

Child Protection

All organisations working with children and young people have a duty of care for the children and young people who the organisation comes into contact with.

To fulfil their commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, all organisations that provide services for, or work with children must have:

- Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, explicitly stated in strategic policy documents
- A clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Recruitment and human resources management procedures that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers
- Procedure for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers
- Arrangements to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively, and keep this up-to-date by refresher training at regular intervals; and that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children, are made aware of the establishment's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and their responsibilities for that
- Policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children including a child protection policy, and procedures that are in accordance with the guidance and locally agreed inter-agency procedures
- Arrangements to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, including arrangement for sharing information
- A culture of listening to, and engaging in dialogue with children. Seeking children's views in ways that are appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those views in individual decisions and in the development of services
- Appropriate whistle-blowing procedures, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed.

(Source: *Working Together to Safeguard Children - A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* - section 2.8 - See link on following page.)

Useful Links

Safe Communities, a toolkit to protect children and young people (an NSPCC resource, available FREE to voluntary and independent community groups until the end of 2008.) To order online:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/Consultancy/CST/Tool/toolkit_wda47804.html

What to Do if You're Worried that a Child is Being Abused:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00182/used>

Working Together to Safeguard Children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (2006) HM Government

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00060/>

London Child Protection Procedures:

www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/

Stop Check: Stop check is an explanatory booklet designed to help smaller organisations providing activities or services for children to develop child protection policies and procedures.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/Consultancy/SupportingProductsAndResources/stopcheck_wda47887.html

Guidance from the charity commission on safeguarding children:

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/supportingcharities/protection.asp>

Churches Child Protection Advisory Service - provides advice, support, training and resources in all areas of safeguarding children for faith based organisations:

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/>

A list of resources to help organisations write their child protection policy can be found at:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforprofessionals/ReadingLists/writingachildprotectionpolicy_wda48907.html