

The Othona Community

Safeguarding Children, Young People & Adults Policy

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Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Policy

THE OTHONA COMMUNITY

Context

The Othona Community is a Registered Charity (Number 277843). The objects of the charity are set out in the trust deed dated 12th September 1978 and 27th May 1994 (as amended on 23rd June 2008).

- (i) the training of theological and other students and laymen and women in the establishment of christian community centres with an ecumenical purpose.
- (ii) the provision of community centres for laymen and women and their families for the purpose of voluntary work study worship and associated activities designed to further service for the worldwide church and the integration of the christian view with the whole life of man

The Othona Community is an unincorporated charity managed by up to 14 trustees.

A wholly owned trading subsidiary called The Othona Community (charity registration number 1154204, company registration number 08215892) was established in September 2012. The trustees of the trading company are directors for the purposes of company law. The directors are appointed from the trustees of the Trust. The charitable objects of the trading company are:

1. To advance the Christian faith for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively by the provision of retreats and other educational activities.
2. The promotion of religious harmony for the benefit of the public by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths.

The Charity owns and manages two retreat centres, one in Essex and one in Dorset.

The Othona Community, East End Road, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, CM0 7PN

The Othona Community, West Dorset, Coast Road, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4RN

'Othona is an open and inclusive Community rooted in the Christian tradition, and drawing on a wealth of other inspirations. We welcome people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and beliefs Through sharing in a daily rhythm of work, learning, worship, and play, we seek personal renewal and glimpses of the sacred. In community we explore the relationship between faith and life, and encourage one another in caring for the world and its people.'

The charity works with schools and Churches. It is regulated by the Charity Commission. The trading company is registered with Companies House, as above.

We have approximately 10 resident staff split between the 2 sites, and numerous volunteers. Our beneficiaries are the people and families who stay at the Centres, up to 70 people at a time at Bradwell and up to 35 at West Dorset.

Statements and Aims

Policy Statement

We recognise that the welfare of all children, young people and adults at risk, is paramount and that *all* have equal rights of protection. We have a duty of care when they are guests at our centres, and we will do everything we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities.

Equal Opportunities Statement

We recognise that anyone can become subject to discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of:

- age
- culture
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity,
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

Comments and actions that contribute to discrimination, harassment or victimisation are not acceptable and will be challenged. Such incidents will be recorded and shared with parents and carers, and the relevant agencies when necessary and appropriate.

We will:

- ✓ treat everyone with respect and celebrate their achievements,
- ✓ carefully recruit and select all staff whether paid or unpaid,
- ✓ respond to concerns and allegations appropriately.

When there are concerns about the welfare of any child, young person or adult at risk, all responsible adults in our organisation are expected to share those concerns, without delay, with the Lead Person for Safeguarding (or the Deputy, if the Lead Person is unavailable, or the Lead Person at our sister centre).

Our policy is approved by our *Board of Trustees* and will be reviewed and updated every 2 years. We will publish and promote this policy to all staff, paid or unpaid, including Trustees themselves, through induction, training and supervision. We endeavour to disseminate, as appropriate, this policy to all who come into contact with our Community e.g., **children, young people, adults at risk, their parents, carers, families and others, such as Schools and visiting organisations.**

Policy Aim

As members of SAFEcic, we aim at all times to attain best safeguarding practice throughout all our activities with children, young people, adults at risk, their parents, carers and families. We endeavour to provide a safe and friendly environment and celebrate all achievements. We will achieve this by adhering strictly to this policy, guidance and risk assessments. Our organisation holds current Public Liability Insurance which covers all our activities (refer to the Treasurer).

Safeguarding Personnel

Lead and Deputy Lead for Safeguarding

The responsibility of managing the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk can be both demanding and challenging and therefore the Lead Person must be appointed at managerial level, the deputy is there to cover for sickness and holidays. The Lead for safeguarding at the sister site is also available if required.

