *Lucy Rennie - Safeguarding Lead, Board of Trustees*