



Safeguarding Children Policy

Version 1.0

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Version Control

Note: minor updates increase version number by 0.1, major updates increase version number by 1.0.

Version Number	Sections Amended	Date of update	Approved by
1.0	First issue in new template	24/09/18	Matt Pyke
1.1	Added in Domestic Abuse Policy as related document	30/09/19	Matt Pyke

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Our approach

Children and young people should be safe in their homes and should never experience any kind of abuse or harm. Yarlington has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and protect them.

We recognise that the welfare and wellbeing of children is paramount. All children regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse. We know that some children are additionally vulnerable due to the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues. We know the importance of working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies to promote the welfare of young people.

Our responsibility

We will have a designated safeguarding lead who is responsible for safeguarding and will ensure staff are confident in knowledge and application of the policy and procedures.

Our responsibility to safeguarding children:

- Protect children and young people who receive services from Yarlington and its subsidiaries. This includes children of adults who use our services.
- Protect children who we come in to contact with, who may not be Yarlington customers.
- Provide staff, parents and volunteers with overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

We believe that anyone who works for Yarlington and its subsidiaries has a responsibility to report any safeguarding issues and/or concerns that they have either seen or had reported to them. This includes senior managers, board members, agency staff, paid or unpaid staff members and students.

We have a responsibility to act and not turn a blind eye. We have a simple process to record and report any safeguarding concerns.

Related policies and procedures

This policy should be read in conjunction with Yarlington's other policies and procedures:

- Safeguarding Adults Policy
- Safeguarding procedure
- Whistleblowing policy
- Health and safety policy
- Company Code of Conduct
- Customer Engagement
- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- General Data Protection Policy
- Hate Crime Policy
- Domestic Abuse Policy

- The Prevent Duty
(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)

We will keep children and young people safe by

- Supporting and encouraging our staff to make decisions and informed consent
- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Having a simple process to record and report safeguarding
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Ensuring that all information recorded is done so professionally, securely and in accord with the Data Protection legislation.
- Using our safeguarding policy and procedure to share concerns and relevant information (in compliance with GDPR) with agencies, families, parents, children/ young people where appropriate
- Ensuring that we have a culture which acts when faced with challenging situations

We will support our staff by

- Providing training to deal with any safeguarding concerns competently and with confidence to protect the welfare of the child
- Provide support to staff who may have been effected by abuse they have either witnessed or had reported to them
- Continually raise awareness of the policies and procedures related to safeguarding
- Employee Assistance Programme “Be Supported”

The risk of doing nothing.....

NSPCC

Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.

An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.

The NSPCC estimate that over half a million children are abused in the UK each year.

Legal Framework

- This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Safeguarding legislation is available the following site:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people/safeguarding-children-and-young-people>

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