



Enhancing Young
Adults Independence

Safeguarding children/young adults' policy

Safeguarding Policy Statement

All children always have the right to protection from all forms of abuse and harm, including when engaging in EYAI activities and when in contact with members of the EYAI.

This policy applies to all persons who work, volunteer, supervise and/or instruct with EYAI, all of whom have a duty of care and responsibility. This includes safeguarding children and young adults in their care from abuse and harm and promoting their wellbeing and safety. All must respond swiftly and appropriately when suspicions or allegations of abuse arise.

It is the responsibility of all persons within EYAI to:

- Help create and maintain a culture in which:
 - Everyone is valued - Children's rights to be safe are upheld
 - Child protection and safeguarding issues are raised in a timely manner and appropriate action taken
 - Minimise the risk of circumstances where a child/young adult may be harmed
 - Take appropriate actions to address concerns and report any incidents where a child/ young adult has been or could have been placed at risk of harm.

EYAI take their duty to protect clients very seriously. Engagement with external agencies, including Police and Disclosure Barring Services as required, ensures EYAI remains a safe space operated by safe people.

Key Terms

Throughout this policy, and all EYAI safeguarding documents, the following key terms are defined:

- The term '**Safeguarding promoting the welfare of children**' is defined in the Statutory Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children as (1):

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

'**Children**' or '**child**' The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as everyone under 18 unless, "under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier" (2)

Duty of care' refers to the responsibility held by all adult members of EYAI and requires them to always act in the best interest of children and young people, taking appropriate steps to ensure protection from harm or abuse.

'Young Adults' refers to people aged 18 years old to 25 years old

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- 1) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf

Responsibilities

It is the duty of all volunteers and members of staff throughout EYAI to prioritise the safeguarding of children and young adults. Children and young adults have the right to protection and their welfare is paramount.

Advice on Safeguarding matters can be sought from the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), EYAI Safeguarding Handbook, or the NSPCC. Action to protect children/young adults must not be delayed inappropriately whilst advice is sought. It is always appropriate to contact Police or Social Services immediately, and directly, when there is information to indicate a child is at imminent risk of harm, or there is evidence of recent harm. The role of the DSL in EYAI is held by Dan East/Elise Butler. The EYAI Safeguarding Handbook provides clients with information and helps ensure the clients fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities. All Safeguarding issues and actions are shared with the DSL for awareness and to enable the provision of advice. If necessary, the DSL can be contacted directly by emailing safeguarding@eyai.co.uk

Recruitment and Training of Volunteers/Staff

All volunteers/staff receive basic disclosure checks from their appropriate disclosure organisation (3) However, we do prefer staff/volunteers to have an enhanced disclosure check. These checks are renewed every 3 years (or individuals are registered on an update service with one of these organisations). In addition, two references are taken for each volunteer/staff upon application.

Every Volunteer/Staff is trained in safeguarding during their induction and undertakes annual safeguarding refresher training. Engagement is recorded and assured.

How to respond to safeguarding allegations or concerns

If a child/young adult says they or another child/young adult is being abused (including any allegations against a member of staff, volunteer or another person), or if there is concern for a child's/young adult's welfare outside of EYAI, the following step must be considered and followed as indicated:

- **Ensure everyone's safety.** Immediate safety of all personnel as far as practical eg. administration of first aid and/or separation of an alleged perpetrator and victim to different areas etc, is the priority.
- **Contact the Police.** If there is a risk of imminent harm to a child/young adult, including if a child/young adult may be at risk of harm if they return home from a EYAI activity; or if there is evidence of recent harm, police must be contacted immediately on 999. Advice from Police is followed.
- **Seek support and guidance if necessary.** Immediate advice may be sought from the 24/7 NSPCC helpline, or DSL if they are available.

(2) <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/children-the-law#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Convention%20on,%2C%20majority%20is%20attained%20earlier%22.>

(3) Appropriate disclosure organisation - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in England or Wales, PBG or Disclosure Scotland in Scotland, and AccessNI in Northern Ireland. Safeguarding Policy –

- **Contact parents/guardians/organisations.** In the majority of circumstances, it is appropriate for the parent(s) of the child/young adult to be informed of pertinent information about incidents involving their child/young adult, from the outset. However, Parents must not be informed under the following circumstances: -
- Whenever Police ask for them not to be –
- When advised by children’s/adult services or the NSPCC not to.
- If there is concern that this may result in additional risk to the child/young adult in question or someone else.
- Or a concern of evidence being destroyed.

Keeping a record and informing DSL. All information and subsequent actions regarding safeguarding must be recorded. The DSL must be informed promptly of all safeguarding allegations and concerns and they will share relevant information with other agencies as applicable.

Legal Framework Each UK Nation is responsible for its own policies and laws. The Safeguarding systems in each nation differ in some detail and statutory guidance from each stipulates what organisations must do to ensure the wellbeing and safety of children and young adults. This policy is in line with the legal requirements and statutory guidance of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Further legislation and statutory guidance on safeguarding children and young people is detailed in:

- **England.** [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) and [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- **Northern Ireland.** [Co-operating to Safeguarding Children and Young People in Northern Ireland](#) and [the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Procedures Manual](#)
- **Scotland.** [National Guidance For Child Protection in Scotland](#)
- **Wales.** [Welsh Government Safeguarding Guidance](#)

Endorsement

This Policy has been endorsed by Elise Butler and Daniel East, The Safeguarding Team for EYAI.

Policy Review

We recognise the importance of reviewing policy and commit to the renewal of this Safeguarding Policy on an annual basis, or in line with legislation changes. Last review –

November 2022

Expected Review - November 2023