Our Lead Person for Safeguarding at the Essex Centre at Bradwell is:

Name: Deborah Sanders (known as Debbie) and Richard Sanders (co Wardens)

Job role: Centre Wardens

Contact details: 01621 776564

Our Lead Person for Safeguarding at West Dorset Centre at Burton Bradstock is:

Name: Anthony Jaques (known as Tony)

Job role: Centre Warden

Contact details: 01308 897130

Our Deputy Lead Person for Safeguarding at Essex Centre is:

Name: Phil Martin

Job role: Core Team Member

Contact details: 01621 776564

Our Deputy Lead Person for Safeguarding at West Dorset is:

Name: Liz Howlett

Job role: Core Team Member

Contact details: 01308 897130

Their role is to oversee and ensure that our safeguarding policy, which includes eSafety, is fully implemented and that we attain SAFEcic standards.

Their responsibilities are:

- ✓ monitoring and recording concerns
- ✓ making referrals to social care or police, as relevant, without delay
- ✓ liaison with other agencies
- ✓ arranging training for all staff

The Deputy for Safeguarding should be available to support or cover for the Lead. S/he will also handle any complaints or allegations against the Lead for Safeguarding if appropriate. It is important that the Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding are unconnected/unrelated.

Line of accountability for safeguarding

The responsibility for safeguarding at board or committee level is shared between members. Safeguarding is on the organisation's risk register. The Board will appoint a Trustee Lead for Safeguarding. This " " should be unconnected to the Lead for Safeguarding and Deputy for Safeguarding in the Centres and should have up to date and relevant training with the ability to develop knowledge, skills and expertise in safeguarding.

Senior Lead for Safeguarding

Our Senior Lead for Safeguarding is:

Name: Mark MacDonald

Job role: Board Secretary and Trustee Lead for Safeguarding

Contact details: boardsecretary@othona.org

If unavailable contact Chair of Trustee; Dr Clare Gough chair@othona.org

Why do we need a Safeguarding Policy?

All organisations that work or come into contact with children, young people and/or adults at risk need to have safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

Government guidance is clear that all organisations working with children, young people, adults at risk, parents, carers and/or families have responsibilities for safeguarding. It is important to remember that children, young people and adults at risk can also abuse and that such incidents fall into the remit of this policy.

To undertake these responsibilities, we:

- have Trustees and Centre Managers committed to safeguarding
- are clear about peoples' responsibilities and accountability
- have a culture of listening to children, young people and adults at risk
- undertake safer recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers working with children & young people and adults at risk
- have procedures for safeguarding children and young people and adults at risk
- have procedures for dealing with allegations against and concerns about any staff or volunteer
- make sure staff, paid and unpaid, have mandatory induction and further safeguarding training, supervision, reviews and support
- have agreements about working with other organisations and agencies

Definitions

Definition of a child/young person

There is no single law that defines the age of a child across the UK. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK government in 1991, states that a child "means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier" (Article 1, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday (16th in Scotland).

Definition of an adult at risk

There is no single law that defines an adult at risk across the UK. An adult at risk is a person over the age of **18 years** (16 in Scotland) and is:

- having needs for care and support, and
- experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect and
- as a result of those care needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Related Policies

Data Protection

We will treat any personal information by which an individual can be identified, for example, name, address, and email, in accordance with the provisions of Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and will not share information with any third party, except where required by law.

Confidentiality

This policy is in line with government guidance about confidentiality and these details will be made available to all staff, children, young children, adults at risk, parents and carers.

We fully endorse the principle of the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk, overriding any obligations of confidence we may hold to others. No one working, or involved, with our organisation can promise absolute confidentiality. Individual cases will only be shared or discussed on a “need to know” basis.

Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern externally about a person or practice within the organisation, which will affect others in an illegal and or harmful way.

Our organisation promotes the sharing of any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk as soon as possible with the Centre Lead or Deputy Lead for Safeguarding. If this does not provide satisfaction the Trustee lead for Safeguarding or the Chair of trustees should be contacted.

