



Registered Charity No: 1184475

# **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Updated August 2023-24**

## **CEO and Trustees**

The CEO leads on the delivery of services provided by Escapeline and takes responsibility for service development.

There is an appointed board of Board of Trustees who oversee running of Escapeline in order to ensure it is compliant with its charitable status.

## **Our commitment to children and young people**

We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:

Always acting in their best interests

Valuing them, listening to and respecting them

Involving them in decisions which affect them

Never tolerating bullying, homophobic behaviour, racism, sexism or any other forms of discrimination, including through use of technology

Exercising our duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

By ensuring a trustee and CEO complete 'Prevent' training in respect of radicalisation and extremist behaviour and by assessing the risk of young people being drawn into terrorism. This training is then passed onto all staff and volunteers.

Appointing a senior member of staff from our leadership team as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and ensuring this person has the time, funding, training, resources and support to perform the role effectively.

Making sure all staff and volunteers are aware of and committed to the safeguarding policy and child protection procedures and also understand their individual responsibility to take action.

Identifying any concerns early and providing appropriate help to prevent them from escalating, including working with parents/carers and other agencies.

Acknowledging and actively promoting that multi-agency working is the best way to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. The CEO to attend regular multi agency/mapping meetings held by the local authority to ensure all information is shared to the correct authorities.

If a young person discloses or there are indicators of abuse, it should immediately be reported to the CEO who will contact the safeguarding lead and together will take the right action by making a referral to the relevant agencies in accordance with the relevant Safeguarding Children inter-agency safeguarding procedures.

Keeping clear, accurate and contemporaneous safeguarding and child protection records, which are only accessed by CEO and safeguarding lead from the trustee board.

Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made in accordance with statutory guidance and legal requirements and also making sure that at least one appointment panel member has undertaken safer recruitment training. Please see point 6 for disclosure and barring.

Providing effective management for staff through induction, support and regular update training appropriate to role.

Adopting a code of conduct for all staff and volunteers which includes acceptable use of technologies, staff/pupil relationships and communications including the use of social media.

Ensuring staff and volunteers understand about 'whistle blowing' and ensuring staff know how to escalate concerns about a young person or staff if they think the right action has not been taken to safeguard children.

Promoting a culture in which staff and volunteers feel able to report to senior leaders with what they consider to be unacceptable behaviour or breaches of the organisations Code of Conduct by their colleagues, having faith that they will be listened to and appropriate action taken.

Dealing appropriately with any allegations/concerns about the behaviour of staff or volunteers in accordance with the process set out in statutory guidance.

3. Escapeline is managed by a board of trustees (the board). Our safeguarding lead is Ann Shaw. Contact details for Ann Shaw are as follows:

**Email – [safeguarding@escapeline.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@escapeline.org.uk)**

**Telephone number: 07891715577**

Ann Shaw is a qualified social worker and is currently a safeguarding and standards advisor for Dorset children's services working predominantly with schools and colleges to ensure safeguarding standards are compliant with statutory guidance.

4. The Board has adopted this safeguarding child policy and expects every adult working or helping at Escapeline to support it and comply with it. Consequently, this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of Escapeline.

## **2 Purpose of the Policy**

1: This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.

2: As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

## **3 The risks to children**

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including:

- - Sexual abuse
  - Grooming
  - Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
  - Domestic violence
  - Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
  - Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools and campuses
  - Victimisation
  - Self-harm
  - Unsafe environments and activities
  - Crime
  - Exploitation

## **4 Universality of Protection**

We recognise that:

- - the welfare of the child is paramount
  - all children regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.

- some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.
- working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

## **5 Safeguarding children at events / activities**

1 There are three kinds of events/activities:

1.1 those open to adults and children of all ages,

1.2 those for children accompanied by a 'parent',

1.3 those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.

2: At events and activities open to all ages, children under 16 must be accompanied throughout by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child but also takes the child home again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

3: At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parent', children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

4: At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must have a completed consent form by a responsible adult before being left with the event leader. The enrolment must record the child's name, age and address and the names and addresses of the child's parents, plus the parents' mobile telephone numbers and if they suffer with any allergies. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

5: Both event and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where Escapeline will be providing a service.

