

## Safeguarding children and young people



### What does child protection mean?

Child protection means 'the process of protecting children from abuse and neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.' Department for children, schools and families (2008)

For the purpose of child protection legislation, the term 'child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18. All organisations that work with children and young people need to be aware of how the issues of safeguarding apply to their organisation, volunteers, staff and trustees.

### What does my group need to do?

Your organisation should prepare for and make appropriate plans in case:

- a staff member has concerns about the safety of a child they are working with
- a staff member has to make a referral to Children's Social Care or the police
- your organisation is asked by Children's Social Care to provide information about a child or a family
- your organisation or a staff member is asked to be involved in an assessment.



## What elements must a child protection policy include?

- recognition that the welfare of the child is paramount
- acknowledgement that prevention is a key element of safeguarding
- commitment that all children (without exception) have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- a named person (and deputy) who is responsible for dealing with child protection issues and a commitment that the named person (and deputy) will be trained in child protection appropriate to the level in which they operate
- a commitment that all concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to accordingly
- reference to principles, legislation and guidance that underpin the policy
- a statement to show who the policy applies to (i.e. all trustees, staff and volunteers)
- reference to all associated policies and procedures which promote children's safety and welfare e.g. health and safety, and consent for photography
- a commitment to safe recruitment
- a statement to show that children and their parents are appropriately informed of the policy and procedures
- details of an annual review of the policies and procedures, and their approval and endorsement by the Board of Trustees or Management Committee.

## What child protection procedures does my group need?

You need to establish a set of procedures and systems to ensure your policy is implemented. Examples of what it should include are:

- reference to the child protection policy and where it can be found
- code of behaviour for trustees, staff and volunteers
- child protection training
- clear instructions about what to do and who to speak to if there are concerns about a child's safety/welfare and how to act on a disclosure of abuse
- a process for managing allegations made against staff or volunteers.

## Find out more

Download our full toolkit and find details of organisations that can support you at [www.wakefieldvcs.org](http://www.wakefieldvcs.org) | Telephone: 01924 367418 | Email: [ask@vawd.org.uk](mailto:ask@vawd.org.uk)

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