If individuals reporting their concerns within our organisation do not feel they have been acted upon then we support their right to report these concerns to the Local Authority Designated Office (LADO) (England and Wales only) social care services, the police, and the Charity Commission

All media enquiries will be handled by **Dr Clare Gough, Chair of Trustee Board**; chair@othona.org

Information Sharing

Timely and accurate written records play an essential role in safeguarding individuals, who may have suffered, are suffering or at significant risk of suffering harm. It is important that records are shared at the appropriate time when necessary. Within our organisation the decision to share written information, and with whom, will be undertaken by the Lead or the Deputy Lead for safeguarding

Safer Recruitment

Our organisation is committed to safe recruitment in line with the relevant legislation and guidance from government and Charity Commission, for recruiting all staff, paid or unpaid. We do this by:

- advertising vacancies with a clear commitment required to safeguarding
- assigning all posts detailed job descriptions
- obtaining full personal details via an application form or CVs with particular relevance to previous work with children, young people and adults at risk
- when a candidate is selected for interview the relevant criminal declaration form will be sent for completion as set out by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, as amended.
- always taking up two written references, one from the most recent employer or education establishment
- undertaking all interviews face to face, in person or virtually, based on the job description
- ensuring at least one person on each interview panel is completely familiar with the Othona Safer Recruitment Guidelines .

- having sound procedures and recording for interviewing to ensure we are satisfied, and can evidence that the applicant is appropriate and suitable

Any appointment will only be confirmed subject to:

- ✓ a satisfactory ID and criminal records check at the appropriate level, including Certificate of Good Conduct for foreign nationals and the [International Child Protection Certificate \(ICPC\)](#) for anyone who has lived in the UK and also travelled overseas
- ✓ a follow up of written references by telephone if relevant to the vacant post
- ✓ a check of essential qualifications
- ✓ confirmation of the Right to Work in the UK for employed personnel
- ✓ fitness to work as relevant

Induction and Training

We have a clear induction and training strategy with clear job descriptions and responsibilities and all relevant procedures. All new staff (on the payroll) will receive induction training as soon as possible and sign to record they have:

- received and understood this policy.
- been given any relevant resources
- understood the commitment to safeguarding training

Paid staff will receive further, formal, safeguarding training, at the appropriate level, as soon as possible. We also agree a probationary period of 3/6/12 months, depending on the role, with clear goals and then provide supervision/mentoring/appraisals at regular intervals of 3/6/12 months with the Centre Manager or delegated other, sometimes a Centre Committee member.

Updated safeguarding training is normally required every 2 years (online) or three years (face to face).

Volunteers receive The Othona Community Good Practice Guidelines: Safeguarding Children - general information and the Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers. If a volunteer is covering a paid job role then they will have the induction and training relevant for that role.

Working Practices

Consent

When consent is required for any care, activity or intervention we will, unless it is an emergency, obtain consent from the individual if of sufficient age and or understanding.

Where relevant, we will ensure we fulfil our obligations under Child Care Law in terms of parental responsibility and Mental Capacity Legislation on supporting, where possible, the individual's right to make their own decisions. Any decisions made should be the least restrictive and recorded.

Staff Ratios to Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

There must always be a minimum of two responsible adults present for any activities. Risk assessments will be completed for any potentially hazardous activities.

Lone and One to One Working

We will avoid lone working, one to one working with children and adults at risk whenever possible to protect both individuals. We do not give any care except in emergency situations. A risk assessment will always be undertaken to ensure:

- ✓ the care or activity provided is suitable for one to one working,
- ✓ the lone worker has been recruited, trained and supervised to undertake this particular role,
- ✓ that health and safety issues have been identified and recommendations followed,
- ✓ safeguards are in place to protect individual's rights to safe working practice,
- ✓ safeguards are in place in relation to strategies for emergency situations,
- ✓ relevant business insurance is in place for use of personal vehicles
- ✓ accurate and relevant written recording is maintained following any care and activity, signed and dated.

Young People who work in our Organisation

Occasionally people under 18 may volunteer at the Centres. People under 18 do not work at the Centres.

All young people who are undertaking volunteer work, apprenticeships or work experience within our organisation/group are to be included within this policy and their safeguarding as individuals given the same importance as all young people we come into contact with. Any disclosures, observations of possible harm or disturbing behaviour must be reported to the Lead or Deputy immediately.

