The **Wild** Ways

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Effective Date	01/08/2024
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Policy Description	Safeguarding children: Commitment to safety, protection and well-being
Author	TWW Lead / Data Integrity Consultant
Approved	CEO
Organisation	The WildWays Foundation

Overview

The WildWays Foundation is committed to protecting children and young people (CYP) from harm. This policy outlines the core principles that guide our approach to child protection, ensuring that staff, volunteers, CYP, and their families understand our shared responsibilities.

This policy applies to everyone representing our organisations, including the board of directors, paid staff, and volunteers.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy, and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available at nspcc.org.uk/childprotection.

Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, and guidance, specifically the *Guidance for Keeping Families Safe Policy.*

Our Beliefs

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.

- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, keeping them safe and practising in ways that protect them.

Our Recognition

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and decisions we make.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are more vulnerable due to previous experiences, level of dependency, communication needs, or other factors.
- Additional safeguards may be needed to keep particularly vulnerable children safe from abuse.

Vulnerable Children

According to NSPCC guidelines, some children are deemed vulnerable and require extra attention:

- Safeguarding children from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities.
- Safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children and young people.
- Safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people.
- Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

When a Child or Young Person Raises a Safeguarding Concern

If a child or young person shares a worry, disclosure, or concern, practitioners respond with calm, attentive, non-judgemental listening. We do not promise confidentiality; instead, we explain sensitively that we may need to share information with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if we are worried about their safety. Practitioners allow the child to speak in their own words, avoid leading questions, and do not ask them to repeat their account unnecessarily. We reassure them that they have done the right thing by telling someone. As soon as possible after the conversation, the practitioner records the concern factually and accurately, using the child's

own words where appropriate, and passes this to the DSL or Deputy DSL without delay. If a child is at immediate risk of harm, practitioners follow emergency procedures and contact the appropriate services.

If you're a child or young person and you need to talk to someone, you can visit Childline. https://www.childline.org.uk/

You can also visit the NSPCC website to learn more about staying safe and getting help. https://www.nspcc.org.uk/

Our Commitments

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people.
- Adopting best practices in child protection and safeguarding through our policies, procedures, and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training, and quality assurance measures.
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are completed.
- Recording, storing, and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance (see the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk).
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practices with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work, and one-to-one discussions.
- Ensuring that children, young people, and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies as needed.
- Managing any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately using our procedures.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and addressing any bullying that arises.

- Ensuring we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Providing a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff, volunteers, children, young people, and their families treat each other with respect and feel comfortable sharing concerns.

Safeguarding During Transportation

As part of our robust policies and procedures to protect children and young people, we ensure that all environments, including vehicles used for transport, are safe and legally compliant. If a Young Person Guide (YPG) or Associate uses their personal vehicle to deliver services that include transporting a Child or Young Person (CYP), it is a strict safeguarding requirement that they hold Business Insurance on their car insurance policy. To verify this protective measure is active, a copy of the certificate of insurance showing this specific cover must be forwarded to central administration upon appointment and resubmitted yearly upon the policy's renewal. This requirement is exclusively for those transporting a CYP and does not apply if the vehicle is used solely for travelling to and from the provision.

Report a Safeguarding Concern

If you have a safeguarding concern, please complete this form Report a Safeguarding Concern and contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): **Rosalind Walker**

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): **Kelly Swanson**

Email: **safe@thewildways.org.uk**

Mobile: **07736 774133**

All of our policies can be found on our **website**.