

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Statement

Safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone

1. Statement of commitment

We are aware that many children and young people are victims of different kinds of abuse. We are also aware that many families experience hardship and various difficulties, and they need support in order to provide adequate care for their children.

At the **wish centre** we aim to create an environment that is safe, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to protect children, promote their welfare and support their families.

2. Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Effectively safeguard children and promote their rights and welfare.
- Provide all staff and volunteers with clear rules to follow.
- Make all staff and volunteers aware of what is expected of them in terms of their approach, behavior and actions.
- Evidence to the **wish centre** users, parents and carers, the local community, partner organisations, the Local Authority and funding and commissioning bodies that the **wish centre** is committed to safeguarding.

3. Scope of this policy

This policy applies to all **wish centre** staff and volunteers, including Trustees, sessional workers, students on work placements and anyone working on behalf of the **wish centre**.

4. Definitions

4.1 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the process of:

- 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.

4.2 Child Protection is the process of protecting individual children identified as either suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

5. Legislative framework

At the **wish centre** we recognize our legal responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare. We will therefore act within the framework set by the Children Act 1989 and The Children Act 2004. We will also follow the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

As our safeguarding procedures we adopt the Harrow Safeguarding Children Guidance 2013 (the Green Book) updated 2017, for work in Harrow. London Safeguarding policy and procedures for other sites.

6. Underlying principles

At the **wish centre** we will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- Following the Green Book guidance in our day-to-day work in Harrow.
<http://www.harrowscb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/The-Green-Book-2017.pdf>
- Listening to children and young people and respecting and valuing them at all times.
- Challenging discrimination and promoting the right to equal protection regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, social or immigration status or any other element of diversity.
- Providing effective management to staff and volunteers through support, supervision and training.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring that all necessary checks are made and safe recruitment good practice guidelines are followed.
- Responding to both child protection and non-child protection concerns immediately.
- In cases of doubt, questions or need for guidance, always seeking advice by calling the Harrow Golden Number (020 8901 2690), or, in cases involving staff/volunteers, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) via the Golden Number, or other numbers London-wide.
- Working in partnership with children, their parents and carers, members of the local community and local statutory and voluntary organisations.
- Adhering to the [Code of Behaviour for staff and volunteers](#) at all times
- Taking allegations against staff seriously, investigating and reporting in accordance with the **wish centre** [Child Protection Policy Statement](#) (Clause 10)

7. Details of the Nominated Safeguarding Person and their Deputy

The Nominated Safeguarding Person for the **wish centre** is

Name: Rowena Jaber

Job/role title: Centre Director

Contact tel.: 07834 477979 Email: Rowena@thewishcentre.org.uk

The Deputy Nominated Safeguarding Person for the **wish centre** is

Name: Kaira Hunjan

Job/role title: Lead Psychotherapist

Contact Tel: 07527 187177 Email: kaira@thewishcentre.org.uk

Safeguarding Lead from the Board of Trustees

Name: Clare Kiely

Job/role title: Trustee

Contact Tel: Email: clare.kiely@thewishcentre.org.uk

8. Review arrangements

The **wish centre** will review this policy annually. In cases of relevant legal or local procedures changes, we will review this policy accordingly.