

Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People



Aims

Our mission is to provide support and information for anyone affected by cancer, offering practical ways of enhancing emotional, psychological and physical well-being.

People affected by cancer will potentially, by the very nature of the illness, fall within the scope of vulnerability as cancer has the potential to impact the mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of the individual.

The Mulberry Centre (the Centre) will not tolerate the abuse of children or young people in any of its forms and is committed to safeguarding children and young people with care and support needs from harm.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive services from harm
- This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of The Mulberry Centre including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, paid contractors and volunteers.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/voluntary-community-groups>

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children and young people is paramount in any work that we do, and in any decisions that we take, which relate to children and young people
- all children and young people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/for-organisations]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and young people and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and

volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance

- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Who do I go to if I am concerned?

The child protection lead for children and young people for the Centre is Raj Athwal, the Executive Director and the deputy child protection lead is Julie Quinn, Mulberry Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Services Manager. All staff and volunteers should contact Raj Athwal or Julie Quinn for any concerns/queries they have in regard to safeguarding children and young people. A log of the concern must be kept. The responsible person for safeguarding children or young people will be responsible to make decisions about notifying adult social services if required and consider alternative actions, where necessary. The responsible person for safeguarding children and young people will also ensure that the safeguarding children and young people policies and procedures are in place and up to date. They will ensure a safe environment is promoted for staff and volunteers and children and young people accessing the service. The responsible person for safeguarding children and young people will ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding children and young people training.

Contact details

Child Protection Lead

Name: Raj Athwal

Email: raj.athwal@themulberrycentre.co.uk

Deputy Child Protection Lead

Name: Julie Quinn

Email: julie.quinn@themulberrycentre.co.uk

Trustee responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection

Name: Grace Gibbs

Email: gracegm.gibbs@hotmail.co.uk

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

This policy statement came into force on 6 August 2020

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy statement and accompanying procedures were last reviewed on 12 September 2023

Signed:
(Chair of trustees)

Date: 23/5/24



In partnership with