They will also require an induction program that includes their commitment to safeguarding within the remit of the safeguarding policy and in line with all staff induction.

In addition, information on the young person's contacts will be recorded as relevant e.g. parents, carers, school representatives and any supervisors, with emergency contact numbers.

Codes of Conduct

We aim to provide a safe environment free from discrimination, upholding and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. We undertake to:

- ✓ treat all children and young people and adults at risk with respect and dignity
- ✓ ensure that their welfare and safety is paramount at all times
- ✓ maintain professional boundaries both face to face and when using technology
- ✓ do not give care to guests, except in emergency situations
- ✓ always listen to individuals and take account of their wishes and feeling
- ✓ always act in a professional way and not accept bullying, swearing or other disruptive behaviour
- ✓ liaise openly with parents and carers
- ✓ only use physical contact if absolutely necessary
- ✓ avoid being alone with children, young people and adults at risk whenever possible
- ✓ listen to, and act upon, any disclosures, allegations, or concerns of abuse
- ✓ participate in approved safeguarding training at appropriate levels
- ✓ ensure restraint is not used except as an emergency action to protect from harm. All use of restraint will be reported and recorded by the member of staff concerned to the Lead or Deputy for safeguarding and to the relevant manager.
- ✓ follow our safeguarding policy at all times
- ✓ make activities FUN and enjoyable

Recognising Abuse in Children Young People and Adults at Risk

The following list is for guidance only. It is important to be observant, listen to what is being said and record. e.g. is what you are observing and being told about an injury, consistent with the injury?

- Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Breast Ironing
- Carrying offensive weapons
- Child criminal and sexual exploitation including County Lines
- Concealed pregnancy
- Criminal exploitation
- Discriminatory
- Domestic violence, including "honour" based abuse
- Emotional
- Exploitive use of technology
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Financial or material abuse
- Forced marriage
- Gangs
- Gambling
- Hate and "mate" crime
- Hazing and initiation rites
- Hoarding
- Modern slavery
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Online safety
- Organisational or institutional
- Peer on peer abuse, including sexual violence and upskirting
- Psychological
- Physical
- Radicalisation
- Self-neglect
- Sexual
- Spiritual abuse
- Trafficking
- Upskirting

Handling Disclosures

When a disclosure is made by a child, young person or adult at risk it is important to remember to:

- take what you are being told seriously
- stay calm and reassure
- do not investigate
- do not delay

and always

- seek advice from the Lead or Deputy Lead for Safeguarding at the Centre

- make a careful recording of anything you are told or observe, date and sign.

A disclosure may come from someone telling you:

- they have or are being abused
- they have concerns about someone else
- they are themselves abusing or likely to abuse someone else

Safeguarding Referral Flowchart

We ensure and emphasise that everyone in our organisation understands and knows how to share any concerns immediately with the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding. Everyone, including both the Lead and Deputy for Safeguarding will deal with concerns using the following:



Step One:

If you are worried a child, young person or adult at risk has been abused because:

- you have seen something
- someone says they have been abused
- somebody else has told you they are concerned
- there has been an allegation against a colleague
- there has been an anonymous allegation
- an adult has disclosed that they were abused as a child
- a child, young person or adult say they are abusing someone else

Step Two:

Check our safeguarding policy for guidance. Talk to the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding without delay. If they are implicated then report to Additional Senior Lead

Step Three:

The Lead, Deputy or Additional Senior Lead should refer the concern to the relevant adult or children's social care service and/or the Police and follow up the referral in writing within 24 hours.

For England and Wales in cases of allegations against a "person of trust" with a "duty of care" towards a child, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will co-ordinate the next procedural steps.

Under "whistle blowing", anyone can refer directly to the police or social care services and **all relevant Authorities**, when they are concerned the organisation is not managing safeguarding concerns appropriately.

**CONSULT,
MONITOR
AND RECORD**
*Sign/Date/Time
Include name
and job role*

**Any consultations should not delay a referral.
In an emergency do not delay: dial 999**

When the concern is about the welfare of a child or adult at risk from schools, colleges, health providers, GP practices, prisons or social care settings, you should refer to that organisation's Lead for Safeguarding in the first instance. Inform the Lead or Deputy that you have referred a concern.

