



The Junction Foundation SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Junction provides practical and emotional support to children, young people up to the age of 25 and their families. This includes one-to-one counselling and support in relation to emotional well-being; caring responsibilities; practical assistance for individuals to support their transition to adulthood; small group activities to support the development of social skills and resilience; and associated support work with families.
- 1.2. In that context, The Junction works with a wide range of people and is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Junction expects everyone involved with the organisation to share this commitment and is committed to practice that protects them from harm and abuse.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- 2.1. The purpose of this policy is to:
 - Keep all children, young people and vulnerable adults who work with The Junction safe from harm
 - Provide our workers with a clear and consistent framework, which underpins and guides our approach to safeguarding.
- 2.2. This policy applies to paid staff members, volunteers, trustees, students on placement and anyone working on behalf of The Junction Foundation and to all of our activities and services.

3. PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THIS POLICY

- 3.1. The Junction recognises and fully believes that:
 - We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and that their welfare is paramount.
 - All children, young people and vulnerable adults, irrespective of their socio-economic background, situation, gender, age, disability, religion or beliefs, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm.
 - Some people are particularly vulnerable because of their life experiences, levels of dependency or disability, communication needs or other issues and The

Junction undertakes to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- It is the responsibility of everyone involved with The Junction to develop their awareness of the issues that cause children and vulnerable adults harm and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.

4. KEY POLICY OBJECTIVES

4.1. The Junction will endeavour to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by:

- Listening to, valuing and respecting the voices and the views of children, young people and vulnerable adults to ensure an appropriate response.
- Informing children, young people and families about our approach to safeguarding at the start of our relationship.
- Identifying specific individuals who are responsible for taking a lead on safeguarding and child protection issues.
- Developing safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice.
- Ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are reviewed at least annually and when necessary, updated immediately to reflect changes in legislation and guidance or the learning from specific incidents.
- Adopting safer recruitment procedures for paid and unpaid roles, including board members, to help deter, reject or identify people who might pose a risk or inappropriate influence to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that all existing and new workers understand their roles and responsibilities under safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance to be alert to signs of abuse or maltreatment and refer concerns to the appropriate person using agreed procedures and to undertake appropriate training.
- Providing effective management for workers through an effective code of practice, supervision, support, training and quality assurance systems.
- Having robust systems in place to address, without delay, any failure to comply with safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Managing allegations against staff, volunteers and trustees in accordance with statutory guidance and local safeguarding board procedures.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with the agencies that need to know and involving children, young people, families and carers appropriately.

- Ensuring that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- Promoting and prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults with our workers and the staff of third-party organisations who work on our behalf.

5. LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK

5.1. Our approach is informed by relevant legislation, statutory guidance and local safeguarding procedures:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for Practitioners 2017
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991
- Care Act 2020
- The Mental Capacity Act 2019
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2020
- Sexual Offences Act 2003•Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Online Hidden Harm Bill 2021
- Voyeurism Act 2019•Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010•Data Protection Act 2018
- Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures and guidance
- Tees Safeguarding Adults Board procedures and guidance

5.2. This policy relates to a range of internal policies, procedures and guidance for staff, including:

- Management of allegations against staff, volunteers and trustees
- Whistle blowing policy
- Safer recruitment, selection and induction policy
- Confidentiality Policy

- Data protection and information sharing policies
- Anti-bullying policy
- Health and safety policies and procedures

6. KEY CONTACTS

6.1. For further information on safeguarding policies and procedures, please contact:

Beth Major - Chief Executive, Designated Safeguarding Officer or

Jamie Noble - Deputy Chief Executive, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer

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The statement is relevant to the Junction Foundation's Safeguarding Policy.