

Green Teen Team Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers, paid staff and volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students and anyone working with or on behalf of Green Teen Team.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and teenagers who receive Green Teen Team's services and participate in Green Teen Team's activities.
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide Green Teen Team's approach to safeguarding and child protection.

Green Teen Team believes that a child, young person or teenager should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and teenagers and to keep them safe. We are fully committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0-25 years - Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

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 the 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 help children and young people safe by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and securing information professionally and securely, and sharing information and safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns about 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 managing an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure that helps us deal effectively with any bullying that may arise
- ensuring we have an effective complaints and whistleblowing measure in place
- ensuring 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.

We are committed to regularly reviewing our policies.

The policy was last reviewed on 31st January 2021.

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