## **6 Disclosure and barring**

1: Escapeline offers the following activities:

### **2-1 outreach work**

## **2-1 detached work**

### **Group work and education**

### **Parent support**

### **Virtual training and education**

2: Some of our activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo DBS and/or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. All staff and volunteers must have an Enhanced DBS.

3. DBS checks should be renewed every 3 years

4: The Trustees will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of Escapeline. A member of Escapeline who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

CEO and Trustee and safeguarding lead

5: The Trustees will review the allegation and the likely risk to children and, if appropriate, will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Escapeline.

## **7 Health and safety aspects of safeguarding children**

1: Before starting any event for unaccompanied children, the Board will carry out a risk assessment and then take steps to minimise all risks to health and safety. Parents and children will be made aware of any particular risks and of the steps to be taken to minimise those risks. The Board will keep a record of all risk assessments.

2: Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with any emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

3: In all relevant circumstances the rules attached in Appendix A will be applied.

## **8 Policy on the prevention of bullying**

We will not tolerate the bullying of children either by adults or by other children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at a Escapeline event, those involved will be separated immediately and the parents of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Board will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children. If appropriate, the Board will consider banning a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of Escapeline. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with under paragraph 6.3 above.

## **9 Photographing children**

No photos will be taken or published of any child attending an event or activity unless prior written permission is sought from a person with parental responsibility. If any person has any concerns regarding any person taking photos at an event or activity, that person should contact Escapeline immediately

Under no circumstances should staff or volunteers use their own cameras/smartphones to take photos of children young people.

## **10 Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint**

1: Adults supervising children at Escapeline events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used — but for that purpose only.

2: Unacceptable behaviour at Escapeline events for unaccompanied children will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. The children will be suitably supervised and will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents.

## **11 Other Policies**

This safeguarding policy should be read together with the following policies and resources:

- Code of conduct
- Confidentiality policy
- Allegations policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Whistleblowing policy
- Bullying and harassment policy
- Risk assessments

## **12 Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice - Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services
- Working together to safeguard children (2017)

### **13 Reporting child protection concerns**

During the course of any work with children and vulnerable adults, it has to be made clear with the start of any work undertaken, any disclosures that would place any child or vulnerable adult at significant risk of harm, will need to be passed onto the appropriate safeguarding authority. As an adult we will have to obtain consent. Parents of children will be advised that a referral to CSC and police will be completed, unless it places the child at additional risk of significant harm, in which case the advice will be taken by CSC to identify the best way of progressing the referral.

14 The charity will be working with children and young people who are being or at risk of being criminally and/or sexually exploited. This form of abuse involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (e.g., food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money, mobile phones) as a result of their performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual acts. It can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, e.g. being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

14.1 Recognition of child exploitation is part of staff, trustees and volunteer training. We note that any child or young person may be at risk of this form of abuse, regardless of family background or other circumstances, and can experience significant harm to physical and mental health.

14.2 Due to the grooming methods used by abusers, it is common for young people not to recognise they are being abused and may feel they are 'in a relationship' and acting voluntarily.

14.3 "County Lines" is becoming widely recognised and used to describe criminal exploitation of young people using the internal trafficking of young people for the purpose of criminal exploitation. Young people are groomed using the same techniques as above, with them completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals which is of a criminal nature. Children are "trafficked" as part of the exploitation. They have their transport arranged for them for the purpose of selling drugs, firearms or sex. Young people will go missing for extended periods of time, missing education and moving away from their friendship groups.



14.4 Any disclosures or concerns about child sexual exploitation/criminal exploitation will be discussed with the CEO and the trustees Designated Safeguarding Lead who will take appropriate action which might include completing a risk assessment form. If it has been identified that the young person is at significant risk of harm, the CEO will contact Children Social Care and the police immediately to obtain advice. If the young person does not want to talk to the police, the CEO will ensure relevant information is provided to police intelligence. A referral form will be completed to Children Social Care. The CEO will also attend local authority's information sharing and mapping meetings. The agencies involved in these meetings are police, Children Social Care, education, CAMHS, health, YMCA and Barnardo's.

