



## **The NEW Distington Big Local**

### **Safeguarding Policy**

This policy applies to all employees, including Board and group members, paid staff, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Distington Big Local.

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive Distington Big Local's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding

#### **What is safeguarding:**

Safeguarding protects people's health, wellbeing and human rights. It enables people to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

The purpose of our policy is to:

- Protect children, young people and adults at risk who participate in the activities and services that we provide. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- Provide staff and volunteers with the principles and good practice guidelines to enable them to meet their safeguarding responsibilities. Distington Big Local believes that a child, young person or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and Adults at Risk and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

We will seek to keep children, young people and Adults at Risk safe by ensuring we:-

- Provide a safe environment for children, young people and adults at risk to take part in any activity or access any service organised by Distington Big Local

- Support children, young people and adults at risk to be aware of their own safety and to keep themselves safe
- Promote an environment where children, young people and adults at risk feel secure, are enabled to talk and are listened to
- Make decisions based on the needs of children, young people and adults at risk;
- have clear safeguarding policies and procedures which are in line with the Local Safeguarding Partnership and Adult Safeguarding Board in the areas in which we operate
- Promote a culture of transparency where all staff feel able to challenge and raise concerns about Safeguarding, poor or unsafe practice, and address these concerns sensitively and effectively
- Ensure all members of staff receive safeguarding training appropriate to their roles;
- Understand our duty of care to children, young people and adults at risk and staff who undertake our activities
- Ensure that children, young people and adults at risk are kept safe when we work in partnership with other agencies
- Carry out an annual review of the Safeguarding Policy and procedures, and make changes as soon as possible if any gaps are identified
- Reflect on safeguarding concerns and cases to ensure that lessons are learned and applied to practice
- Make the policy and procedures available to children, young people, adults at risk and their parents or carers on request

We have a responsibility to keep people safe from harm and respond to any concerns, disclosures or allegations of abuse. For this to work we involve all of our staff team.

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#### Definitions:

- Children and young people, legally defined as any person under the age of 18
- Vulnerable adults defined, for the purpose of this policy, as anyone over the age of 18 who, because of a disability or illness may be in need of community care services and who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989

- All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children and vulnerable adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs and other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s and vulnerable adults welfare.

We aim to keep children and vulnerable adults safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child and vulnerable adult protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all checks are made
- Sharing information about child and vulnerable adult protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents, carers and children appropriately

**Documents:-**

See separate guidance for employees, board members and volunteers.

**Review**

This policy and guidance will be reviewed whenever there is a change in the related legislation or when an incident occurs. This will help us to ensure that these documents are up to date and fit for purpose.

Signed .....

Name .....

Date .....

**To report a Safeguarding concern contact DBL Safeguarding Officer: Christine Pattinson**