



DISTRIBUTING UNIVERSAL AID SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This is the Safeguarding Children policy of DISTRIBUTING UNIVERSAL AID.

The purpose of the policy is: to provide trustees, staff, volunteers and others supported by us with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18. The Charity believes that all children and young people have the right to enjoy the activities of any group in a happy, secure and safe environment. The abuse of children and young people (physically, emotionally, sexually and neglect) is a reality that everybody should be aware of. Children and young people may be abused regardless of their age, gender, religious beliefs, race, sexual orientation, culture or ability. Most often abuse is perpetrated by a person known by the child.

In March 2015 the government updated its interagency guide for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children: Working Together to Safeguard Children, this document outlines the need for community groups to be aware of;

- Their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- How they should respond to child protection concerns.
- How to make a referral to local authority children's social care or the police if necessary.

All staff, volunteers and Organisations we support who have contact with children and young people will be made aware of this responsibility. This is reflected in this policy.

To who this policy applies;

The following people must comply with the Child Safeguarding Policy:

The Charity staff, board members, volunteers, and/or anyone engaging with children's activities.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children, including:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- The Children's Act 1989.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.
- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
- Scottish Government (2014) National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland.
- The Human Rights Act.
- The Code of Fundraising Practice.
- The General Data Protection Regulation.



Policy Statement

The Charity is committed to the protection of children and the safeguarding of their welfare. We are committed to the right of all children to grow, develop and thrive in a safe, caring environment. Protecting children from abuse is an integral part of the policy and intrinsic to the Charity objectives.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal 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.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for children and young people, and a lead board member for safeguarding.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff, board and Organisations we support
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involve children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Provide effective management and information for staff, volunteers and Organisations we support through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- Providing guidance for staff, volunteers and Organisations we support on how to engage with children safely.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff, volunteers and Organisations we support.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff, volunteers and Organisations we support appropriately.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, staff, volunteers and Organisations we support, by applying health and safety measures following the law and regulatory guidance.



-
- All our staff, volunteers and board members conduct themselves/ourselves in a manner that respects the dignity, pride and identity of children or young people.
 - Ensuring that all staff, volunteers and organisations we support are aware of this policy and the procedures through which they may raise concerns and express their concerns about the welfare of children/young people.
 - Ensuring all staff, volunteers, and board members are subjected to safer recruitment procedures and any relevant DBS checks.
 - Wherever possible we will work in cooperation with other agencies to ensure that the safety and welfare of the children come first and is paramount to our aims and objectives.
 - Ensuring that all organisations who work with the Charity abide by this Safeguarding Children Policy.

Disclosure and confidentiality

If a child/young person comes to any staff, volunteer or board member with an abuse disclosure/or there is any suspicion that abuse has or may take place: the individual should take immediate action under the Procedures detailed below. As far as possible, confidentiality is crucial - but the welfare of any child/young person is paramount. The law requires you within limits, to disclose the information to the appropriate body whether it is the management of the organisation we are visiting, social services or the police.

Definitions

- Child abuse is significant harm caused to any child (including third-party abuse) by neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional damage.
- NEGLECT is the persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.
- PHYSICAL INJURY is the actual or likely physical injury to a child or young person, or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child.
- SEXUAL ABUSE is the actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or young person.
- EMOTIONAL ABUSE is the actual or likely severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioural development of a child by persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or rejection.

Signs and symptoms of child abuse

Some signs of physical abuse:

- Unexplained burns, cuts, bruises, or welts in the shape of an object.
- Bite marks.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Problems in school.

-
- Fear of adults.
 - Drug or alcohol abuse.
 - Self-destructive or suicidal behaviour.
 - Depression or poor self-image.

Some signs of emotional abuse

- Apathy
- Depression
- Hostility
- Lack of concentration
- Eating disorders

Some signs of sexual abuse

- Inappropriate interest in or knowledge of sexual acts.
- Seductiveness.
- Avoidance of things related to sexuality, or rejection of one's genitals or body.
- Nightmares and bedwetting.
- Drastic changes in appetite.
- Over-compliance or excessive aggression.
- Fear of a particular person or family member.
- Withdrawal, secretiveness, or depression.
- Suicidal behaviour.
- Eating disorders.
- Self-injury.

Sometimes there are no obvious physical signs of sexual abuse, and a physician must examine the child to confirm the abuse.

Some signs of neglect:

- Unsuitable clothing for the weather.
- Being dirty or unbathed.
- Extreme hunger.
- Lack of supervision.

Who can abuse?

You can't tell by looking at a person whether they are an abuser – they don't appear different from the rest of society.

-
- Abusers come from all positions in society and all professions.
 - Abuse of children may sometimes be carried by strangers but it is much more common that the abuser is known to the child and is in a position of trust and /or authority.
 - It is not only adults who abuse children; children may suffer abuse from other children and young people.

