



Child Protection Policy

Introduction

These procedures have been designed to ensure that the welfare and protection of any child and/or young person who accesses the services provided by PL24 Community Association. The procedures recognise that child protection can be a very difficult subject for volunteers to deal with to the extent that it is sometimes easier to close your eyes to what is happening or believe that it is somebody else's problem to deal with. PL24 Community Association is committed to the belief that protecting children and young people is everybody's responsibility and therefore the aim here is to provide guidelines that will enable all volunteers to act appropriately to any concerns that arise in respect of a child/young person.

Within the area of child protection, it is vital that all volunteers know what to do if they are concerned about a child. It is equally important that parents/carers and young people themselves are aware that the organisation takes the safety and welfare of children/young people into consideration in every activity that is undertaken.

Statement.

PL24 Community Association is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. *PL24 Community Association* acknowledges its duty to act appropriately and volunteers will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

In implementing this child protection policy *PL24 Community Association* will:

- Ensure that all volunteers understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation;
- Ensure that all volunteers understand their responsibility to work at all times towards maintaining high standards of practice;
- Ensure that all volunteers understand their duty to report concerns that arise about a child or young person, or a volunteer's conduct towards a child/young person, to the organisation's named person for child protection;
- Ensure that the named person understands his/her responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and/or Social Services);
- Ensure that any procedures relating to the conduct of volunteers are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner;
- Ensure that children and young people are enabled to express their ideas and views on a wide range of issues.
- Ensure that parents/carers are encouraged to be involved in the work of the organisation and, when requested, have access to all guidelines and procedures;
- Endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the welfare and protection of children and young people. And where necessary arrange for D B S checks to be carried out.

PL24 Community Association has a commitment to ensuring that all volunteers have a basic awareness of child abuse

PL24 Community Association has an appointed individual who is responsible for dealing with any child protection concerns. In their absence, a deputy will always be available for workers to consult with. The named persons for Child Protection within **PL24 Community Association** are:

Named Person for Child Protection: Gill Butler
Landline number: 01726 813442
Mobile number: 07969 378 052

Deputy 1
Name of contact person: Tony Nethercott
Landline number: 01726 814282
Mobile number: 07977276623

The role and responsibilities of the named person(s) are:

- To ensure that all volunteers are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they are concerned that a child/young person maybe subject to abuse.
- Ensure that any concerns about a child/young person are acted on, clearly recorded, referred on where necessary and, followed up to ensure the issues are addressed.
- The Named Person(s) will record any incidents in relation to a child/young person or breach of Child Protection procedures. This will be kept in a secure place and its contents will be confidential.

Stages to Follow if there are worries about a child

PL24 Community Association volunteers will:

- Initially talk to a child/young person about what you are observing. It is ok to ask questions, for example: "I've noticed that you don't appear yourself today, is everything okay? But never use leading questions
- Listen carefully to what the young person has to say and take it seriously;
- Never investigate or take sole responsibility for a situation where a Child/young person makes a disclosure;
- Always explain to children and young people that any information they have given will have to be shared with others;
- Notify the organisation's Named Person for Child Protection.
- Record what was said as soon as possible after any disclosure;
- Respect confidentiality and file documents securely.

Chairman's Signature: *Gill Butler*

Adopted on: 09/03/2011

Reviewed: April 2016

Vice Chair: Tony Nethercott