



Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Policy

Head2Head Sensory Theatre

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Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Policy

Head2Head Sensory Theatre

Context

H2H is a registered charity dedicated to the Special Needs' Community. We are passionate about making theatre accessible to all and understand that families who have a child with a disability face many barriers. H2H strives to offer creative opportunities for the Special Needs Community to access a whole range of theatrical experiences, education and training.

The Registered Office is Drewshearne Barn, Crowhurst Lane End, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9NT.
The Registered Charity Number is 1161873.

H2H is based in Drewshearne Barn, Crowhurst Lane End, Oxted, Surrey. The organisation carries out a range of activities – sensory story telling, immersive theatre experiences, drama and arts workshops, and performances. These are open to the public or can be booked as a private event. Public and private events also take place in a range of outside venues (schools, colleges, theatres, halls) throughout South East England. H2H also maintains an online learning channel, which allows children and young people to access the resources remotely, throughout the UK and overseas.

H2H works with a number of professional actors, paid administrative staff and volunteers to facilitate the programmes it offers.

H2H aims to reach around 5,000 children and young adults per year through both face to face and online provision.

Statements and Aims

Policy Statement

We recognise that the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk, is paramount and that *all* have equal rights of protection. We have a duty of care when they are in our charge, and we will do everything we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

Equal Opportunities Statement

We recognise that anyone can become subject to discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of:

- age
- culture
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity,
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Comments and actions that contribute to discrimination, harassment or victimisation are not acceptable and will be challenged. Such incidents will be recorded and shared with parents and

carers, and the relevant agencies when necessary and appropriate.

We will:

- ✓ treat everyone with respect and celebrate their achievements,
- ✓ carefully recruit and select all staff whether paid or unpaid,
- ✓ respond to concerns and allegations appropriately.

When there are concerns about the welfare of any, child, young person or adult at risk, all responsible adults in our organisation are expected to share those concerns, without delay, with the Lead for Safeguarding (or the Deputy, if the Lead is unavailable).

Our policy is approved by Board of Trustees and will be reviewed and updated annually. We will publish and promote this policy to all staff, paid or unpaid:

- Volunteers
- Professional Actors
- Administrative Staff
- Trustees

The policy is promoted through induction, training and supervision. We endeavour to disseminate, as appropriate, this policy to all who come into contact with our organisation e.g., children, young people, adults at risk, their parents, carers, families and others, such as organisational partners and fundraisers.

Policy Aim

As members of SAFEcic, we aim at all times to attain best safeguarding practice throughout all our activities with children, young people, adults at risk, their parents, carers and/or families. We endeavour to provide a safe and friendly environment and celebrate all achievements. We will achieve this by adhering strictly to this policy, guidance and risk assessments.

Our organisation holds current Public Liability Insurance which covers all our activities.

Safeguarding Personnel

Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding

In educational settings the title Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is used.

The DSL at H2H is appointed at managerial level to personnel who are available whenever operational, which includes cover for sickness and holidays.

A DDSL is appointed that is not related in any way to the DSL, to avoid conflict of interest.

Our DSL is:

Name: Kat Pond

Job Role: Office Assistant

Contact details: Office-Assistant@h2hsensorytheatre.com / 01883 725264 / 07825 346945

Our DDSL is:

Name: Jackie Clark

Job role: Administrator

Contact details: reception@h2hsensorytheatre.com 01883 725264

Their role is to oversee and ensure that our safeguarding policy, which includes Online Safety, is fully implemented and that we attain SAFEcic standards.

Their responsibilities are:

- ✓ monitoring and recording concerns
- ✓ making referrals to social care, or police, as relevant, without delay
- ✓ liaison with other agencies
- ✓ arranging training for all staff

The Deputy for Safeguarding should be available to support or cover for the Lead. S/he will also handle any complaints or allegations against the Lead for Safeguarding if appropriate.

Line of accountability for safeguarding

The responsibility for safeguarding at board level is shared between members.

A Senior Member of the organisation at Board, Trustee, Governor or similar level is appointed to take strategic responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements. This person should be unconnected to the Lead for Safeguarding and Deputy for Safeguarding and should have up to date and relevant training with the ability to develop knowledge, skills and expertise in safeguarding.

Senior Lead for Safeguarding (Trustee level)

Our Senior Lead for Safeguarding is:

Name: Akbar Khan

Job Role: Trustee

Contact details: akbarkkhan@yahoo.com / 07460 765404

Safeguarding is on H2H's Risk Register.

H2H undertakes to comply with PREVENT Duty.

Why do we need a Safeguarding Policy?

All organisations that work or come into contact with children, young people and/or adults at risk need to have safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

Government guidance is clear that all organisations working with children, young people, adults at risk, parents, carers and/or families have responsibilities for safeguarding. It is important to remember that children, young people and adults at risk can also abuse and that such incidents fall into the remit of this policy.

To undertake these responsibilities, we:

- have trustees committed to safeguarding
- are clear about peoples' responsibilities and accountability
- have a culture of listening to children, young people and adults at risk

- undertake safer recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers working with children & young people and adults at risk
- have procedures for safeguarding children and young people and adults at risk
- have procedures for dealing with allegations against, and concerns about, any staff
- make sure staff, paid and unpaid, have mandatory induction and further safeguarding training, supervision, reviews and support
- have agreements about working with other organisations and agencies

Definitions

Definition of a child/young person

There is no single law that defines the age of a child across the UK. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK government in 1991, states that a child “means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Article 1, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday (16th in Scotland).

Definition of an adult at risk

There is no single law that defines an adult at risk across the UK.

An adult at risk is a person over the age of 18 years (16 in Scotland) and is:

- having needs for care and support, and
- experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect and
- as a result of those care needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Related Policies

Data Protection and Privacy

We will treat any personal information by which an individual can be identified, for example, name, address, and email, in accordance with the provisions of Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and will not share information with any third party, except where required by law.

Confidentiality

This policy is in line with government guidance about confidentiality and these details will be made available to all staff, children, young children, adults at risk, parents and carers.

We fully endorse the principle of the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk, overriding any obligations of confidence we may hold to others. No one working, or involved, with our organisation can promise absolute confidentiality. Individual cases will only be shared or discussed on a “need to know” basis.

Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern externally about a person or practice within the organisation, which will affect others in an illegal and or harmful way.

Our organisation promotes the sharing of any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk as soon as possible with the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding.

If individuals reporting their concerns within our organisation do not feel they have been acted upon then we support their right to report these concerns to the Local Authority Designated Office (LADO)

(England and Wales only) social care services, and/or the police. They can also contact the **NSPCC dedicated helplines** and the charity **Protect** for advice and support.

Information Sharing

Timely and accurate written records play an essential role in safeguarding individuals who may have suffered, are suffering or are at significant risk of suffering harm. It is important that records are shared at the appropriate time when necessary. Within our organisation the decision to share written information, and with whom, will be undertaken by the Lead or the Deputy for safeguarding

Safer Recruitment

Our organisation is committed to safe recruitment in line with the relevant legislation and guidance from government for recruiting all staff, paid or unpaid. We do this by:

- advertising vacancies with a clear commitment required to safeguarding
- assigning all posts detailed job descriptions
- obtaining full personal details via an application form (not CVs) with particular relevance to previous work with children, young people and adults at risk
- always taking up two written references, one from the most recent employer or education establishment
- undertaking all interviews face to face, based on the job description
- having sound procedures and recording for interviewing to ensure we are satisfied, and can evidence that the applicant is appropriate and suitable

Any appointment will only be confirmed subject to:

- ✓ a satisfactory ID check at the appropriate level
- ✓ a follow up of written references by telephone if relevant to the vacant post
- ✓ a check of essential qualifications and any specific professional details
- ✓ confirmation of the Right to Work in the UK for employed personnel
- ✓ fitness to work as relevant

Induction and Training

We have a clear induction and training strategy with clear job descriptions and responsibilities and all relevant procedures. All new staff, paid and unpaid, will receive induction training as soon as possible and sign to record they have:

- received and understood this policy.
- understood the commitment to safeguarding training

When needed, staff will receive further safeguarding training, at the appropriate level, as soon as possible. We also agree a probationary period (usually 3 months) and then provide annual appraisals thereafter.

Updated safeguarding training is normally required every 2 years (online) or three years (face to face).

Staff working directly with at risk groups will also undertake the free online government training for PREVENT, Channel and FGM

Working Practices

Consent

When consent is required for any care, activity or intervention we will, unless it is an emergency, obtain consent from the individual if of sufficient age and or understanding, or from the parent or carer for a child, young person or adult at risk.

Staff Ratios to Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

There must always be a minimum of two responsible adults present for any activities. Correct adult ratios are maintained according to SCC guidelines.

Lone and One to One Working

We will avoid lone or one to one working with children and adults at risk whenever possible, to protect individuals.

There are additional staff members present during H2H activities, or the child, young person or adult at risk is accompanied by a parent or carer.

Home Visits

We do not carry out home visits.

Young People who work in our Organisation

All young people who are undertaking volunteer work, apprenticeships or work experience within our organisation/group are to be included within this policy and their safeguarding as individuals given the same importance as all young people we come into contact with. Any disclosures, observations of possible harm or disturbing behaviour must be reported to the Lead or Deputy immediately.

They will also require an induction program that includes their commitment to safeguarding within the remit of the safeguarding policy and in line with all staff induction.

In addition, information on the young person's contacts are recorded as relevant e.g. parents, carers, school representatives and any supervisors, with emergency contact numbers.

We will check with the relevant local authority's education welfare team to see if an employment permit is required for any young people working with us and, in the cases of live performances, if a child performance licence is required.

Codes of Conduct

We aim to provide a safe environment free from discrimination, upholding and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. We undertake to:

- ✓ treat all children and young people and adults at risk with respect and dignity
- ✓ ensure that their welfare and safety is paramount at all times
- ✓ maintain professional boundaries both face to face and when using technology
- ✓ always listen to individuals and take account of their wishes and feeling
- ✓ always act in a professional way and not accept bullying, swearing or other disruptive behaviour
- ✓ liaise openly with parents and carers
- ✓ only use physical contact if absolutely necessary
- ✓ avoid being alone with children, young people and adults at risk whenever possible
- ✓ listen to, and act upon, any disclosures, allegations, or concerns of abuse
- ✓ participate in approved safeguarding training at appropriate levels

- ✓ follow our safeguarding policy at all times
- ✓ make activities FUN and enjoyable

Recognising Abuse in Children Young People and Adults at Risk

The following list is for guidance only. It is important to be observant, listen to what is being said and record. e.g. is what you are observing and being told about an injury consistent with the injury?

- Abuse related to faith or belief
- Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Breast Ironing
- Carrying offensive weapons
- Child criminal and sexual exploitation including County Lines
- Child on child abuse, including sexual violence and upskirting
- Concealed pregnancy
- Criminal exploitation
- Discriminatory
- Domestic abuse, including "honour" based abuse
- Emotional
- Exploitive use of technology
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Financial or material abuse
- Forced marriage
- Gangs
- Gambling
- Hate and "mate" crime
- Hazing and initiation rites
- Hoarding
- Modern slavery
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Online safety
- Organisational or institutional
- Psychological
- Physical
- Radicalisation
- Self-neglect
- Sexual
- Trafficking

Handling Disclosures

When a disclosure is made by a child, young person or adult at risk it is important to remember to:

- take what you are being told seriously
- stay calm and reassure
- do not investigate
- do not delay

and always

- seek advice from the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding
- make a careful recording of anything you are told or observe, date and sign.

A disclosure may come from someone telling you:

- they have or are being abused
- they have concerns about someone else
- they are themselves abusing or likely to abuse someone else

Responding to Concerns

Safeguarding Referral Flowchart

We ensure and emphasise that everyone in our organisation understand and know how to share any concerns immediately with the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding. Everyone, including the Lead, Deputy and Senior Lead will deal with concerns using the following:

Step One:

If you are worried a child, young person or adult at risk has been abused because:

- you have seen something
- someone says they have been abused
- somebody else has told you they are concerned
- there has been an allegation against a colleague
- there has been an anonymous allegation
- an adult has disclosed that they were abused as a child
- a child, young person or adult say they are abusing someone else.

Step Two:

Check this safeguarding policy for guidance. Talk to the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding without delay. If they are implicated, then talk to your **Additional Senior Lead**

Step Three:

The Lead, Deputy or Additional Senior Lead should refer the concern to the relevant adult's or children's social care service and/or the Police and follow up the referral in writing within 24 hours.

For England and Wales, in cases of allegations against a "person of trust" with a "duty of care" towards a child, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will co-ordinate the next procedural steps.

Under "whistle blowing", anyone can refer directly to the Police, social care services, the LADO for personnel child abuse allegations (England & Wales only), relevant regulatory authorities, or the NSPCC (child concerns only) and also the charity Protect for support when they are concerned the organisation is not managing safeguarding concerns appropriately.

**CONSULT,
MONITOR
AND RECORD**
Sign/Date/Time
*Include name and
job role*

When the concern is about the welfare of a child or adult at risk from schools, colleges, health providers, GP practices, prisons or social care settings, you should refer to that organisation's Lead for Safeguarding in the first instance. Inform the Lead or Deputy of your organisation that you have referred a concern.

Any consultations should not delay a referral.
In an emergency do not delay: dial 999

Record Keeping

At all times when required, and especially where there is a safeguarding concern, we are committed to keeping records which are:

- recorded on a safeguarding incident form
- of sufficient details of child, young person or adult at risk to identify individual who is subject of concern and any significant others
- accurate and factual/based on fact, as a true record of:
 - what has been monitored/observed
 - what has been said and by whom
 - what has given cause for concern
 - what action has and/or will be taken including the reason for those actions
 - the reason stated for no action being taken and by whom
- non judgmental
- timely within 24 hours
- signed, timed and dated by the writer and co-signed by the Lead or Deputy
- shared as appropriate by the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding
- stored safely and securely by the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding

Handling Allegations / Dealing with Complaints / Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures

Our policies and procedures are in line with the statutory guidance, guidelines, our disciplinary, complaints and grievance procedures. These will be made available to everyone.

Where a complaint or allegation has been made with regards to any inappropriate behaviour or poor practice, the Lead or Deputy will, in all cases, discuss the situation with social care services (the LADO with regards to children England and Wales only) and / or the police before making an open decision about the best way forward.

In the case where the Lead is implicated, the Deputy should be informed. In the exceptional circumstances that both are involved, the person concerned will inform the Senior Lead. If there is a belief that the concern has not been taken seriously or acted upon then any one can

“Whistleblow”

With regards to disciplinary and grievance procedures, we will take no steps until we have fully discussed and agreed a strategy with social care services and / or the police, (the LADO, with regards to children England and Wales only). Any investigation will override the need to implement any such procedures

Bullying and Harassment

Bullying and harassment can take many forms and include:

- physical violence including threats, verbal assaults and taunts, the destruction of property, extortion, unwanted sexual interest or contact
- indirect forms of bullying including ignoring a person and the withdrawal of friendship, malicious gossip and spreading rumours, abusive or oppressive graffiti, the use of social media, electronic messages and websites.
- motivation of prejudice against certain groups for example on the grounds of race, religion, gender and disability

Whether directed at children, young people, adults at risk, staff, volunteers, parent and carers, bullying and harassment, physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse will not be tolerated. All such behaviour will be treated as a safeguarding concern when aimed at children, young people and or adults at risk. If children, young people and/or adults at risk are engaging in bullying or harassment it is also a safeguarding concern and should be reported to the Lead or Deputy for safeguarding.

We will:

- provide a culture of equality and respect for all with zero tolerance to any form of bullying or harassment

- report all incidents of bullying or harassment observed or disclosed, to the Lead or Deputy who will take the appropriate action
- take immediate steps to stop the behaviour and mitigate the effects of bullying and harassment
- record all incidents with observations and witness statements, and action taken, signed, timed and dated

Online Safety and Social Media

Why do we need to include Online Safety?

Modern digital technology has made access to information and communication increasingly easy for everyone. This is especially so for those who cannot always go out to socialise and rely on websites for social networking, watching films, downloading music, buying lottery tickets, shopping etc. Government guidance is clear, that all organisations working with children, young people adults at risk, families, parents and carers have responsibilities. It is also important to remember, children, young people and adults at risk can also abuse and such incidents fall into the remit of this policy.

H2H recognizes and notes the content of The Online Safety Act 2023 and associated government guidance. H2H carefully monitors the content and safety of its online resources and learning channels to ensure all material is suitable and appropriate.

Online Safety Code of Conduct:

We expect everyone in our organisation to agree and sign up to our Online Safety code of conduct to:

1. use the internet and other forms of communication in a sensible and polite way.
 2. only access websites, send messages or access and use other resources that will not hurt or upset anybody.
 3. seek permission if they want to use personal information or take photographs of other people.
 4. report any concerns to the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy
 5. not maintain confidentiality if there is a concern about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk.
- is becoming secretive about where they are going to or who they are meeting.
 - will not let you see what they are accessing online.
 - is using a webcam in a closed area, away from other people.
 - is accessing the web or using a mobile for long periods and at all hours
 - clears the computer history every time they use it.
 - receives unexpected money or gifts from people you don't know.
 - does not appear to have the money they should have.

What do I do if I am concerned?

If you have any concerns, speak to the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding.

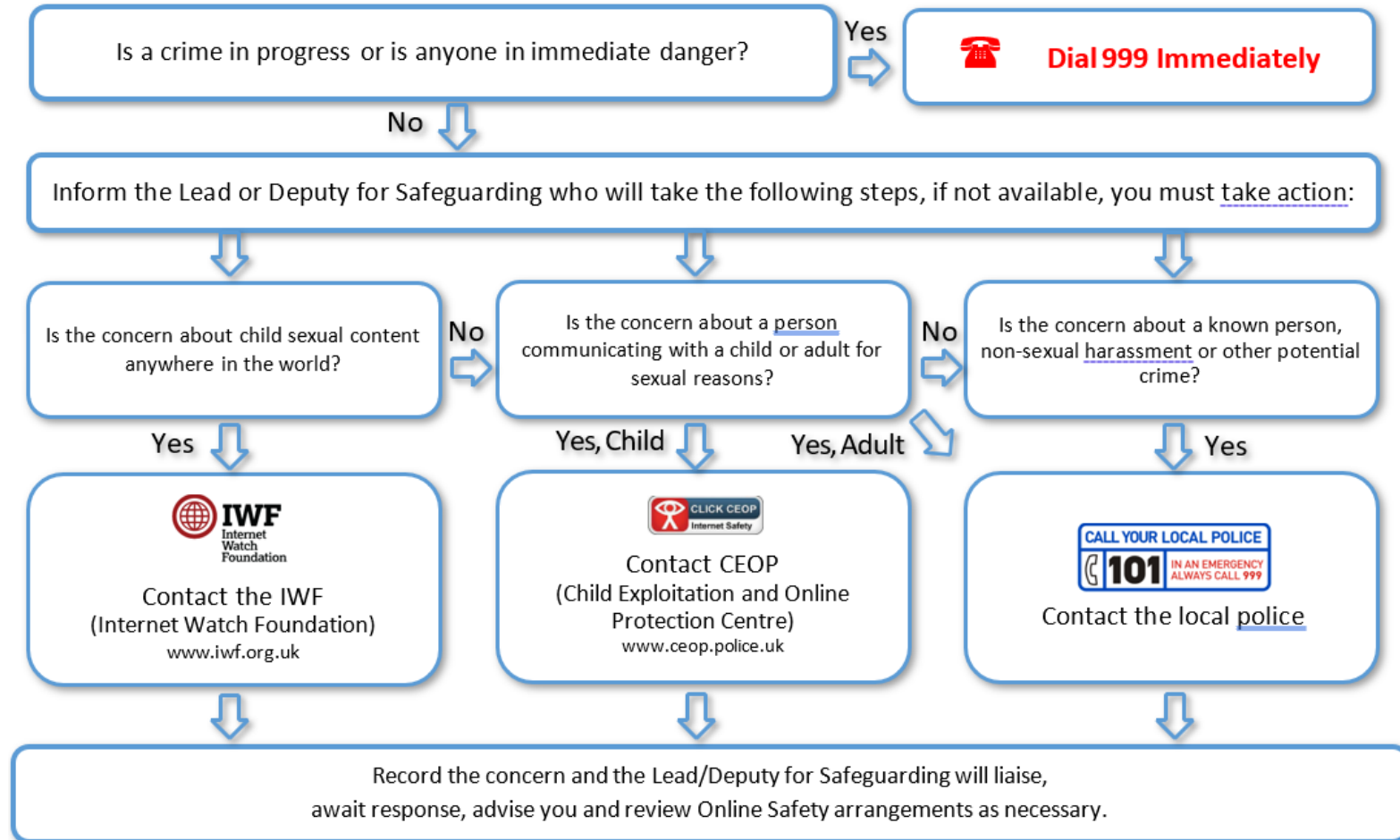
Remember:

- do not delay.
- do not investigate.
- seek advice from the Lead or Deputy
- make careful recording of anything you observe or are told

Online Safety Referral Flowchart – Child and Adult



Online Safety Referral Flowchart – Child and Adult



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Safeguarding Practical Guidance

Photography & Filming Guidance

Both still and moving images are key to recording the successes and achievements of children, young people and adults at risk in their lives and activities. However, it is vital to remember that images (especially digital images) can be used, shared, stored and/or distributed inappropriately, and that their storage and use must comply with the UK GDPR.

It is therefore important to be clear about:

- explaining to parents and carers why caution is necessary
- the purpose of images e.g. parent's and carer's own record, media and publicity etc
- the content required when using a professional photographer
- informing parents and seeking their consent for any publication or media use
- publishing only necessary identifying details alongside individual's photos in newspapers, websites etc
- taking photographs openly and away from sensitive areas (changing rooms, toilets, etc)
- the suitability of clothing e.g. swimsuits
- any group photos being taken only during the activity or on the premises
- all those taking photos signing a registration form, which also identifies the purpose and use of any images
- ensuring secure storage of all images

The above guidance applies to all still and moving images, however they are created (mobile phone, still camera, video camera etc). The type of equipment and the equipment's owner should also be recorded on the registration form.

Transport

We do not provide transport.

Activities, Events and Visiting Speakers/Activity Leaders

We will always ensure visitors and activities undertaken are risk assessed and we are committed to:

- ensuring that those who run activities have the expertise, knowledge and skills to do so properly
- completing a risk assessment which involves identifying risks and the means of reducing or eliminating those risks for all activities or events
- risk assessing any changes being made to activities or events involving children, young people and adults at risk
- having a written plan in place if the event or activity has to be cancelled
- having a written plan in place in case of emergency including contact numbers

- implementing the required actions identified by the risk assessment process and reviewing the effectiveness of these on a regular basis

The Late Pick Up of a Child, Young Person or Adult at Risk

If attempts to contact the parent and nominated emergency contact fail, then the supervising adult should wait with the child, young person or adult at risk with other staff, volunteers or parents wherever possible.

Staff, paid and unpaid, should avoid:

- taking the child, young person or adult at risk home or to another location
- waiting alone with the child, young person or adult at risk in a vehicle or at the venue
- sending the child young person or adult at risk home with another person, without parental consent
- leaving the child young person or adult at risk alone.

If all attempts to make contact fail, it may be advisable to contact the police for advice.

Child, Young Person or Adult goes Missing

If a child, young person or adult at risk goes missing from the group or organisation it should be reported to the police. Use 999 where there is a concern that they cannot be found or are vulnerable.

A missing person may be assessed as 'at risk' if they fit one or more of the following categories.

- is under 16
- has expressed feelings of suicide
- has dementia
- has been acting totally out of character
- has mental health issues
- is under increased stress
- has an illness or a physical disability
- has a learning disability
- is in need of regular medication/care

The Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding should be informed as soon as possible, and all details and actions recorded, signed, timed and dated.

First Aid

Our First Aiders have completed specific training as set out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). They hold valid and up to date certificates of competence issued by an organisation whose training and qualifications are approved by the HSE.

The duties of a First Aider are:

- to give immediate First Aid to children, young people, adults at risk, staff or visitors when needed
- to ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called when necessary

Our organisation undertakes to ensure there is always a trained First Aider on site at our venues or, if other venues used such as schools, that they have appropriate first aid cover.

All incidents will be reported and recorded in the First Aid and Incident Accident Books

Buildings and Venues

Safeguarding risk assessments will be carried out on all building and venues used by our organisation or by the host's venue management, such as schools

The safeguarding risk assessment should cover:

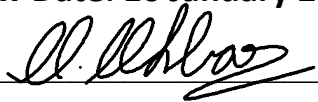
- access especially how people enter and leave the building
- signing in protocol
- use of keys
- toilets and changing rooms
- any outside space
- car parks
- any other relevant issues

Any companies or organisations hiring our premises will be asked to provide evidence of robust safeguarding policies, procedures and recruitment in line with their own sector recommendations, and their Public Liability Insurance.

Private party bookings at our premises will be provided with clear recommended safeguarding procedures, and asked to provide written confirmation of the adult/child ratios they will maintain, and the risk assessment in place for their event.

This policy was agreed and disseminated on 11 March 2024 and will be reviewed annually or when there are substantial organisational changes.

Policy Review Date: 16 January 2025

Signed:  Akbar Khan, Trustee

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Oliver Clarke

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ann Rhodes-Steere

Senior Lead for Safeguarding: Akbar Khan

Date: 16 January 2025

Date of next review: 16 January 2026