



Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children, young people and other beneficiaries of Leicestershire Cares' programmes, and to keep them safe from any harm. This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff or personnel associated with Leicestershire Cares
- The design and implementation of Leicestershire Cares' programmes and activities

This policy also aims to protect Leicestershire Cares staff and other associated personnel¹ from any harm that may be caused in the course of carrying out their roles.

The policy lays out the commitments made by Leicestershire Cares, and informs staff and associated personnel of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable young people and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Scope

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Leicestershire Cares, including paid staff and associated personnel, such as the board of trustees, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Policy Statement

Leicestershire Cares believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs, transgender identity or age, has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Leicestershire Cares will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel.

Leicestershire Cares commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

¹ See 'Scope' for definition of associated personnel

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 nspcc.org.uk/learning.

Leicestershire Cares' responsibilities

Leicestershire Cares has a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom we work.

Leicestershire Cares will:

- Value, listen to and respect the children, vulnerable young people and at risk adults with whom we work
- Appoint a designated safeguarding lead in our senior leadership team
- Adopt robust safeguarding practices through detailed procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers. This includes an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- Ensure all staff and associated personnel have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy and our safeguarding procedures
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying staff and associated personnel, including enhanced DBS checks for those working with children aged under 18
- Ensure staff and associated personnel receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organisation
- Assess and mitigate against any risks that its programmes and activities may present to participants, staff/associated personnel and members of the public
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with Leicestershire Cares. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated
- Ensure children, young people, at risk adults and their families know about the organisation's safeguarding policies and what to do if they have a concern
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns and cases of disclosure revealed by DBS checks promptly and according to due process.

Enabling reports

Leicestershire Cares is committed to ensuring that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to staff, volunteers, children, young people, parents/carers and wider agencies we work with.

Staff members who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to their Safeguarding Designated Lead or line manager. If the staff member does not feel comfortable reporting to their Safeguarding Designated Lead or line manager, they may report to any other appropriate staff member, such as a senior manager or a member of the HR Team. Staff members who raise complaints or concerns will be protected under Leicestershire Cares' whistleblowing policy.

Leicestershire Cares will share information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions to ensure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern. Leicestershire Cares will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- Safeguarding and child protection procedures
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Code of conduct for children and young people
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision and support

Contact details

Leicestershire Cares designated safeguarding lead:

Charlotte Robey-Turner

Head of Children and Young People

Charlottert@leicestershirecares.co.uk

0116 464 5215 / 07793 443 973

Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards:

<https://lrsb.org.uk/>

Local Social Services Duty Teams:

Leicester: 0116 454 1004

Leicestershire: 0116 305 0005

Rutland:

During office hours: [01572 758 407](tel:01572758407) or childrensreferrals@rutland.gov.uk

Outside of office hours: 0116 305 0005

Leicestershire Police: 0116 222 2222

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