

VOLUNTEER CENTRE DORSET

Safeguarding Children Policy

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Safeguarding Children Policy

1 Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up with reference to legislation, policy and guidance that seek to ensure Safeguarding within England.

2 Definitions

Safeguarding children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment:
- Protecting children from harm, abuse and neglect.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development:
- Ensuring children have access to the care and support they need.

(Working Together DfE 2018)

A child or young person is:

- anyone under the age of 18 who has not reached their 18th birthday.
- Safeguarding also applies to unborn babies.

3 The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children and young people who use our services and facilities.
- To provide all staff, including senior managers, trustees, paid staff, volunteers, students and / or anyone working on behalf of VCD with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding children and young people.
- It should be read in conjunction with the **Safeguarding Procedure Document** and other relevant **VCD Policy and Procedure documents**

4 Scope of the policy statement

Whilst VCD is not a charity which specifically works with children, we recognise that many of our clients are in family situations and as such we have a responsibility to ensure that children are safeguarded. We further recognise that some of our work brings us into contact with children and young people.

5 Context

This policy reflects the requirements:

- The Children's Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and the Protection of Freedoms Bill

- The Care Act 2014
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

6 Policy statement

- VCD believe everyone has 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 will give equal priority to keeping all children and young people safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
- We recognise additional needs of children from minority ethnic groups and disabled children and the barriers they may face, for example with communication or the impact of discrimination.

We will

- listen to children and respect them
- appoint a **nominated child protection lead** and a **member of the trustee board** who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding at the highest level in the organisation. Their details are contained within the Safeguarding Procedure Document
- adopt child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- provide 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
- ensure children, young people and their families know about the organisation's safeguarding and child protection policies and what to do if they have a concern
- use 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
- maintain a Safeguarding Risk Register
- use our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensure that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensure 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
- build a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns
- recruit and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made

- record, store and use information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- share information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- make sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern

7 Other Policies relevant to this policy

- Confidentiality Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Risk Policy
- Health and safety Policy
- Modern Slavery Policy Statement

8 Safeguarding Procedure

A comprehensive **procedure document** will be provided.

9 Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

This Policy was endorsed by The Board of Trustees on:

Date:

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Review Date: