

M13 YOUTH PROJECT

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

M13 Youth Project creates safe and nurturing spaces in our local communities which promote fun, learning, growth, action and change, for and with children, young people and young dads (aged 5-24yrs) who face intersecting challenges, barriers and adverse childhood experiences. We use trauma-informed youth and community development work principles and practices, and a collaborative approach, to enrich the lives of those we work together with.

The purpose of this Policy Statement is:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable young adults who participate in any of M13 Youth Project's services/ activities from harm;
- to provide staff, trustees and volunteers, as well as children, young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of M13 Youth Project, including the board of trustees, senior managers, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance for England is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/england>.

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, in particular:

- Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults policy, which contains policy on
 - Key definitions: Children, young people, vulnerable adults
 - Recruitment of staff and volunteers
 - Induction, training, supervision and support of staff and volunteers
 - Designated Safeguarding Officer & Trustee Lead
 - Summary of Working Practice Guidelines
 - Managing concerns about a young person's welfare
 - Procedures for dealing with a young person's disclosure of harm
 - Action after a disclosure, making referrals
 - Information Sharing and Seeking Consent
 - Recordings, Storage and Retention
 - Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Good Practice Guidelines (including Staff/Child supervision ratios)
- Employee Handbook (including Staff Code of Conduct and Whistleblowing Policy)
- Social Media Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy

We believe that:

- all children, young people and young adults deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, and that each person can love, think, create, reflect, enjoy, achieve and make a positive difference to their world;
- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind;
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable young adults to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children comes first in all our work and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable young adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to 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. Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

We seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a designated safeguarding lead (SL) for children, young people and vulnerable adults, a deputy (SDL) and a lead trustee/board member (TSL) for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing 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
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using 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
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an emotionally and psychologically safe, trauma-informed and anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring 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
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Contact details

Safeguarding Lead

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NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Contact Centre: 0161 234 5001

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy was last reviewed on: 7th May 2024

Signed:



Date: 10th May 2024