



Safeguarding in Northumberland

Safeguarding and Protecting the Children and Adults at risk we support

All children and adults at risk have a right to protection and freedom from abuse or exploitation regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage or racial culture, religious belief, sexual orientation, economic status or otherwise. Safeguarding should be a key governance priority for all voluntary and community groups

What your organisation should have in place

- A tailored policy for safeguarding and protecting Children and Adults at Risk which is proportionate and relevant to your organisations activities which has been agreed by the trustees. This policy must be reviewed regularly and staff, trustees and volunteers must be trained on its content.
- A tailored up to date procedure for reporting concerns and disclosures that everyone knows about and feels confident in applying including people who come into contact with your organisation.
- Take a common sense approach to safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk – prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk who come into contact with your organisation, staff and/or volunteers
- Inform all people in your organisation your mandatory policies and processes and a code of conduct that keeps Children and Adults at Risk safe.

What your Safeguarding and Protection policy and procedures should include:-

- A statement outlining your organisation's commitment to safeguarding and protecting Children and Adults at risk
- Specific safeguarding and protection risk areas for your organisation and how you address them
- Who is responsible for safeguarding and protection
- How to report concerns and disclosures
- What happens if someone does not uphold your policy and procedures
- How you protect whistle-blowers or others who raise a concern about your organisation
- How often the policy and procedures will be reviewed and kept up to date

- Links to your related policies and processes
- As part of your policy you will have a Code of Conduct for people in your organisation that includes your expectations of their interactions with any Children and Adults at Risk supported by your organisation, reporting all concerns and disclosure and promoting the safety and welfare of Children and Adults at Risk at all times.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults – how to report concerns

Remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and your actions can make a big difference. We have to remain vigilant to safeguard vulnerable people. We have a statutory duty to protect adults and children at risk of harm and/or abuse/neglect.

- Raise the concern with your designated safeguarding lead
- Keep a record of what your concern is about
- Be sure to record dates, times and concerns

Emergency: If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the police or call an ambulance on 999.

If you think someone that you know has been the victim of abuse then please tell someone: Phone **Onecall: 01670 536400** open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day

To report a concern about a vulnerable adult:

Phone **Onecall: 01670 536400**

Text phone: 01670 536844

Email: onecall@northumbria.nhs.uk

Links to Safeguarding resources

In 2019 NCVO and partners updated the safeguarding guidance they offer on Knowhow to include a wide range of resources: <https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/safeguarding/>

DCMS has launched a new digital tool to help charities handling safeguarding incidents and allegations. The tool provides a step by step guide to help charities correctly manage an incident, identify the right people to contact if needed and access helpful resources and advice: <https://safeguarding.culture.gov.uk/>