Hungerford
youth and community
Charity no.11846921

Safeguarding Children and Young People (including vulnerable adults up to the age of 25) Policy

Version:	V2.0
Date approved:	24/04/2025
Approved by:	Board of Trustees
Date of last update:	24/04/25
Period for review:	Annually
Policy Scope:	Organisation wide
Contacts included:	Safeguarding officer, safeguarding trustee
History of changes:	

1. The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people, including vulnerable adults up to the age of 25, who receive HYCC's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of HYCC including the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers and students.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from: https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/england

3. Supporting Documents

HYCC will ensure that all policies and procedures fully cover safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people.

This policy should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents.

4. We believe that

All children and young people deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential and that they should be enabled to:

- be as physically and mentally healthy as possible;
- gain the maximum benefit possible from good quality education opportunities;
- live in a safe environment and be protected from harm and experience emotional wellbeing;
- feel valued and supported by a network of reliable and positive relationships;
- become competent in looking after themselves and coping with everyday living;
- have a positive image of themselves, and a secure sense of identity including cultural and racial identity;
- develop good interpersonal skills and confidence in social situations.

5. We recognise that

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take;
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare;
- all children, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, gender identity, or sexual orientation have an equal right to 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 needs;
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children safe from abuse, when they are additionally vulnerable.

6. We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them;
- appointing a nominated safeguarding officer and safeguarding trustee for children and young people;
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers;
- developing and implementing an effective online and digital safety policy and related procedures;
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently;
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance;
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern;
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and 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;

- promoting and maintaining an anti-bullying culture through the use of our code of conduct;
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place;
- ensuring that 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;
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

7. Contact Details

Safeguarding Officer

Name: Vicky Stretch

Phone: 07999 053744

Email: office@hungerfordyc.org.uk

Safeguarding trustee

Name: Charlie Barr

Phone: 07875 529331

Email: charlie@hungerfordyc.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline

Phone: 0808 800 5000

West Berkshire Family Safeguarding

Telephone: 01635 503090

Email: child@westberks.gov.uk

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Log of changes

24/4/25	Updated contact names in section 7 and checked all numbers were correct.