

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

Purpose and Aims

The Merdale Organisation provides access to a range of high-quality services, offering choice and diversity for all people of all ages. It has an overarching commitment to keeping children, young and vulnerable people safe from neglect, abuse and exploitation whilst on the premises.

Objectives and Scope

The Organisation believes that children, young and vulnerable people have the right to protection from neglect, abuse and exploitation whilst on the premises when engaging in activities organised by the Organisation or third parties.

Context

This policy is informed by child protection legislation in England (Children Acts of 1989 & 2004 and Children and Social Work Act 2017) and NSPCC guidance issued in 2019.

Policy Statement

We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them. We will give equal priority to keeping all children and young or vulnerable people safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. We recognise that children from minority ethnic groups and disabled children may have additional needs or face barriers, for example with communication or the impact of discrimination.

We will fulfil our commitment to safeguarding by:

- Providing a safe physical environment by applying health and safety measures in accordance with legislation and regulatory guidance
- Valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people and service users
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead and a member of the trustee board who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding at the highest level in the Organisation
- Adopting and demonstrating best practice and detailed safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures
- Implementing effective complaints and whistleblowing measures
- Making sure all appropriately selected and vetted staff and volunteers understand and follow the safeguarding and child protection procedures; using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers
- Ensuring children, young people and their families know about the Organisation's safeguarding and child protection policies and where to go for help if they have a concern
- Building a safeguarding culture and anti-bullying environment where staff, volunteers, children, young people, their families and other service users treat each other with respect and feel comfortable about sharing concerns, including with agencies who need to know and in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately

Designated Safeguarding Officer for The Merdale Organisation

David Monk, Centre Manager, 1 High Street, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire, LN12 1ET. Tel: 01507 441481

Merdale Trustee with Lead Responsibility

Mrs Janet Chapman, Chairperson, 1 High Street, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire, LN12 1ET. Tel: 01507 441481

Further Support and Advice

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 or online at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline>

Childline: 0800 1111 or online at <https://www.childline.org.uk>

The Trustees will review this policy periodically and no later than three years from the date below.

Signed: (On behalf of the Meridale Organisation)

Name:

Position:

Date:

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APPENDIX 1

This policy statement should be read alongside the Meridale Organisation and Youth Club organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents. These include:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Online Safety and Internet Use Policy
- Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy for Staff and Volunteers
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Youth Club Complaints Policy
- Privacy and Data Protection Policy
- Equality and diversity policies.
- Personnel Policy: Recruitment, induction, training, supervision and support for Trustees, Staff and Volunteers
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Photography and Sharing Images Guidance
- Youth Club Behaviour Codes for Children and Young People
- Child Protection: Specific Procedures and Guidance
 - Role description for the Designated Safeguarding Officer
 - Dealing with allegations or disclosures made about a child or young person.
 - Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
 - Recording concerns and information sharing
 - Child protection records retention and storage