



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Document Owner	The Board of Trustees
Date last modified	August 2020
Related policies/documents	Whistleblowing Equality & Diversity Risk Assessment Code of Conduct Health & Safety
Date of next review	August 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Wendover Youth Centre (WYC) and its Board of Trustees ('the Board') are firmly committed to the welfare of all young people who use its facilities and will do all it can to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

The purpose of this policy is to help ensure that activities undertaken by the Wendover Youth Centre with children and young people up to the age of 18:

- Take appropriate account of the WYC responsibility for protecting children and young people from abuse
- Minimises as far as reasonably possible the risk that those taking part will suffer serious injuries
- Is enjoyable, adventurous and rewarding for all involved
- Complies with legislation and national guidance in the UK.

2. ACCESSIBILITY

If any aspect of this policy or procedure causes you difficulty on account of any disability that you may have, or if you need assistance because English is not your first language, you should raise this with Hannah Grinsted (Trustee- hannah@grinsted.me), who will make appropriate arrangements.

3. SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY

This policy sets out the practices for ensuring appropriate safeguarding and applies to all activities and areas of work undertaken by the Wendover Youth Centre that include children and young people up to the age of 18.

This policy applied to all employees, workers, volunteers and trainees (collectively referred to as "workers" in the remainder of this policy).

This policy is not contractual, it does not form part of employees' terms and conditions of employment.

Wendover Youth Centre reserves the right to amend this Policy and any accompanying documentation from time to time.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. Safeguards

These are measures that an organisation puts in place to help reduce the risk of children, young people and adults being harmed.

4.2. Child Protection

This is a part of safeguarding. It refers to the action taken to protect specific children from abuse or neglect. A child protection response may be necessary in any case where a child or young person under the age of 18 may have been abused or may be at risk of abuse.

An appropriate Child Protection approach should include policies, processes, procedures and measures to guide staff and volunteers in what to do if they are concerned that a child or young person may be at risk, and to empower children, young people and/or their families to seek help if they are worried.

5. MAIN PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

5.1. Recruitment, Induction and Supervision

One of the most valuable and important parts of the Wendover Youth Centre is our people, whether these are paid staff or volunteers. It is therefore important to ensure we are able to recruit the best people for the role, as well as giving them the right level of training and ongoing support in order to effectively safeguard the Children and Young People who come into contact with the WYC.

5.1.1. Recruitment

We will ensure the following:

- All roles have a clear job description and person specification
- We will have a process for shortlisting candidates that involves more than one person
- We will have a face-to-face interview or meeting with a panel of more than one person

5.1.2. Checks and References

We will ensure that:

- All applicants provide at least two references before appointment and for one of these to be from the most recent place worked or volunteered (assuming they have worked or volunteered before)
- Applicants provide proof of identity and original copies of any relevant qualifications
- Applicants complete all the checks that are relevant for the role. These may include right to work checks, criminal record checks, overseas checks and will complete an enhanced DBS check before they start to work or volunteer.

5.1.3. Inducting Workers

The following will take place:

- A copy of this policy will be provided to all staff and volunteers for them to read and understand
- Volunteers will be placed alongside a fully vetted and trained member of staff until satisfactory checks have been completed
- There will be a trial period for staff and volunteers, with a review before they are confirmed in post.

5.1.4. Ongoing Supervision and Support

The WYC will ensure:

- That there is regular supervision, and support for all staff and volunteers.
- That all employees have an annual performance appraisal.
- That all Board members, staff and volunteers attend appropriate Safeguarding (Child Protection) training courses.

5.2. Protecting Children and Young People

The WYC will ensure that measures are in place to protect children and young people who are identified as being at possible risk of abuse and neglect, as well as having relevant procedures for raising and managing any allegations.

5.2.1. Abuse

There are four main types of abuse to which children and young people can be subjected:

- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse

If any of these occur, children and young people often display problems in the following areas:

- Behaviour
- Drugs and alcohol
- Education
- Physical evidence e.g. bruising
- Mental health
- Relationships

A young person may disclose that they are being abused; they may show signs of abuse; or they may speak about third party abuse.

