

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

In accordance with our values, Children in Wales is committed to safeguarding all children. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of babies, children, young people and adults at risk of harm, and are committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment.

• We have a Safeguarding Policy.

This policy demonstrates our duty of care to all the babies, children, young people and adults with whom we work, and our responsibility to safeguard them from harm. Children in Wales believes that everyone has a right to such protection. Our Policy is reviewed each year, with a full review every three years. We conduct a Safeguarding Audit every two years.

• We have a **Code of Conduct** for working with children.

All our staff sign up to this code and any staff working directly with babies, children or young people undergo regular DBS checks. All staff undergo regular Safeguarding training at the appropriate level, in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

We have three fully trained Designated Safeguarding Persons.

A Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) can be consulted as to whether to raise a safeguarding concern with the local authority, and will manage any immediate actions required to ensure the safety or welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk.

 We work hard to make sure babies, children, young people and adults at risk are safe at our events.

When planning for events we undertake a risk assessment which is reviewed by managers and read by all staff attending the event. The assessment continues throughout the event to respond to any challenges that may arise and is in place until all children and young people are back at home afterwards. At each of our events, we always make sure there is a Designated Safeguarding Person available.

• Our **Trustees** are fully committed to safeguarding.

The Trustees discuss safeguarding at each of their quarterly Board meetings. Trustees sit on our internal Safeguarding Group, which also meets quarterly.

Compliance with Legislation

The Children in Wales Safeguarding Policy is based on legislative requirements, national guidance, and UN Conventions. It relates to a range of Government legislation, including the, the Children Act 1989, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and the Online Safety Act 2023.

Children in Wales will comply with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and Working Together to Safeguard People: volumes 5 and 6, as well as any local procedures produced by the Regional Safeguarding Boards (RSB) in Wales.

Values

Our Values are a declaration to our Members, Young Volunteers, Colleagues and Partners:

We act with Integrity: Our approach is grounded in children's rights; We will work to achieve our mission honestly; We will not hold back from challenging on behalf of those whose voices we seek to amplify

We are Listening: We hear you; We care about what you have to say; We will respond by taking action, where we can

We are Respectful: We will ensure that we are inclusive, that those whose voices are not heard as often as others have a place at our table, and that all can have a say.

We are Compassionate: We will be empathetic in our communication; we will seek to collaborate at every opportunity; and we will ensure that we are considerate of the experiences of others.

What to do if you have a concern that a child or adult at risk is being abused

You have:

- received a disclosure from a child or adult at risk
- learned about possible abuse or poor practice
- have suspicions about abuse

If the individual is in immediate danger dial 999

Discuss the concern as soon as possible with the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) & your line manager (at weekends or out of hours – consult the On Call Rota). If you are not able to reach the DSP and **the incident involves a parent/carer and you have concerns about an individual going home, contact the Police or local authority Social Services immediately. Make a note of your actions.**

Make accurate notes at the earliest opportunity and complete a Record of Concern form.

If no DSP is available you must contact the Chief Executive instead. If no-one is available, you should follow the procedures set out in this flowchart and keep an accurate record of all your actions.

Follow up – remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

- Follow up with the DSP (or Chief Executive)
- Follow up with your line manager
- Follow up with Social Services, if applicable

Designated Safeguarding Persons:

Claire Sharp (**Tel:** 07494 208637)
Natalie Lewis (**Tel:** 07494 208591)
Emily Robertson (**Tel:** 07398 636932)
safeguarding@childreninwales.org.uk

Chief Executive: Hugh Russell (Tel: 07841

536472)

Out of hours: If there is no reply from the above or it is out of hours contact the relevant local authority Social Services Emergency Duty Team for advice or to make a report.

Inform DSP at the earliest opportunity.

Record of Concern form — available via Children in Wales' website under the Safeguarding tab.

If you still have concerns and feel that appropriate action has not been taken, consult the Whistleblowing Policy

SOCIAL SERVICES: Contact details for all the local authority teams can be found on Children in Wales' website under the Safeguarding tab.