15. Forms of abuse linked to culture, faith or belief. All staff, trustees and volunteers in this charity will promote mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Some forms of abuse are linked to these, and staff, trustees and volunteers should strive to suspend professional disbelief (i.e., that they 'could not happen here') and to report promptly any concerns to the CEO or Designated Safeguarding Lead who will seek further advice from statutory agencies, prior to contacting parents/carers.

15.1 Female Genital Mutilation is illegal and involves intentionally altering or injuring female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It can have serious and long-lasting implications for physical health and emotional well-being. Possible indicators include taking a girl out of school / country for a prolonged period or talk of a 'special procedure' or celebration. In addition to reporting any concerns to the CEO or Designated Safeguarding Lead, staff and volunteers have a statutory duty to report personally to the Police if they discover that female genital mutilation has or appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions.

15.2 Forced Marriage is also illegal and occurs where one or both people do not or, in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is not the same as arranged marriage. Young people at risk of forced marriage might have their freedom unreasonably restricted or being 'monitored' by siblings. There might be a request for extended absence from school or might not return from a holiday abroad. We recognise that staff and volunteers who are working in schools can play an important role in safeguarding children from forced marriage.

15.3 So called 'honour-based Abuse' is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. It can exist in all communities and cultures and occurs when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Females are predominantly, but not exclusively, the victims and the violence is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family or community members. All forms of so-called honour-based violence are abuse, regardless of the motivation, and should be referred accordingly. However, there are some significant differences in the immediate response required as involving families in cases of forced marriage is dangerous:

It may increase the risk of serious harm to the victim. Experience shows that the family may punish them for seeking help.

Relatives, friends, community leaders and neighbours should not be used as interpreters – despite any reassurances from this known person.

15.4 Radicalisation and extremism. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Extremism is defined by HM Government as ‘Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’.

This charity recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and to understand that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

We recognise that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

All staff and volunteers working with young people will be informed on how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.

Any concerns about a young person becoming radicalised or being drawn into extremism will be reported to the CEO and Designated Safeguarding Lead who will not speak to parents/carers or other family members at this stage but will take prompt advice from the Police.

## **16 Prevent.**

16.1 Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent strategy: Responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.

Provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. It ensures they are given appropriate advice and support.

Works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to

deal with. Prevent covers all forms of terrorism and extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism.

The Home Office works with local authorities, a wide range of government departments, and community organisations to deliver the Prevent strategy. The police play a significant role in Prevent, in much the same way as they do when taking a preventative approach to other crimes.

16.2 The main aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults. Providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity is crucial. Prevent addresses all forms of extremism but continues to ensure resources and effort are allocated on the basis of threats to our national security.

Any individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation are referred to a multi-agency Channel Panel. This ensures the appropriate interventions are put in place to protect the individual. Like child protection, Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme run in every local authority in England and Wales. It works to support vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. It provides a range of support such as mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment etc. If any young person is being discussed the CEO will attend the Panel meetings.

Channel is about early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity and addresses all types of extremism.

The CEO and safeguarding lead will have attended the PREVENT training.

## 17 Reporting child protection concerns

17.1 During the course of any work with children and vulnerable adults, it has to be made clear with the start of any work undertaken, any disclosures that would place any child or vulnerable adult at significant risk of harm, will need to be passed onto the appropriate safeguarding authority. As an adult we will have to obtain consent. Parents of children will be advised that a referral to CSC and police will be completed, unless it places the child at additional risk of significant harm, in which case the advice will be taken by CSC to identify the best way of progressing the referral.

### **17.2 Responding to the child who discloses (talks about) abuse or exploitation (Including in workshops in schools and mentoring programmes)**

All staff and volunteers will:

Listen carefully to what is said

Avoid showing shock or disbelief

Observe the child's demeanour

Find an appropriate opportunity to explain that the information will need to be shared with others. They will not promise to keep the information confidential or a 'secret'

Allow the child to continue at her/his own pace and not interrupt if the child is freely recalling events. They will not stop him/her to find a 'witness' as this could inhibit the child from saying more.

