

## **POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

We are a Young Person's Legal Centre. Our responsibility is to identify where a child or young person under 18 is a child in need or vulnerable adult is at significant risk of harm and to offer an appropriate response in accordance with this policy.

**Purpose of the policy statement is to minimise risk of harm or injury to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

### **Principles:**

To ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected and kept safe from harm or injury while they are with staff, volunteers or Trustee members of this organisation.

To ensure so far as reasonably possible that the other services which they access on our referral or recommendation are appropriate services for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

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 Youth Legal including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, 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 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 and vulnerable adults 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](http://ico.org.uk/for-organisations)]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children 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 and anti-racist 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.

**In order to achieve this we allocate Responsibilities to lead members of Staff and Management AND SET OUT BELOW IS THE PROCEDURE TO MAKE SAFEGUARDING REPORTS**

**If a child is in immediate danger of harm, the relevant member of staff must call emergency services in the first instance.**

Otherwise, the first person you should be the **DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (DSO), Maureen Vincent, direct line number 020 4553 2312** or mobile number 07598 136753, **who is the Senior Solicitor** who has the day-to-day responsibility for ensuring the policies for the protection of Children are observed. In his/her absence the responsibility falls to the Director on 020 4553 2315 or in their absence the Board of Trustees Dedicated Safeguarding Lead.

Youth Legal has an appointed **Georgian Ukaigwe**, mobile number 07507629901, Trustee as the **DEDICATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)** with responsibility for keeping under review with staff, the policies and effectiveness of the arrangements for the protection of children and reporting on those matters to the Board of Trustees. She should be contacted if the complaint involves the DSO.

In circumstances where the staff member or volunteer is unable to contact the Safeguarding Officer or Lead, or a service user does not want to contact them and it is considered that the child is at immediate risk of serious harm, the staff member, volunteer or service user should contact any of the following agencies for advice.

<b>Wandsworth Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</b>	<b>020 8871 6622</b>
<b>Social Services Out of Hours Team (Wandsworth):</b>	<b>020 8871 6000</b>
<b>Wandsworth Police Station:</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>The Police</b>	<b>999</b>
<b>Advice can also be sought from NSPCC</b>	<b>0808 800 500</b>