

Acts 4 Sharing SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Acts 4 Sharing is fully committed to safeguarding children, young people & adults with additional needs that they come into contact with. We recognise our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children, young people & adults with additional needs from harm, abuse and exploitation.

Paid staff and volunteers will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

We know that being a young person or an adult with additional needs makes them open to abuse. The purpose of this policy is to make sure that the actions of anyone in the context of the work carried out by **Acts 4 Sharing** are transparent and safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, young people & adults with additional needs. It is the duty of all trustees, staff and volunteers to be vigilant about safeguarding issues and take appropriate action in response to any concerns they have.

Acts 4 Sharing does not undertake activities with children/young people in the absence of their parents/carers. Parents/carers remain responsible for their children's/young people's welfare throughout all the work undertaken by **Acts 4 Sharing**.

If volunteers/staff are invited to visit projects overseas which involve children/ young people they will be expected to adhere to the safeguarding policy of the project/country they are visiting.

If, during the course of work undertaken by **Acts 4 Sharing**, staff or volunteers feel that there is an issue regarding anyone's safety the matter should be first referred to the designated safeguarding contact.

If anyone has concerns about the conduct of any staff member or volunteer of **Acts 4 Sharing**, this should be raised in the first instance with the designated safeguarding contact.

Principles upon which this Safeguarding Policy is based:-

- ◆ The welfare of a child /young person/ adult with additional needs will always be paramount.
- ◆ The welfare of families will be promoted.
- ◆ Everyone without exception has the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- ◆ The rights, wishes and feelings of everyone will be respected and listened to.
- ◆ Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will work in accordance with the interests of everyone and follow the principles outlined below.
- ◆ All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police

"Acts 4 Sharing" is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission in England. No. 1158033.

Acts 4 Sharing will:

- Ensure that all workers understand their legal and moral obligations to protect children/young people/vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and exploitation;
- Develop best practice in relation to the recruitment of all workers;
- Ensure that all workers understand their responsibility to work to the **Acts 4 Sharing** standards and procedures;
- Ensure that all workers understand their obligations to report care or protection concerns about a child /young person/vulnerable adult, or a worker's conduct towards a child/young person/vulnerable adult, to the organisation's designated person for safeguarding;
- Ensure that all procedures relating to the conduct of workers are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner;
- Ensure that the designated person understands his / her responsibility to refer any safeguarding concerns to the statutory agencies (i.e. Police and / or Social Services);
- Provide opportunities for all workers to develop their skills and knowledge particularly in relation to the protection of children/ young people/vulnerable adults;
- Ensure that parents/carers have, when requested, access to all guidelines and procedures;
- Endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the care and protection of children/ young people/vulnerable adults;
- Respond quickly to any concerns;
- Ensure that all suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know.
- No staff member or volunteer should be on their own with a child/young person.
- Keep a comprehensive, confidential record of all incidents.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse can take many forms: it can be a deliberate act or an omission e.g. a lack of care. Abuse can be broadly defined in four categories:

Physical abuse: when children are hurt or injured by hitting, kicking, beating with objects or shaking etc.

Sexual abuse: when children are forced or persuaded into sexual acts or situations e.g. looking at pornography, being harassed by sexual suggestions or comments, being touched or forced to have sex etc.

Emotional abuse: when children are not given acceptance, love and approval. Instead they may be subject to constant criticism, blame, shouting and swearing, and be rejected by those they look to for affection.

Neglect: when children are not provided with the food, warmth, shelter, clothing, care and protection that they need. This can include a neglect of medical care, missing appointments and mismanagement of treatment etc.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is aged 18 or over, receives or may need community care services because of a disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

What is abuse of vulnerable adults?

Physical abuse, including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions

Sexual abuse, including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting

Psychological abuse, including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks

Financial or material abuse, including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits

Neglect and acts of omission, including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating

Discriminatory abuse, including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.¹

The policy demonstrates a commitment to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child, young person or vulnerable adult or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into abuse is necessary.

The 'designated safeguarding contact' is Nicholas Magor

Agreed by Trustees: January 2018 Reviewed by Trustees November 2020 – next review date is November 2022 unless relevant legislation/regulations change

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/194272/No_secrets__guidance_on_developing_and_implementing_multi-agency_policies_and_procedures_to_protect_vulnerable_adults_from_abuse.pdf

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