

Poole & District Children's Cancer Fund

Safeguarding Policy

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Aim

The Poole and District Children's Cancer fund (P.D.C.C.F.) is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of everything we do.

This means we will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults.
- work to prevent abuse from occurring.
- seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused.
- respond well to those that have been abused.
- take the necessary steps to mitigate any risk.

Purpose

This policy provides the safeguarding framework for all aspects of the P.D.C.C.F.'s charitable work. Its primary purpose is to provide a safe environment for all, but particularly for children and vulnerable adults.

It also aims to protect Trustees, volunteers and anyone involved in activities undertaken in the name of the P.D.C.C.F by ensuring that they are:

- fully aware of correct practice in relation to safeguarding matters.
- not placed and do not place themselves in vulnerable situations which might result in misunderstandings or allegations of abuse.

This policy is mandatory reading for all Trustees, volunteers and anyone involved in activities undertaken in the name of the P.D.C.C.F. as they must be aware of their individual and collective roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and protecting children and adults from abuse and neglect.

Definitions

Safeguarding Children

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18. Therefore, safeguarding children is about protecting all those under 18yrs of age from harm.

When safeguarding a child, you:

- Protect them from abuse, maltreatment, and exploitation.
- Prevent anything from harming their health or development.
- Ensure they can grow up under safe and effective care.
- Take action to ensure they have the best outcomes in life.

Part of the safeguarding process is identifying and protecting children suffering from, or likely to suffer from, significant harm.

All children are covered by child protection and safeguarding guidance and legislation.

Safeguarding Adults

A vulnerable adult, or adult at risk, is defined as a person who, for any reason, may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. Safeguarding vulnerable adults involves reducing or preventing the risk of significant harm from neglect or abuse, while also supporting people to maintain control of their own lives.

This does not only refer to adults who lack capacity. Adults with full capacity can still be considered vulnerable if they are unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from significant harm.

When safeguarding a vulnerable adult, you:

- Ensure they can live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- Empower them by encouraging them to make their own decisions and provide informed consent.
- Prevent the risk of abuse or neglect and stop it from occurring.
- Promote their well-being and take their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

General Principles

To ensure that procedures are followed to their utmost, the P.D.C.C.F is committed to following the principles set out below:

- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount.
- We will take all concerns and allegations of abuse seriously and respond swiftly and appropriately.
- We will ensure there are appropriate arrangements in place to provide a safe and secure environment and to deal with issues concerned with any reported abuse.
- We will ensure that the appropriate Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) or basic disclosure checks are conducted, depending on eligibility, for any individuals starting work for or on behalf of the P.D.C.C.F which involves working directly with children or vulnerable adults. A DBS or basic disclosure check is not required for trustees or others who are not working directly with children or vulnerable adults.
- We are committed to ensuring that the activities we provide are conducted safely and that the welfare of the trustees, volunteers, families, children, and vulnerable adults are protected from possible abuse.
- We recognise that where appropriate working in partnership with parents, guardians and children is essential for the protection of children.
- We will endeavour to respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children and vulnerable adults.

Trustees, volunteers, and anyone involved in activities undertaken in the name of the P.D.C.C.F. staff should have a basic awareness of safeguarding issues. This includes:

- Being alert to the possibility of abuse and neglect.
- Having enough knowledge to recognise an abusive or potentially abusive event or set of circumstances.
- Knowing who in the organisation to raise concerns with and how to do so.
- Being competent to take the appropriate immediate or emergency action.

If any trustee, volunteer, and anyone involved in activities undertaken in the name of the P.D.C.C.F. has any concerns about a child or a vulnerable adult, they must follow the procedure as outlined in the P.D.C.C.F complaints procedure, includes alerting the P.D.C.C.F Chair (safeguarding lead). If the Safeguarding lead agrees there are grounds for concern, they must take appropriate action to safeguard the child or vulnerable adult. This may include contacting the relevant local Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

If a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger the person who first becomes aware of the danger should dial 999 for the police.

The above may include concerns about a member of the P.D.C.C.F. charity, a suspicion that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected, or a suspicion that an activity is taking place that could place a person at risk.

If the concern relates to a member of the P.D.C.C.F, the charity P.D.C.C.F. chair should contact the local MASH for advice. In any situation where there is a suspicion of abuse, the welfare needs of the child or vulnerable adult must come first even where there may be a conflict of interest (e.g., where the suspected perpetrator may be a member of the P.D.C.C.F. charity).

What constitutes abuse?

Abuse is a deliberate act of ill-treatment that can harm or is likely to harm a person's safety, wellbeing, and development. Abuse can be physical, sexual, or emotional. Abuse may not, however, fall easily into these categories and trustees and volunteers are not expected to be experts in the field.

Neglect also constitutes abuse but can defined as failing to provide or secure a child or vulnerable adult with the basic needs required for physical safety and wellbeing.

The P.D.C.C.F recognises that a person's welfare is paramount and that all children and vulnerable adults - regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief and sexual orientation or identity - have the right to protection from all types of harm and abuse.

Categories of abuse

Children and vulnerable adults can experience abuse in several ways.

Forms of abuse that may affect children and vulnerable adults include:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Abuse (CSA – Child Sexual abuse)
- Neglect
- Online Abuse Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Bullying and Cyberbullying
- Child trafficking
- Grooming

- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Parental Substance Misuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Psychological
- Self-neglect
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse

These categories can overlap, and an abused child or adult often suffers more than one type of abuse.

Disabled children and young people are particularly vulnerable to abuse in any form. Safeguards for disabled children are essentially the same as for non-disabled children.

P.D.C.C.F. trustees and other volunteers must maintain high standards of practice remain vigilant to the possibility of a child being abused and minimise situations of risk.

All trustees and other volunteers must ensure that the children they work with know how to raise concerns and have access to interpreters/specialist workers and other aids to communication if required. Where there are concerns about the welfare of a disabled child, they should be acted upon in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy. The same thresholds for action apply. Where concerns are raised about a child who has communication difficulties, appropriate support, interpreting services and communication aids must be secured.

Access to further learning and how to spot the signs of abuse can be found at:

- www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse
- www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/information-for-professionals/dorset-safeguarding-adults-board
-
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole: www.bcpsafeguardingadultsboard.com

P.D.C.C.F Four Core Principles of Safeguarding

P.D.C.C.F trustees and other volunteers should ensure that they understand and work within the overarching safeguarding principles embedded across the P.D.C.C.F. charity.

- **Communication** - Effective information-sharing underpins joint working and is a vital element of work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults.
- **Training** – ensure everyone has access to training and information relevant to their role.
- **Support** – through charity trustees.
- **Culture** – creating a culture where safeguarding is on everyone's agenda.

Breaches of Policy

Failure to comply with the P.D.C.C.F safeguarding policy may be managed in several ways, depending on the nature and consequences of any incident. In some cases, a combination of responses may be required.

- Local authority co-ordinated safeguarding investigation.
- Police investigation.
- Referral to the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).
- Disciplinary process.
- Serious incident reporting to The Charity Commission.
- Internal review or co-operation with an external review.

Equality Statement

The P.D.C.C.F is committed to promoting and embracing diversity and equality of opportunity. Everyone who accesses our services or works as a Trustee, other volunteer or in any other capacity should be safe, empowered to play a part in promoting their own welfare and that of others and able to live a life free from abuse. This applies to all, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, or belief.

Related Policies and Procedures:

This policy should be read alongside our other charity policies and procedures, that demonstrate the embedding of safeguarding across the organisation.

Dr Martin Hussey
Chair, PCDDF on behalf of the trustees
January 2023