Avoid asking questions or pressing for more information. Ask for clarification only. If questions are necessary, they should be framed in an open manner and not 'lead' the child in any way: Tell me.... Explain.... Describe...

Reassure the child, if necessary, that s/he has done the right thing by talking about it

Explain what will happen next and with whom the information will be shared.

Not ask the child to repeat the disclosure – including to the CEO or Designated safeguarding lead at school- or ask him/her or any other children who were present to write a written account or 'statement'. This could impact on any future police investigation.

17.3 If in exceptional circumstances, CEO is not available, this should not delay appropriate action being taken. Where physical injuries have been observed, these will be carefully noted but not photographed. The staff member will not ask to see injuries that are said to be on an intimate part of the child's body.

Any disclosure or indicators of abuse will be reported verbally to the CEO who will liaise with the designated safeguarding officer. If the CEO is not available and the concerns are immediate, ensure a referral is made without delay to Children's Social Care and contact the police.

**During a workshop or mentoring session within a school, the mentor, project worker or facilitator of the workshop will liaise with the designated safeguarding officer of the school of any safeguarding concerns or disclosures and also their line manager. A safety plan will be put in place and if there are any immediate concerns to ensure a referral is made without delay to Children Social Care.**

17.4 Where the child already has an allocated social worker, that person or a manager or duty worker in the same team must be contacted promptly.

17.5 A written record will then be made on the charity's disclosure form of what was said, including the child's own words, as soon as possible and given to the CEO. This will be stored in a secure file and will only be accessed by the CEO and Designated Safeguarding lead.

17.6 If the young person can understand the significance and consequences of making a referral to social workers, they will be asked for their views. It will be explained that whilst their views will be considered, the charity has a responsibility to take whatever action is required to ensure the young person's safety and that of other children.

17.7 The CEO will decide whether to contact parents at this stage, judging whether to do so, it is necessary to consider if contacting the parents/carers is likely to place the child at risk of harm from their parent's/carer's actions or reactions - for example in circumstances where there are concerns that a serious crime such as sexual abuse, domestic violence or induced illness has taken place. If in any doubt, the CEO will contact Children social care first and agree when parents/carers should be contacted and by whom. The reason for the decision not to contact parents first will be recorded in the child's information form.

17.8 A child protection referral from a professional cannot be treated as anonymous.

17.9 When a young person is being exploited by county line gangs it is unlikely to be any disclosure, however, if concerns are accumulating and there are concerns the young person is in danger the CEO with the support of the Designated safeguarding officer will ensure that all information is brought together and that she makes a professional judgement about whether to refer to outside agencies, such as the police or Children Social Care.

17.10 If a member of staff or volunteer who reports concerns to the CEO should expect some feedback, although confidentiality might mean in some cases that this is not detailed. If the member of staff or volunteer is not happy with the outcome s/he can press for reconsideration and if following this, s/he still believes the correct action has not been taken, will refer the concerns directly to children social care.

## 18 Remember

18.1 Any suspicion or concern that a child or young person may be suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm, MUST be acted on. Doing nothing is not an option. Any suspicion or concerns will be reported without delay to the CEO or Designated Safeguarding Officer. The CEO should always be available for staff and volunteers to discuss any safeguarding concerns. However, if for whatever reason the CEO is not available, staff can contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead via phone or the local authorities MASH team.

Anyone can make a referral, not just the CEO or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger or has made a disclosure in Somerset, please contact:

**Children Social Care on 0300 123 2224**

**Email – [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk)**

**Police – 101 or in an emergency 999**

**For staff only – DSL and GP's consultation line – 0300 123 3078**

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger or has made a disclosure in Dorset, please contact:

**Dorset - The Children's Advice and Duty Service (professionals) – 01305 228558**

**BCP – BCP First Response Hub – 01202 123334**

18.2 It is important that everyone in the charity is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged or suspected abuse is not responsible for making a judgement about whether abuse has occurred and should not conduct an 'investigation' to establish whether the child is telling the truth. That is a task for social workers and the Police following a referral to them of concern about a child. The role of staff and volunteers is to act promptly on the information received.