RECORD KEEPING

At all times when required, and especially where there is a safeguarding concern, we are committed to keeping records which are:

- recorded on a safeguarding incident form (Cause for Concern form 31:8)
- of sufficient details of the child, young person or adult at risk to identify individual who is subject of concern and any significant others
- accurate and factual/based on fact, as a true record of:
 - what has been monitored/observed
 - what has been said and by whom
 - what has given cause for concern
 - what action has and/or will be taken including the reason for those actions
 - the reason stated for no action being taken and by whom
- non judgmental
- timely, within 24 hours
- signed and dated by the writer and co- signed by the Lead or Deputy
- shared as appropriate by the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding
- stored safely and securely by the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding in the Othona restricted access Drive named DBS

Handling Allegations / Dealing with Complaints / Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures

Our policies and procedures are in line with the statutory guidance, the relevant Regulatory Authorities, see above, guidelines, our disciplinary, complaints and grievance procedures. These will be made available to everyone.

Where a complaint or allegation has been made with regards to any inappropriate behaviour or poor practice, the Lead or Deputy will, in all cases, discuss the situation with social care services (the LADO with regards to children England and Wales only) and / or the police before making an open decision about the best way forward.

In the case where the Lead is implicated, the Deputy should be informed. In the exceptional circumstances that both are involved, the person concerned will inform the Senior Lead. If there is a belief that the concern has not been taken seriously or acted upon then any one can “Whistleblow”

With regards to disciplinary and grievance procedures, we will take no steps until we have fully discussed and agreed a strategy with social care services and / or the police, (the LADO, with regards to children England and Wales only). Any investigation will override the need to implement any such procedures. Our management are responsible for making referrals to the relevant:

- criminal records service
- Regulatory Authority
- professional body

Bullying and Harassment

Bullying and harassment can take many forms and include:

- physical violence including threats, verbal assaults and taunts, the destruction of property, extortion, unwanted sexual interest or contact
- indirect forms of bullying including ignoring a person and the withdrawal of friendship, malicious gossip and spreading rumours, abusive or oppressive graffiti, the use of social media, electronic messages and websites.
- it is often motivated by prejudice against certain groups for example on the grounds of race, religion, gender and disability

Whether directed at children, young people, adults at risk, staff, volunteers, parents and carers, bullying and harassment, physical and/or emotional abuse will not be tolerated. All such behaviour will be treated as a safeguarding concern when aimed at children, young people and or adults at risk. If children, young people and/or adults at risk are engaging in bullying or harassment it is also a safeguarding concern and should be reported to the Lead or Deputy for Safeguarding.

We will:

- provide a culture of equality and respect for all with zero tolerance to any form of bullying or harassment
- report all incidents of bullying or harassment observed or disclosed, to the Lead or Deputy who will take the appropriate action
- take immediate steps to stop the behaviour and mitigate the effects of bullying and harassment
- record all incidents with observations and witness statements, and action taken, signed, timed and dated

eSafety

Why do we need to include eSafety?

Modern digital technology has made access to information and communication increasingly easy for everyone. This is especially so for those who cannot always go out to socialise and rely on websites for social networking, watching films, downloading music, buying lottery tickets, shopping etc. Government guidance is clear, that all organisations working with children, young people, adults at risk, families, parents and carers have responsibilities. It is also important to remember, children, young people and adults at risk can also abuse and such incidents fall into the remit of this policy

eSafety Code of Conduct:

We expect everyone in our organisation to agree and sign up to our eSafety code of conduct to:

1. use the internet and other forms of communication in a sensible and polite way.
2. only access websites, send messages or access and use other resources that will not hurt or upset anybody.
3. seek permission if they want to use personal information or take photographs of other people.
4. report any concerns to the Centre Lead Person for Safeguarding or Deputy Lead Person.
5. not maintain confidentiality if there is a concern about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk.

What are the Risks?

