



Policy Name	Safeguarding Children
Author and Title	Updated by Carolyn Best, Governance Team Reviewed by Patsy Hallmsey, Safeguarding Lead Rhian Wootten, Nominated safeguarding officer and Grahame Best DCF Designated Safeguarding Officer.
Ratified by	DCF Safeguarding Team Trustees - Alex Deutsch, Amy Collins, Avril Jackson, Dan McEvoy and Fran Hunt
Date Ratified	19 March 25
Next Review Due	Annual review required (Government guidance 2017)

Related Policies and Documents	Health and safety Disciplinary and grievance procedures Compliments and complaints Data protection Code of Conducts for Staff/Volunteers/Mascots Confidentiality Equality and Diversity
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Note: The electronic version of this policy will always supersede any printed version.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS

DCF Safeguarding contact number	07565 335614
DCF Safeguarding email address	Safeguarding@thedcf.org

If you believe a child is at risk of significant harm, you should also contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a priority.

MASH First Response Team contact number	01202 123 334
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(Children)	
Out of Hours Team (Children)	01202 738 256
MASH First Response Team email (Children)	childrensfirstresponse@bcpcouncil.gov.uk Children's First Response MASH - BCP Council

MASH First Response Team contact number (Vulnerable Adults)	01202 123 654 Textphone 07747 757570
Out of Hours Team (Vulnerable Adults)	0300 123 9895
MASH First Response Team email (Vulnerable Adults)	asc.contactcentre@bcpcouncil.gov.uk Adult Social Care Contact Centre - BCP Council

For concerns about an immediate risk or harm to a child or young person ring the Police on 999

1. Introduction

Safeguarding children means to:

- protect children from abuse and maltreatment
- prevent harm to children's health or development
- ensure children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- take action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes (HM Government 2017)

The Dorset Children's Foundation (DCF) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care or uses the services and activities the DCF provides and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and families.

A child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday (Childrens Act 1989). Children and their parents/carers need to feel sure that the people in charge of the activities and services provided to them by the DCF are trustworthy, responsible and trained appropriately and will do everything they can to keep the child or young person from harm (including abuse, injury neglect and privacy).

The purpose of this policy is to set out how the DCF will:

- Keep children safe and how it will respond to any child protection concerns reported to any individual who works for or with the Charity.
- Educate staff and volunteers who interact with our children and families to ensure they are aware their safeguarding responsibilities and how to report any concerns they have during the course of their work.

2. The DCF believes that:

It has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, keeping them safe whilst accessing our services and to practise in a way that protects children and young people.

3. The DCF recognises that:

- a. The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we make.
- b. All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, culture, language, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- c. Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- d. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

4. Definition of safeguarding children

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- a. Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- b. Protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- c. Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- d. Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- e. Promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, family network or through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
- f. Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework. (HM Government 2023)

