



## SAFEGUARDING FACTSHEET

### What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding children and young people means protecting them from potential sources of harm and ensuring their well-being. All children and young people have the right to be safe and **everyone** is responsible for making that happen.



### What does it involve?

As an organisation working with children and young people you will want to:

- Provide safe places where children can have fun, learn and achieve;
- Know what to do if you are concerned about a child;
- Reassure parents and carers that their children's welfare is important;
- Give your volunteers and staff confidence, through the provision of clear guidelines of how to protect both themselves and the children in their care.

### Do I have to do it?

The short answer is yes! We all need to play our part in keeping children safe. The NSPCC says that "it is estimated that at least one child in the UK is killed each week by their parents or carers. Thousands more suffer serious harm..."

There are also legal reasons for doing it. Following the death of 8-year old Victoria Climbié in 2000, major changes were made to government legislation regarding child protection, which resulted in the formation of the **'Every Child Matters—Change for Children' programme**. It aims to help everyone work better, highlighting the **'five outcomes'** that are most important to children to ensure their welfare.

It is now also the requirement of many funding bodies, the Charities Commission and insurance companies that all voluntary sector groups working with children have effective safeguards in place for their organisation.

### What's the next step?

You will need to develop a good safeguarding structure with relevant policies, procedures and guidelines that will work for your organisation. You will need to start with a child protection policy statement.

The **CHECKLIST** overleaf is designed to help you assess your needs and make a full plan of action...

# SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN CHECKLIST

## 1. CHILD PROTECTION:

- Written policy & procedures—Oldham’s Local Safeguarding Children Board recommend:
  - Information on government legislation relating to children’s rights*
  - Information and indicators about different kinds of abuse*
  - Information about levels of need and confidentiality issues*
  - How to respond to concerns*
- A named person within, or acting on behalf of, your group who has had specific training for this role
- Training for all staff and volunteers

## 2. SAFE RECRUITMENT AND STAFFING:

- Guidelines for recruitment and application
- Procedures for carrying out interviews and DBS checks
- Procedures for induction and supervising staff and volunteers including a Code of Conduct
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## 3. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- First aid provision and accident procedures
- Relevant insurance cover
- Risk assessment procedures including supervision ratios and parental consent
- Safe premises including fire safety

## 4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- Equal opportunities statement and guidelines of application
- Process for complaints and whistleblowing

## 5. PROMOTION AND PARTNERSHIP

- Publicising policies and procedures
- Involving children, young people and families in reviewing activities, their Code of Behaviour and policies
- Working in partnership with Oldham LSCB by signing up to the LSCB compact

**For more information contact  
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