There are many potential risks including:

- accessing inappropriate or illegal websites.
- receiving unwanted or upsetting texts, e-mail messages or images.
- being “groomed” by another, with a view to meeting the child, young person or adult at risk for their own illegal purposes including sex, drugs or crime.
- sharing nudes or semi nudes.
- viewing or sending unacceptable material such as inciting hatred or violence.
- sending bullying messages or posting malicious details about others.
- ignoring copyright law by downloading e.g. music, videos, homework cheat materials etc.
- overspending on shopping and gambling sites.

- being at risk of identity fraud for money transactions.
- inappropriate relationships or prostitution.

What else might be of concern?

A child, young person or adult at risk who:

- is becoming secretive about where they are going to or who they are meeting.
- will not let you see what they are accessing online.
- is using a webcam in a closed area, away from other people.
- is accessing the web or using a mobile for long periods and at all hours
- clears the computer history every time they use it.
- receives unexpected money or gifts from people you don't know.
- does not appear to have the money they should have.

A person who:

- befriends a child, young person or adult at risk on the internet or by text messaging.
- has links to children, young people and/or adults at risk on their social media pages especially if they work in a position of care such as a sports coach or care worker.
- is secretive about what they are doing and who they are meeting.

What do I do if I am concerned?

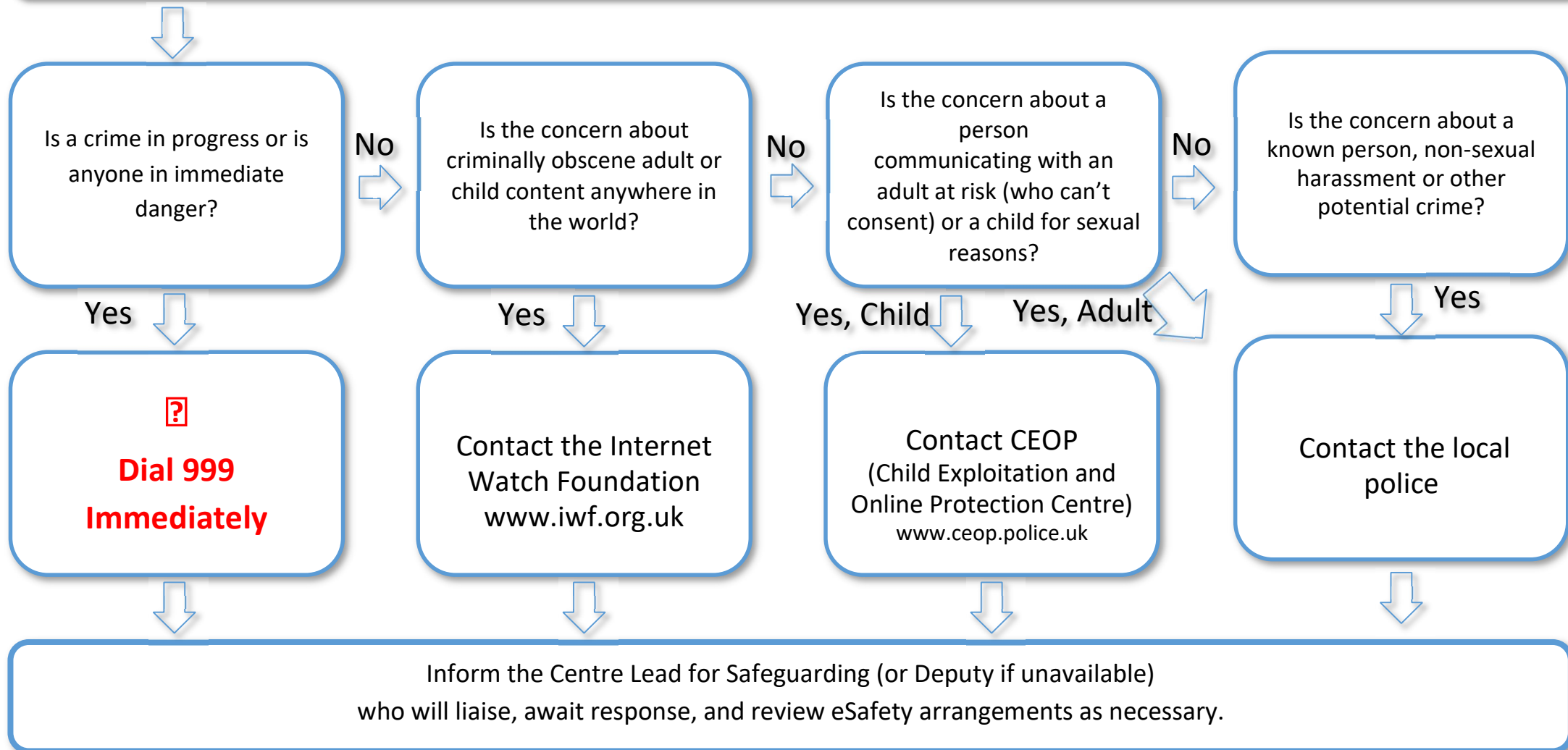
If you have any concerns, speak to the Centre Lead or Deputy Lead for Safeguarding.

