

Ambitious **Lives**

Ambitious Lives Safeguarding Policy

Child Protection Safeguarding Policy for Ambitious Lives CIC

Ambitious Lives CIC abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has 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 issues

- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

Keeping children protected is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures, which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact or non-contact activities exposed to children.

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care

- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

The child protection officer is the point of contact for anyone in an organisation who is concerned about a child. The role is also responsible for leading on:

- safeguarding policies and procedures
- training and development
- receiving concerns about a child
- reporting, storing and retaining child protection records following the organisation's policies and procedures.

The nominated child protection officer lead takes a lead role in developing, implementing and reviewing the organisation's safeguarding policies and procedures. They also make sure that everyone - including staff, volunteers, children and families - is aware of the policies and procedures and what to do if they are worried about a child.

It's important that everyone in an organisation understands their safeguarding responsibilities. The nominated child protection lead ensures that everyone, including themselves, has access to training and stays up-to-date on safeguarding and any changes in the law and guidance.

If a safeguarding concern of abuse is reported, the child protection officer will take immediate action using the correct safeguarding procedures.

- The young person will be reassured that they have done the right thing
- Only professionals who need to know will be informed but not promise confidentiality.
- Record the incident and escalate it to the relevant safeguarding team for further action.