



Child Safeguarding Policy

Registered Charity Number:1201570

Safeguarding Policy & Strategy

This policy applies to all individuals working with or on behalf of Sarah's Star, including employees, volunteers, Trustees, and all levels of staff. It also covers sessional workers, agency staff, students, and any other representatives of the organisation.

The purpose of our strategy and policy is

- To protect children and young people who receive Sarah's Star services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide all staff with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

Sarah's Star is committed to ensuring that no child or young person experiences any form of abuse. We have a responsibility to promote their welfare and ensure their safety.

Our approach is dedicated to operating in a manner that safeguards and protects all children and young people.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998 (Act replaced with Data Protection Act 2018)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018

We acknowledge that:

- The welfare of the child is the most important consideration, as established by the Children Act 1989.
- Every child, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial background, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or identity, has the right to equal protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Some children may be more vulnerable due to factors such as past experiences, level of dependency, communication needs, or other specific issues.

- Collaborating with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is crucial to promoting the welfare of young people.

Implementation

We are committed to keeping children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), a deputy, and a lead board member responsible for safeguarding.
- Implementing child protection and safeguarding practices through established procedures and a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing and enforcing an effective e-safety policy and associated procedures.
- Providing strong management for staff, volunteers, and trustees through supervision, support, training, and quality assurance.
- Conducting safe recruitment of staff and volunteers, ensuring all necessary checks are completed.
- Recording and storing information securely, and sharing safeguarding practices with children, their families, staff, and volunteers through leaflets, posters, and direct discussions.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to communicate concerns and share relevant information with appropriate agencies, while involving children, young people, parents, families, and carers when needed.
- Following our procedures to appropriately address any allegations against staff and volunteers.
- Promoting an anti-bullying environment and maintaining policies and procedures to address any bullying that occurs.
- Maintaining effective complaints and whistleblowing processes.
- Ensuring a safe physical environment for children, young people, staff, and volunteers by adhering to health and safety laws and regulatory guidance.

Role of Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Purpose of the role:

Strategic: To take the lead role in ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place at Sarah's Star for keeping children and young people safe.

Operational: To promote the safety and welfare of children and young people using Sarah's Star services.

- Ensure that all matters related to the safety and welfare of children and young people at Sarah's Star are managed effectively through established policies, procedures, and administrative systems.
- Ensure all staff, volunteers, and Trustees are informed of the procedures and understand their responsibilities if they have concerns about a child.
- Receive and document information from anyone who raises concerns about a child attending Sarah's Star.
- With management support, lead the handling of information that may indicate a child protection concern. This includes evaluating the information, making decisions when needed, and consulting with colleagues, the Chair of Trustees, and statutory child protection agencies.
- Liaise with and exchange information with statutory child protection agencies, including local authority children's social care and the police. This includes making formal referrals when necessary.
- Provide support to staff and volunteers involved in safeguarding matters.
- Consult with the NSPCC Helpline for additional support when needed.
- Be knowledgeable of and adhere to local inter-agency child protection procedures established by the local safeguarding children board.
- Stay informed on issues related to child protection and abuse and keep up to date with new developments in the field.
- Attending relevant safeguarding training periodically and sharing the knowledge gained with staff and Trustees.

Current Designated Safeguarding Officer

Sarah Harrison

07845098703

sarah@sarahs-star.org

Trustee Safeguarding Representative

Liam Milligan

07912667001

Useful Contacts

Local Police Emergency: 999 Non-emergency: 101

North Tyneside Council Front Door service Office hours: 0345 2000 109 Evenings and weekends: (0191) 200 6800

NSPCC A registered charity established to prevent cruelty to children

Helpline number 0800 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline There to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they are going through.

0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

Document Details

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