Remember:

- do not delay.
- do not investigate.
- seek advice from the Lead or Deputy Lead for Safeguarding at the Centre
- In the unlikely event that the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Lead are absent in the Centre, then the activity leader should telephone the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy at the sister Centre.
- make careful recording of anything you observe or are told

eSafety Referral Flowchart – Child and Adult

When illegal content or activity is found or suspected, if an emergency dial 999, always inform your Lead or Deputy for safeguarding and s/he will follow these steps:



Minimising the Risks :

We don't have prolonged contact with the children that stay at our Centres. If a situation arose where minimising online risk was an appropriate conversation, we would follow these principles outlined below to advise parents/guardians.

- talk to parents of children, young people and adults at risk about what they are accessing online.
- ensure everyone uses PCs, iPads and other technology in a general space where we can monitor what is going on.
- explain the risks of giving out personal details online.
- talk about how people can be anyone they want to be online, e.g. by using misleading emails, photographs of other people, telling lies about their age, hobbies, school.
- encourage children, young people and adults at risk to think carefully about what photographs or videos they use online. They can be used and tampered with by other people, or they may not be appropriate.
- advise children, young people and adults at risk to only text, chat or webcam to people they know in real life.
- talk about how to identify SPAM messages or junk mail and how to delete them. This also applies to messages from people they do not know, or opening attachments.
- discuss how people hide their identities online and the importance of never meeting new online “friends” in real life.
- make sure children, young people and adults at risk understand they can always talk to us, or their parents and/or carers, about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- look on the internet together for information about how to deal with or report problems. e.g. [Thinkuknow](#)
- talk about how/when information or images get on to the internet, they can never be erased.

Safeguarding Practical Guidance

Photography & Filming Guidance

The use of photography is really important to record the successes and achievements of children, young people and adults at risk in their lives and activities. However, it is vital to remember that photography can be used and distributed inappropriately including on the Internet.

It is therefore important to be clear about:

- explaining to parents and carers why caution is necessary
- the purpose of photos e.g. parent's and carer's own record, media and publicity etc
- the content required when using a professional photographer
- informing parents and seeking their consent for any publication or media use
- publishing only limited details alongside individual's photos in newspapers etc
- taking photographs openly and away from changing areas
- the suitability of clothing e.g. swimsuits
- any group photos being taken only during the activity or on the premises

We recognise that not everyone wants their photos taken and permission should always be sought from parents or guardians. No photos should be uploaded to social media or websites without parental permission.

Transport

We do not provide transport for children without their parents or carer. We do not provide transport for vulnerable adults without their carer. Transport is limited to short journeys to the bus stop or local train station.

and we ensure that drivers:

- are recruited under safeguarding recruitment procedures
- are suitably qualified to drive the required vehicle
- provide proof of insurance regarding business use and comprehensive insurance
- can evidence the vehicle is roadworthy and suitable for transporting each individual
- provide suitable and age appropriate seat belts, booster seats and wheelchair anchor points
- avoid transporting children, young people or adults at risk on their own

Activities, Events and Visiting Speakers/Activity Leaders

Activities are organised for guests who are staying at the Centres and for school parties visiting the Centres.

