



EYAI

Enhancing Young Adults' Independence · Registered charity in England and Wales, no. 1195406

Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults

EYAI Commitment to Protection and Wellbeing

Approved by EYAI's Safeguarding Team · Last reviewed: September 2025 · Reviewed at least annually

Policy Statement

Enhancing Young Adults' Independence (EYAI) is unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse and harm during any EYAI activity or interaction with its members. This policy applies to every individual working, volunteering, supervising, or instructing within EYAI, each of whom bears a duty of care and responsibility for the welfare of those in their charge. Safeguarding is not just about protection from harm—it is about actively promoting wellbeing, responding promptly and appropriately to concerns or allegations, and fostering a safe, supportive environment.

Principles and Responsibilities

- Participate in yearly safeguarding training and collaborate with your manager and the safeguarding team.
- Maintain a culture where every individual is respected and children's rights to safety are upheld.
- Address safeguarding and child protection issues promptly, ensuring appropriate action is always taken.
- Minimise risks and prevent circumstances where any child or vulnerable adult might suffer harm.
- Take swift, suitable action to report and manage any concerns or incidents where someone may be, or has been, at risk.
- Work collaboratively with external agencies, such as the Police and the Disclosure and Barring Service, to ensure EYAI remains a secure, trustworthy organisation.

Definitions

- **Safeguarding:** Encompasses protecting children and vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing damage to their health or development; ensuring they grow up in safe, nurturing environments; and taking action to help them achieve the best possible outcomes.
- **Children:** As defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, anyone under 18 years of age, unless local law states otherwise.
- **Duty of Care:** The obligation for all EYAI adult members to act in the best interests of children and vulnerable adults at all times, ensuring their safety and protection.

- **Vulnerable Adults/Young Adults:** Individuals aged 18 to 25 years who may require additional support or protection.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

All EYAI staff and volunteers are required to prioritise the protection and welfare of children and vulnerable adults as paramount. Any safeguarding matter may be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), referenced in the EYAI Safeguarding Handbook, or via the NSPCC. If there is an imminent risk of harm, immediate contact with the Police or Social Services is essential.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Dan East

For advice and reporting: safeguarding@eyai.co.uk

All safeguarding concerns and actions must be shared with the DSL, who will liaise with other agencies as necessary.

Recruitment and Training

- All volunteers and staff undergo basic disclosure checks through the appropriate authority (DBS for England/Wales), with enhanced checks preferred.
- Disclosure checks are renewed every three years or maintained via an update service.
- Two references are collected for each applicant.
- Induction training covers safeguarding, with mandatory annual refresher training. Engagement is monitored and recorded.

Responding to Allegations or Concerns

- **Prioritise safety:** Take immediate steps to protect everyone involved, such as administering first aid or separating individuals concerned.
- **Contact Police:** If there is imminent risk or evidence of harm, dial 999 without delay and follow Police guidance.
- **Seek advice:** Reach out to the 24/7 NSPCC helpline or DSL for immediate support if required.
- **Inform parents/guardians/organisations:** Normally, parents or guardians should be informed from the outset unless instructed otherwise by Police, Social Services, or NSPCC, or if doing so may increase risk or jeopardise evidence.
- **Record and report:** Accurately document all information and actions, and notify the DSL promptly. The DSL will share relevant details with other agencies as appropriate.

Legal Framework

This policy complies with the statutory safeguarding requirements and guidance of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Key legislation and guidance for EYAI include:

- **England:** Working Together to Safeguard Children; Keeping Children Safe in Education

Endorsement and Review

This policy has been approved by EYAI's Safeguarding Team. EYAI is committed to regular policy review and renewal at least annually or whenever legislation changes. Last reviewed: September 2025.