5. Definitions of Types of Harm

Physical Abuse	Physical abuse in children refers to non-accidental physical harm or risk of serious physical harm to a child by an adult. It can be intentional or the unintended result of physical punishment or excessive discipline. Physical abuse includes acts such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse can result in injuries such as red marks, cuts, welts, bruises, muscle sprains, or broken bones (NSPCC 2024) Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of illness in a child. In pregnancy an unborn child can be harmed by domestic violence (PDSCP).
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Emotional/ Psychological Abuse:	Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate or ignore a child. Emotional abuse includes: • Humiliating or constantly criticising a child • Threatening, shouting at a child or calling them names • Making the child the subject of jokes, or using sarcasm to hurt a child • Blaming and scapegoating • Making a child perform degrading acts • Not recognising a child's own individuality or trying to control their lives • Pushing a child too hard or not recognising their limitations • Exposing a child to upsetting events or situations, like domestic abuse or drug taking • Failing to promote a child's social development • Not allowing them to have friends • Persistently ignoring them • Being absent • Manipulating a child • Never saying anything kind, expressing positive feelings or congratulating a child on successes • Never showing any emotions in interactions with a child, also known as emotional neglect (NSPCC 2025)
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Neglect	Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs whether physical or psychological and is likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development. It's dangerous and children can suffer serious and long-term harm. Neglect is when a parent or carer fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment), medical care, or protection from physical and emotional harm or danger. It also includes failure to ensure access to education or to look after a child because the carer is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In pregnancy neglect may occur as a result of misusing alcohol or drugs (PDSCP).
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Sexual Abuse	A child or young person is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This may involve physical contact including penetrative sex, oral sex, masturbation, kissing, rubbing, or touching outside of clothing, or it may involve non-contact activities such as involving children in watching sexual activities, producing or looking at sexual images, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse and it can happen online. Abusers can be men, women or other children.
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	Sexual abuse also comes in many forms including Sexual Exploitation and FGM (PDSCP).
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Child Sexual Exploitation	Child Sexual Exploitation is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. This illegal activity is done by people who have power over young people and use it to sexually abuse them. This may involve a broad range of exploitative activity, from seemingly 'consensual' relationships and informal exchanges of sex for attention, accommodation, gifts or cigarettes, through to very serious organised crime. Both girls and boys are at risk of sexual exploitation, and it is seriously harmful to children both emotionally and physically. Children and young people often find it very hard to understand or accept that they are being abused through sexual exploitation, and this increases their risk of being exposed to violent assault and life-threatening events by those who abuse them (PDSCP)
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Female Genital Mutilation	FGM is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for nonmedical reasons. It is also known as female Genital Cutting, Female Circumcision and 'Sunna'. It is a form of child abuse and is illegal in the UK (PDSCP).
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Forced Marriage	A forced marriage is where one or both people do not consent to the marriage and pressure, or abuse is used (PDSCP).
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Child trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery	Is a type of abuse where children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. Modern day slavery is not an issue from history or confined to certain countries. It is a global problem including the UK and is still happening today (PDSCP).
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Grooming	Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them. Children and young people who are groomed can be sexually abused, exploited or trafficked. Anybody can be a groomer, no matter their age, gender or race. Grooming can take place over a short or long period of time – from weeks to years. Groomers may also build a relationship with the young person's family or friends to make them seem trustworthy or authoritative. Children and young people can be groomed online, in person or both – by a stranger or someone they know. This could be a family member, a friend or
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	someone who has targeted them – like a teacher, faith group leader or sports coach. When a child is groomed online, groomers may hide who they are by sending photos or videos of other people, maybe someone younger than them to gain the trust of a "peer". They might target one child online or contact lots of children very quickly and wait for them to respond. The relationship a groomer builds can take different forms: • a romantic relationship • a mentor • an authority figure • a dominant and persistent figure, and may be formed across social media networks, text messages and messaging apps, like Whatsapp, email, text, voice and video chats in forums, games and apps. Whether online or in person, groomers can use tactics like: • pretending to be younger • giving advice or showing understanding • buying gifts • giving attention • taking them on trips, outings or holidays. Groomers may try to isolate children from friends and family, making them feel dependent on them and giving the groomer power and control over them. They might use blackmail to make a child feel guilt and shame or introduce the idea of 'secrets' to control, frighten and intimidate. It's important to remember that children and young people may not understand they've been groomed. They may have complicated feelings, like loyalty, admiration, love, as well as fear, distress and confusion (NSPCC 2025)
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Radicalisation	Is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces. NSPCC (2024a) Radicalisation can be difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include: • isolating themselves from family and friends • talking as if from a scripted speech • unwillingness or inability to discuss their views • a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others • increased levels of anger • increased secretiveness, especially around internet use. Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem or be victims of bullying or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be
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	part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family. (However, be aware that these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong.) (NSPCC 2025b)
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Harmful Sexual Behaviour	Under UK Law a person under 18 is considered a child. The age of sexual consent in the UK is 16. However, if they are under 16 a child cannot give consent to have sex with any boy or girl under 16 whether or not both people have given their consent. (Section 9-13 Sexual Offences Act 2003) Some children and young adults with mental health issues who are considered vulnerable may never be able to give consent to sex (Section 8 Sexual Offences Act 2003). If someone is drunk, drugged, unconscious, or has been threatened or bullied then they cannot consent to sexual contact or activity, and sex without consent is rape. Sexual consent is something that has to be 'got' (received) as well as 'given'. A child needs to understand that consent is not just about saying 'yes' or 'no'. Many of the signs that a person is uncomfortable with something are non-verbal and it is important that teenagers look out for these signs. This may include: - someone turning away from you - looking frightened or nervous - tensing up and pushing you away Many young people are unclear that consent is something that needs to be sought and given even in an intimate relationship. It is very important that teenagers/young adults understand that both people in a sexual relationship must agree to it and can change their mind and withdraw at any time if they want to stop. Children and young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour harm themselves and others (PDSCP).
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Bullying	Bullying is intentional behaviour that hurts someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally (NSPCC 2025c). It could include: – physical bullying: hitting, slapping or pushing someone – verbal bullying: name calling, gossiping or threatening someone – non-verbal abuse: hand signs or text messages – emotional abuse: threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone – exclusion: ignoring or isolating someone
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	– undermining, constant criticism or spreading rumours – controlling or manipulating someone – making silent, hoax or abusive calls The following types of bullying are also hate crime: – racial, sexual, transphobic or homophobic bullying – bullying someone because they have a disability
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Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online. Unlike bullying offline, online bullying can follow the child wherever they go, via social networks, gaming and mobile phone. Cyberbullying can include: – Sending threatening or abusive text messages – Creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos – Trolling – the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games – Excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups – Shaming someone online – Setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child – Encouraging young people to self-harm – Voting for or against someone in an abusive poll – Creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name – Sending explicit messages, also known as sexting – Pressuring children into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual conversations (NSPCC 2025c)
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Criminal Exploitation and County Lines	“County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs across the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.” While county lines victims are not limited to under 18 year olds, where a child is exploited, it is often described as child criminal exploitation. Child criminal exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can occur through using technology.” Criminal exploitation of children is broader than just county lines and includes, for example, children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft. However,
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	many of the characteristics of county lines exploitation will be present in other forms of child criminal exploitation. Likewise, victims of county lines may also experience other overlapping forms of exploitation, such as sexual, in addition to criminal. (HM Government 2023)
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6. Safeguarding Duties and Responsibilities of individuals working within the DCF

