



Child Safeguarding Policy

Last review and update: September 2024

1.1 Context and Mission

At Lighthouse safeguarding is our top priority and a fundamental part of our culture. We are committed to creating environments where children and young people are safe and supported. This policy applies to all individuals under the age of 18. This policy is linked to our [Safeguarding Procedures](#) and [Safeguarding Code of Conduct](#) which aligns to our broader [vision](#).

Lighthouse is a charity that supports artists who use digital technology in their work and helps people find routes into and succeed within the creative & cultural industries. We offer education and talent development programmes, commission artists to make and present new work, and produce exhibitions, talks and residencies.

Our premises contain a public gallery, project spaces, rented workspaces and meeting rooms. Children visit the premises to attend exhibitions and events, and are usually accompanied by parents or carers. We also work with children through various projects and schemes, both on and off the premises.

Child Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing impairment to children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes

"As outlined in '[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)' legal document.

1.2 Policy Remit

- Lighthouse is committed to providing a safe and protected environment for children visiting the premises or participating in off-site projects and events.
- For the purpose of this policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18.
- Lighthouse believes that every child, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religious belief and sexual identity has the right to be protected from abuse and harm.
- Child safeguarding is the responsibility of every adult who has involvement with children. It is the duty of all staff and volunteers working for Lighthouse to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children with whom they come into contact through the course of their employment.
- Adults working with children must also be provided with safeguards and made aware of best practice so they can safeguard children while protecting themselves against wrongful allegations.
- This policy applies to all Lighthouse employees, trustees and volunteers
- This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children listed as follows:

Children's Act 1989, United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991, Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998, Sexual offences Act 2003, Children Act 2004, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Children and Families Act 2014, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice 0-25 yrs. – HM Government 2014, Information Sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people and parents and carers HM Government 2015, Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2015; revised 2018

1.3 Awareness and Prevention

- Lighthouse recognises there are four main types of abuse suffered by children. These are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.

- Lighthouse staff, trustees and volunteers should be made aware of the child safeguarding policy and procedures through training and induction.
- Through awareness and good practice, Lighthouse employees can minimise the risk of abuse to children and also protect themselves against false allegations of abuse.
- Lighthouse is committed to careful planning and appropriate management of its exhibitions, activities, projects and events, so that the risk of abuse or harm to children is minimised.

1.4 Recruitment

- Lighthouse staff and trustees are carefully selected, trained and monitored to ensure that children with whom they may come into contact are protected.
- If a Lighthouse member of staff or facilitator is required to have regular access to children or adults at risk they will be expected to complete a satisfactory DBS check
- Safeguarding Training: Artist mentors must complete safeguarding training before beginning mentorship roles. All team and trustees receive safeguarding training every 3 years.

1.5 Designated Safeguarding Lead

Lighthouse has a designated member of staff to act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the organisation.

- The DSL is: Emma Wickham, Head of Operations & Special Projects

The DSL is responsible for the following:

- To keep informed about legislation and policies, and to review and update company policy regularly
- To have regular training and to make sure that all staff and volunteers follow good practice guidelines.
- To be the main point of contact for staff and volunteers when reporting an incident, allegation, suspicion or concern.

- To decide what action is required after having an incident, allegation, suspicion or concern reported, and to make any necessary contact with social services or the police.
- To record reported incidents and to provide information to the CEO & TSL regarding the number, nature and outcomes of referrals made.

A second named Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) will also undertake regular training and will deputise for the DSL in their absence.

- The deputy DSO is: Alli Beddoes, CEO/Artistic Director

Lighthouse also has a Trustee Safeguarding Lead (TSL) for child safeguarding on its Board of Trustees.

- This person is: Michael Cole, Trustee

1.6 Supporting Documents

This policy statement should be read alongside Lighthouse's organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including:

- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policy and procedure](#)
- [Safeguarding Code of Conduct](#)
- [Whistleblowing policy](#)