Abusers might include

- Adults who are unable to provide consistent care.
- Some adults, including professionals, manipulate themselves into positions of trust where they can exploit children and young people, emotionally and sexually.
- Some adults, including professionals, who by behaving inappropriately towards children and young people can cause them to suffer physical or emotional harm.
- It is very important to distinguish between sexual abuse and the other ways in which children may suffer harm – the reasons for the sexual abuse of children and young people are very different from the reasons why people physically abuse or neglect them.

Procedures

Talking to a child who has told you that he/she or another child is being abused:

- Reassure the child that telling someone about it was the right thing to do.
- Tell him/her that you now have to do what you can to keep him/her (the child who is the subject of the allegation) safe.
- Let the child know what you are going to do next and who else needs to know about it.
- Let the child tell his or her whole story. Don't try to investigate or quiz the child, but make sure that you are clear as to what he/she is saying.
- Ask the child what he/she would like to happen as a result of what he/she has said, but don't make or infer promises you can't keep.
- Give the child the ChildLine phone number: 0800 1111 or the equivalent Child
- helpline number in the country in question.

Helping the child in immediate danger or need of emergency medical attention

- If the child is in immediate danger and is with you, remain with him/her and call the police.
- If the child is elsewhere, contact the police and explain the situation to them.
- If he/she needs emergency medical attention, call an ambulance and, while you are waiting for it to arrive, get help from your first aider.
- If the first aider is not available, use any first aid knowledge that you may have yourself to help the child.



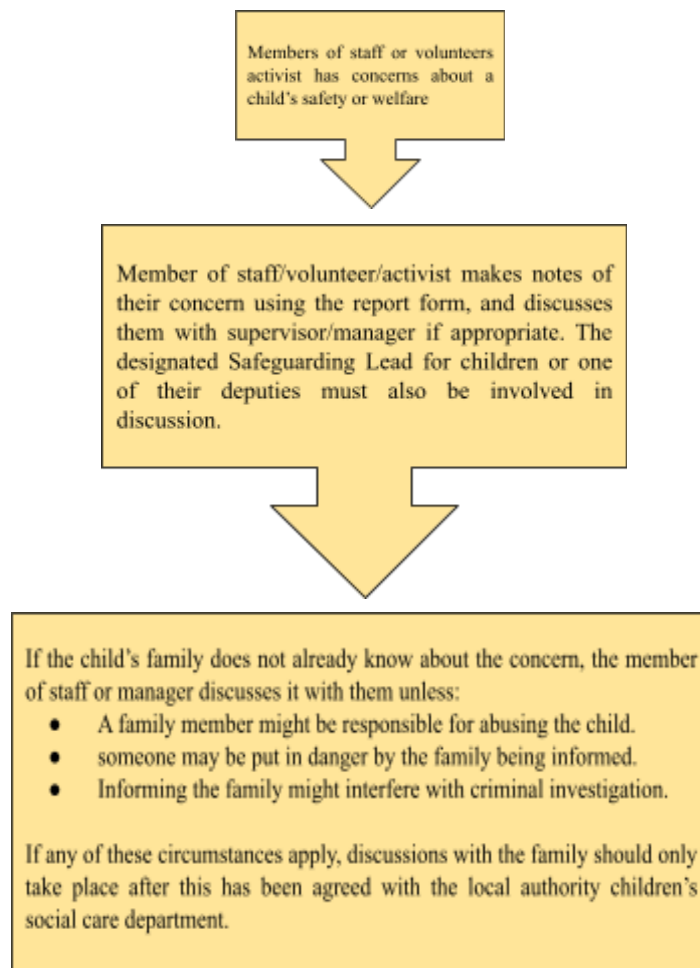
- You also need to contact your supervisor/manager or designated safeguarding officer for children to let them know what is happening.

A decision will need to be made about who should inform the child’s family and the local authority children’s social care department, and when they should be informed. If you have involved the police and/or the health services, they should be part of this decision. Consider the welfare of the child in your decision-making as the highest priority.

Issues that will need to be taken into account are:

- The child’s wishes and feelings.
- The parent’s right to know (unless this would place the child or someone else in danger or would interfere with a criminal investigation).
- The impact of telling or not telling the parent.
- The current assessment of the risk to the child and the source of that risk.
- Any risk management plans that currently exist.

Once any immediate danger or emergency medical need has been dealt with, follow the steps set out in the flowchart below:





Keeping a record of your concerns

Record the concern and how it is dealt with. Write down details relevant to the concern that will assist authorities to understand the concern and deal with it appropriately.

Useful contact details:

The designated safeguarding lead for children is trustee Ms RANI BEGUM - use the charity contact number on the Charity Commission website.

NSPCC Helpline: 0800 800 5000 or help@nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine: 0800 1111 (textphone 0800 400 222) or www.childline.org.uk

Reporting child protection concerns

If a child requires emergency medical attention or is in immediate danger, follow the procedure set out in the section above on helping a child in immediate danger or in need of emergency medical attention.

You should then take the steps set out in the flowchart above to ensure the concern is dealt with.

Policy adapted from the NSPCC guidance approved by the trustees on 04/02/2022.

¹Distributing Universal Aid

info@duacharity.org

www.duacharity.org

¹ DUA is a UK Registered Charity 1198063