6a. The Charity:

The DCF has a responsibility to handle any incident or allegation of abuse:

- In a secure and responsible way
- By following its safeguarding policies and procedures
- Quickly, ensuring any further harm or damage is minimised or stopped.
- By reporting it to all relevant agencies and regulators in full
- Plan what to say to those involved with your charity and the media (only if appropriate and necessary)
- Openly so that the charity's reputation for acting with integrity is maintained
- By reviewing what happened to understand how to stop it from happening again (HM Government 2017).
- The DCF has a responsibility to inform organisations we work with and children and young people, their parents and carers as appropriate, of its duty to follow up any safeguarding concerns and report suspected cases of harm when disclosed or observed.

6b All staff and volunteers:

- May have direct contact with children and young people at some point, and could, therefore, be:
 - a danger to them
 - may become directly aware of concerns.
- Must take responsibility for safeguarding children and young people together as they can only be protected effectively when all the relevant agencies and individuals accept responsibility and co-operate with one another.
- Should work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way.
- Must not knowingly put any child in harm's way.
- Are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions.
- Must not use inappropriate language or behaviour.
- Volunteers must report anything suspicious to paid members of staff who will then forward the information to the Nominated Safeguarding Officer.
- Allegations of abuse against a worker/volunteer or trustee, however minor, must be reported to the Nominated Safeguarding Officer.
- No DCF member of staff or volunteer or trustee will spend time alone with a child or adult at risk without alerting others to the reason, in the first instance their manager or co-workers or where appropriate a Trustee or Co-Founder.
- Have a responsibility to familiarise themselves with this policy and their duties and responsibilities within it.
- Should speak with the Nominated Safeguarding Officer or Safeguarding Trustees if they have safeguarding concern or want to complain about a lack of action on a safeguarding concern.

Specific responsibilities

6c Trustees:

- Have the ultimate responsibility to ensure DCF complies with their legal duties to ensure the safety of children and young people who use the DCF services.
 - It is the role of the lead safeguarding trustee to oversee, champion, and challenge the work of the DCF in relation to safeguarding.
 - Every Trustee should have a clear oversight of how safeguarding and protecting people from harm are managed within their charity.
 - Must ensure the DCF has a designated, appropriately trained and informed individual to be the Nominated Safeguarding Officer.
 - Trustees are expected to report safeguarding matters to the relevant agencies (such as the police, social services or Ofsted) and for putting matters right if things go wrong (HM Government 2017)
 - Trustees should promote an open and positive culture and ensure all involved feel able to report concerns, confident that they will be heard and responded to.
 - All trustees must ensure their charity:
 - Has appropriate policies and procedures in place, which are followed by all trustees, volunteers and beneficiaries.
 - Checks that people are suitable to act in their roles
 - Knows how to spot and handle concerns in a full and open manner
 - Has a clear system of referring or reporting to relevant agencies as soon as concerns are suspected or identified.
 - Sets out identified risks and how they will be managed in a risk register which is regularly reviewed.
 - Follows safeguarding statutory guidance, good practice guidance and legislation relevant to the charity.
 - Does not ignore harm or downplays failures
 - Has a balanced trustee board and does not let one trustee dominate its work – trustees should work together
 - Makes sure protecting people from harm is central to its culture
 - Has enough resources, including trained staff/volunteers/trustees for safeguarding and protecting people
 - Conducts periodic reviews of safeguarding policies, procedures and practice
- (HM Government 2017)

6d. Director of Operations

- Ensure that any organisation the DCF contracts to, or partners with to deliver services to children or young people have undergone appropriate safeguarding checks.
- Provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know the reporting structure and their role in safeguarding children using DCF services.