18.3 This applies regardless of the alleged 'perpetrator': whether the child raises concerns about a family member, gang member, a member of staff or another child/pupil.

18.4 A careful record will be made of what has been seen/heard that has led to the concerns and the date, time, location and people who were present. As far as possible, staff and volunteers should record verbatim what was said and by whom. The record will be passed to the CEO.

18.5 The CEO will keep a record of the conversation and if necessary, will pass the information onto the social workers, noting what actions will be taken and by whom, giving the date and time of the referral.

## **19 Safer Working Practice**

19.1 All adults who come into contact with children at this charity will behave at all times in a professional manner which secures the best outcomes for children and also prevents allegations being made. Detailed advice on safer working practice can be found in the charity's Code of Conduct.

19.2 Staff and volunteers will receive supervision initially every 2 weeks and eventually once a month, as they become more experienced.

## **20 Training**

20.1 The safeguarding lead and CEO will complete their local LSCB two day safeguarding training. Child protection will be part of induction for all staff and regular volunteers new to the charity. This training will be provided by the CEO who is a qualified social worker. The mentors will complete training sessions which will include safer working practice, child protection training, confidentiality, data protection, disclosures, boundaries, making a referral and county line and child exploitation training.

20.2 This will be followed up by basic child protection training that equips individuals to recognise and respond appropriately to concerns about children and young people.

20.3 Staff, Trustees and volunteers who do not have designated responsibility for safeguarding and child protection, will undertake suitable refresher training at appropriate intervals. Statutory requirements recommend this is at least every three years.

20.4 In addition, all staff and volunteer members will receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as well as updated information on child exploitation and county lines from the CEO as required, but at least annually. This will include learning from local and national serious cases when the learning becomes available. The CEO will also attend regular updated training on county lines and child exploitation. She will attend national training and conferences on this subject.

20.5 In addition, staff, trustees and volunteers will receive updates on their knowledge and skills in the area of child exploitation and county lines - at least annually. These individuals are also expected to take responsibility for their own learning about safeguarding and child protection and child exploitation, for example: taking time to read relevant research articles.

20.6 The CEO and at least one trustee will complete safer recruitment training either through a multi-agency taught session or by completing the NSPCC on-line course.

21 Raising concerns about safeguarding practice in our organisation.

21.1 This charity promotes a culture where any staff, trustees or volunteers feel able to raise with the CEO or designated safeguarding lead any concerns about safeguarding or child protection practice.

21.2 Any issues which they have not been able to resolve with the CEO should be reported to the trustees in the first instance. If they are still not satisfied, they should approach the Children's services, or, if the issue relates to the conduct of or allegation against a member of staff or volunteer it is essential it is reported promptly to the relevant authorities such as the police and children social care. If it is assessed as a serious incident, it is essential that it is promptly reported to the charity commission. The report will be completed by the CEO and trustees. If there is a police investigation it is important to check with the police what information can be passed on without impacting on their investigation.

21.3 Staff and volunteers should refer to the charity's whistle-blowing policy for more information or can use the NSPCC whistle blowing helpline: 0800 0280285.

## **22 Information for parents and carers**

22.1 At this charity we are committed to keeping children and young people safe. Our first priority is the child or young person's welfare, and the charity would usually discuss with parents any concerns they have about their child. There might be rare occasions, however, when we must provide information to or consult other agencies such as Children's Social Care before we contact the parent. This will include situations where we judge that to tell the parent first will or might put the child at risk of significant harm.

## **23 Contextual Safeguarding**

23.1 What is contextual safeguarding? Child exploitation and county lines incidents and or behaviours are generally associated with factors outside of school, college and or the family home. All staff especially the CEO should consider the context within which such incidents and or behaviour occur. This is contextual safeguarding and means assessments should consider such factors, so it is important that we provide as much information as possible as part of any referral process, such as names of possible perpetrators, friendship groups and locations. This will allow any assessment to consider all the available evidence and the context of the abuse.

Adopted by the Trustees

Name:                                  Signature:                                  Date:                                  Title:

Clare Stone

Lisa Morris

Kirsti Nelson

Glenn Beavis

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and presented to the trust board for approval.

Last update: 01/08/2023