We will always ensure visitors and activities undertaken are risk assessed and we are committed to:

- ensuring that those who run activities have the expertise, knowledge and skills to do so properly
- completing a risk assessment which involves identifying risks and the means of reducing or eliminating those risks for all activities or events
- risk assessing any changes being made to activities or events involving children, young people and adults at risk
- having a written plan in place if the event or activity has to be cancelled
- having a written plan in place in case of emergency including contact numbers
- implementing the required actions identified by the risk assessment process and reviewing the effectiveness of these on a regular basis

The Late Pick Up of a Child, Young Person or Adult at Risk

If attempts to contact the parent and nominated emergency contact fail, then the supervising adult should wait with the child, young person or adult at risk with other staff, volunteers or other parents wherever possible.

Staff, paid and unpaid, should avoid:

- taking the child, young person or adult at risk home or to another location
- waiting alone with the child, young person or adult at risk in a vehicle or at the venue
- sending the child, young person or adult at risk home with another person, without parental consent
- leaving the child, young person or adult at risk alone.

If all attempts to make contact fail, it may be advisable to contact the local police for advice.

Child, Young Person or Adult goes Missing

If a child, young person or adult at risk goes missing from the group or organisation it should be reported to the police. Use 999 where there is a concern that they cannot be found or are vulnerable.

A missing person may be assessed as 'at risk' if they fit one or more of the following categories.

- is under 16
- has expressed feelings of suicide
- has dementia
- has been acting totally out of character
- has mental health issues
- is under increased stress
- has an illness or a physical disability
- has a learning disability
- is in need of regular medication/care

The Centre Lead or Centre Deputy Lead for Safeguarding should be informed as soon as possible and all details and actions recorded, dated, timed and signed.

First Aid

Our First Aiders have completed specific training as set out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). They hold valid and up to date certificates of competence issued by an organisation whose training and qualifications are approved by the HSE.

The duties of a First Aider are:

- to give immediate first aid to children, young people, adults at risk, staff or visitors when needed
- to ensure that an ambulance or other professional medical help is called when necessary

Our organisation undertakes to ensure there is always a trained First Aider on site at our Centers.

We also provide training and guidance on dealing with hazardous materials such as blood, other bodily fluids and chemicals. We ensure sufficient equipment is available to deal with accidents or spillage.

All incidents will be reported and recorded in the First Aid and Incident Accident Books

Buildings and Venues

Safeguarding risk assessments will be carried out on all buildings.

The safeguarding risk assessment should cover:

- access especially how people enter and leave the building and at what time of day/night
- use of keys
- toilets and changing rooms
- any outside camping space
- car parks
- any other relevant issues

Ethical fundraising

We are committed to our fundraising being:

- **Legal:** All fundraising must meet the requirements of the law.
- **Open:** Fundraisers must be open with the public about their processes and must be willing to explain (where appropriate) if they are asked for more information.
- **Honest:** Fundraisers must act with integrity and must not mislead the public about the cause they are fundraising for or the way a donation will be used.
- **Respectful:** Fundraisers must demonstrate respect whenever they have contact with any member of the public.

SAFEcic Recommendations

In order to attain the highest standards of safeguarding practice, everybody needs to be vigilant in adhering to this policy and also assessing the risks of their own work and activities. These risk assessments will be carried out annually by the Centre Lead and/or Deputy Lead Person. However, it is the responsibility of everyone to draw attention to practices and procedures that they are unhappy or uncomfortable with.

It is only through adopting SAFEcic policies and practices that we can all be confident we have done everything we can to safeguard the children, young people and adults at risk in our care.

Policy Date

This policy was agreed and disseminated electronically on **November 19th 2022** by Board of Trustees unanimously and will be reviewed every two years or when there are substantial organisational changes.

Policy Review Date: by end of November 2023

then every two years thereafter

Signed: _____

Clare Gough Chair of Trustees and Directors