- Ensure appropriate training is provided to those staff working with children and young people.

6e. The Safeguarding Team:

- The Safeguarding Team are the conscience for safeguarding in the DCF and oversee safeguarding issues ensuring that the DCF complies with legal, professional, and Charity Commission requirements of good practice.
- Will support practice improvement across the Charity and liaise with the Lead Safeguarding Trustee as required.
- Will ensure safeguarding policies, procedures and training is in place that confirms to current legislation.
- Are responsible for supporting good safeguarding practice and providing professional expertise relating to safeguarding issues, where required.
- Provide 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.
- Provide appropriate training to those staff working with children and young people
- Flag concerns and gaps in safeguarding policy and practice throughout The Charity.
- Work closely with Board of Trustees to address and safeguarding issues.

6f. The Governance Team

- Ensure any policy or procedure relating to safeguarding is updated in a timely manner after being fully reviewed by the safeguarding team.
- To monitor dissemination of the policy ensuring it has been made available to all staff and volunteers and there is a record of all individuals who have read the document.

7. Code of conduct

If you have staff or volunteers, you should have a clear code of conduct which sets out:

- your charity's culture and values
- how people in your charity should behave (HM Government 2017)

8. Safer Recruitment

When undertaking pre-selection checks for all staff and volunteers, the following steps must be completed:

- a. All volunteers and staff must complete an application form.
- b. Application forms should be fully completed before an interview is conducted.
- c. Any gaps in an application form must be discussed at interview.
- d. At least two references should be taken up, including at least one regarding previous work with children if applicable, and one from a professional that is unrelated to the applicant
- e. Two forms of identity must be provided at or following interview but before commencing a role at the DCF.
- f. Where appropriate, DCF staff/volunteers will complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application, [Disclosure and Barring Service - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service) or a check will be made against the Update Service if they are working specifically with children or young people.

- g. If the staff/volunteer is likely to be unsupervised at any time we will apply for an Enhanced Disclosure.
- h. All staff positions are subject to a probationary period depending on contract length.
- i. The DCF reserves the right to refuse employment to, or terminate any person's employment, if we consider they may pose a risk to young people.

9. How to Report an Incident or case of Suspected Harm (see Appendix 1)

The priority for all those working for DCF (trustees, staff, volunteers, contractors, etc.) should be to ensure the safety and protection of any child or young person using DCF's services.

10. Changes in Work Location or Activity

If you change the way you work, such as working in a new area or in a different way, you should:

- Review your current policies and make sure they are suitable
- Consider whether any extra policies are needed to cover any new situations or risks
- Record these discussions and decisions as part of your risk management procedures (HM Government 2017)

11. Using Social Media

The DCF must:

- Have a social media policy in place that is appropriate and proportionate for the charity's needs and is clear to everyone at the charity using social media
- Ensure the social media policy is regularly reviewed to check it is working effectively and fits your charity's needs
- Ensure social media use helps achieve the DCF's purpose in a way that is in the DCF'S best interests
- Comply with relevant laws
- Ensure any campaigning undertaken on social media complies with the rules on political activity and campaigning

12. Terrorism and the Prevent duty

All charities must prevent abuse for extremist purposes and ensure their staff have received training (HM Government 2017)

Appendix 1

REPORTING A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN – For staff

If you have concerns about a child or young person's welfare and they have disclosed information you should:

1. Stay calm, treat them seriously, offer them support and listen to them but not press for more details. Don't ask leading questions, use **TED** ('tell me...', 'explain to me...', 'describe'...)
2. Explain that you cannot guarantee confidentiality and that you have a duty to report to a member of the DCF safeguarding team.
3. Write down what they tell you using their own words **as soon as possible**.
4. Keep any evidence safe, e.g., photographs of injuries.
5. If you believe the child or young person at risk is in immediate danger or a crime has been committed, call the police and/or an ambulance on 999.
6. Do not attempt to discuss any of the information you receive with the person alleged to have caused the harm.
7. Do not disclose the source of your information or discuss any of the information you have gained with anyone other than those in the safeguarding team.
8. Report the incident / information **as soon as possible** to the Nominated Safeguarding Officer or Chair of Trustees, if the safeguarding officer is unavailable or the allegation concerns them directly. The report must be within the same working day.
9. If neither is available contact one of the Founders who will contact the appropriate person on your behalf or assist you in making an appropriate decision until the safeguarding team can be contacted.
10. Record your own concerns/observations using as much information as possible such as what was said, what was observed, when, where and who else was there, date, time and place of disclosure/concerns.
11. Hand all information and evidence over to the Nominated Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours of disclosure or concern raised. The incident will then be managed by the safeguarding team.
12. The MASH team at BCP may also need to be contacted (contact numbers listed in **IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING CONTACT NUMBERS** at the beginning of this document.

For Trustees and Co-Founders

1. Handle and record it in a secure and responsible way
2. Follow your protecting people and safeguarding policies and procedures
3. Act quickly, ensuring you stop or minimise any further harm or damage
4. Report it to all relevant agencies and regulators when required
5. Plan what to say to those involved with your charity and the media if appropriate
6. Be as open and transparent as possible, so that you build the charity's reputation for acting with integrity while protecting confidentiality appropriately
7. Review what happened to understand how to stop it from happening again
8. Consider whether the incident or concern involves criminal behaviour and whether you therefore need to report it to the police.

Appendix 2

Government Guidance for safeguarding standards/policies

HM Government guidance (2017) states that charities who work with children should have the following in place:

- Appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures that all trustees, staff and volunteers follow, which fit with the policies and procedures of your local authority safeguarding partnership or safeguarding children.
- All staff and volunteers receive regular training in child protection.
- A safeguarding lead to work with your local authority safeguarding partnerships or boards.
- Manage concerns, complaints, whistleblowing and allegations relating to child protection at risk effectively
- Have clear policies when DBS checks are required, how you assess the level of check needed and how you handle the information.

Other policies you need to have

- Suitable health and safety arrangements in place
- First aid, fire safety and digital safety policies that everyone understands
- Welfare, discipline and whistleblowing policies for staff if you have them
- a complaints process for users and others with concerns
- Bullying and harassment
- Whistleblowing

Standards

Your charity's policies and procedures for protecting people and safeguarding should be:

- Made available all trustees, staff, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries. They all need to know how to apply them.
- Put into practice
- Be responsive to change
- Reviewed as necessary, always following a serious incident and at least once a year
- Available to the public
- Compliant with all relevant legislation, noting this can vary depending on who you work with

(This will be included in this policy as a means of ensuring the DCF meets government standards).

References:

1. Childrens Act (1989) [Children Act 1989](#) (last accessed 19/2/25)
2. [HM Government \(2017\)](#) Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees What to do to protect people who come into contact with your charity through its work from abuse or mistreatment of any kind. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees#children-adults-at-risk> (Last accessed 24/2/2025)
3. HM Government (2023) The Children's Social Care Framework [Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 24/2/25)
4. HM Government (2023) Working together to Safeguard Children. A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#) (Last accessed 19/2/25)
5. HM Government (2023a) Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines [Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#) (24/2/2025)
6. NSPCC (2020) Definitions and signs of Child Abuse [Definitions and signs of child abuse](#) (Last accessed 19/2/25)
7. NSPCC (2024) [Protecting children from physical abuse | NSPCC Learning](#) (Last accessed 19/2/25)
8. NSPCC (2024a) Radicalisation - [Radicalisation and child protection | NSPCC Learning](#) (last accessed 24/2/25)
9. NSPCC (2025) [What Is Emotional Abuse & Things You Should Know | NSPCC](#) (Last accessed 19/2/25)
10. NSPCC (2025a) Grooming: What is it [Grooming: recognising the signs | NSPCC Learning](#) (Lat accessed 24/2/25)
11. NSPCC (2025b) Protecting Children from Radicalisation [Protecting children from radicalisation | NSPCC](#) (last accessed 24/2/25)
12. NSPCC (2025c) Bullying and Cyberbullying [Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](#) (Last accessed 24/2/25)
13. PDSCP Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership Abuse What is it? [Abuse, what is it? - BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (last accessed 19/02/25)
14. Sexual Offences Act (2003) Section 8 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/8> (last accessed 24/2/25)

15. Section 9 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/section/9> (last accessed 24/2/25)