5.2.2. *Dealing with Allegations*

The following procedures will apply in the identification or suspicion of abuse towards a child or young person.

If abuse is suspected:

- Observations, conversations or concerns will be recorded, signed and dated.
- The matter must not be investigated or discussed with anyone other than the Safeguarding Officer or Lead Youth Worker.
- The Club Lead Youth Worker/Safeguarding Officer will assess the information and contact the appropriate local statutory services e.g. schools/social services.

If abuse is reported/alleged:

Allegations should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer or Lead Youth Worker, who are:

Safeguarding Officer

Name: Marion Clayton

Contact Details: 07723506991; marionclayton11@btinternet.com

Lead Youth Worker

Name: Peter Swinford

Contact Details: 07950 667895; peter@wendoveryouth.co.uk

Information Gathering

- The individual will be listened to and encouraged to speak without interruption, comment or judgement.
- It will be explained that information may need to be shared in certain circumstances.
- A written account of the report or allegation will be made, signed and dated by two people and the information passed to the Safeguarding Officer or Lead Youth Worker.

Investigation

- The matter will not be investigated by anyone other than the Safeguarding Officer or Lead Youth Worker.
- Any investigation will be conducted as soon as reasonably possible.
- If the allegation concerns a member of staff or volunteer, consideration will be given to the suspension of the person involved taking account of the risks to other young people and the individual concerned

- If the allegation involves a club member, contact will be made with the young person's parents (if appropriate and does not involve the allegation being against the parent) to advise them of the process.

Communication

- The Board via the Chair are to be kept informed of the nature of the issue without revealing the name(s) of the individual(s) concerned.
- The Lead Youth Worker/Safeguarding officer will inform the appropriate statutory service (school or Social Services).
 - If a child or young person is in immediate risk of harm then call 999
 - Otherwise call the First Response team within Children's Social Care via 01296 383962 or e-mail secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gov.uk

Allegations relating to Staff or Volunteers

If there is an allegation relating to a leader or helper of the club this will be reported to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) secure-LADO@buckscc.gov.uk 01296 382070

Allegations may include that they:

- Have harmed a child or young person
- Committed an offence against a child or young person
- Have behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

Assuming it is appropriate, the details of the allegations will be passed to the Safeguarding Officer/Lead Youth Worker as soon as possible.

5.3. Running Safe Activities and Events

When working with children and young people, we know that they need and want to take risks when they play and cannot grow and thrive without learning to cope with the possibility that things can sometimes go wrong.

Our role is to successfully manage risks and keep children and young people safe, while simultaneously providing the benefits of adventurous and healthy activities.

In order to do this we have the following policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy

In addition to our policies we will also ensure we have up to date information and consent including:

- Consent for activities from parents and children and young people as appropriate
- Consent for photography, including information on how and where the images will be used
- Details about the child or young person's needs (e.g. medical, dietary, allergies, care and support needs)
- Emergency contact details for each child or young person

5.4. Sharing Information with Other Agencies

If there is a case where it is felt that sharing the information of a case with other agencies (e.g. school, child services) is appropriate then this needs to be approved by the lead youth worker and Safeguarding lead trustee. Sharing concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing helps professionals build a clearer picture of the child's life and gain a better understanding of any risks the child is facing.

Information sharing is a vital part of making sure that a child or young person and their family receive the right support at the right time and prevents a concerning situation from becoming more serious.

5.5. Code of Conduct

The Board, Staff and Volunteers of the Wendover Youth Centre will all adhere to the guidelines outlined in WYC Code of Conduct Policy as to how children, young people and adults interact with each other.

6. KEY CONTACT DETAILS

Safeguarding Officer

Trustee – Marion Clayton

Email: marionclayton11@btinternet.com

Phone: 07723506991

Lead Youth Worker – Peter Swinford

Email: peter@wendoveryouth.co.uk

Phone: 07950 667895

Chairperson of Board – Tony Payle

Email: tony.playle@btinternet.com

Phone: 07530 093008

Local Authority Designated Officer

Email: secure-LADO@buckscc.gov.uk

Phone: 01296 382070

Children’s Social Care First Response Team

Email: secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gov.uk

Phone: 01296 383962