West Didsbury Estate Community Group Child Protection Policy

[Our Safeguarding policy](#_g7yor7bnl9go)

[What is the general purpose of a safeguarding policy?](#_dez9y3pq7dqa)

[Who does this policy apply to?](#_42tbmh8qsau2)

[What are the purposes of our policy?](#_j6apf4qx9v37)

[Our duty of care](#_ldd8k6q8lmdq)

[How we safeguarding children and young people](#_n3ztcpsrymg)

[Forms of abuse to recognise](#_leghpw2ui6sx)

[Physical abuse](#_e223749sypt1)

[Emotional Abuse](#_2zi9erzd841e)

[Sexual abuse](#_8nhvohrzlto4)

[Neglect](#_m2qu0fzixnh)

[Bullying](#_fc1i13jvtyos)

[Domestic Abuse](#_o7o08anfpjfg)

[Procedures for referral](#_ehhx595347qz)

[Parental involvement](#_fh33at8n59th)

[How our records are kept](#_ch151gmpyxa1)

[Legal Framework](#_37fkb5p3ints)

[How often this policy is reviewed](#_gmhf2o857k8u)

# Our Safeguarding policy

### What is the general purpose of a safeguarding policy?

A safeguarding policy is there to ensure that those people who need to:

* Have the knowledge and awareness to understand various types of abuse and neglect,
* Understand what to look for and being able to identify the signs of abuse
* Know what steps to take if you suspect abuse,
* Know what to do if a child tells you they are being abused.

**Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility – if you are in any doubt about reporting a concern don’t think ‘What if I’m wrong?’ think** **‘What if I’m right?’**

### Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all committee members and any volunteers who take part in events or activities organised by West Didsbury Estate Community Group (WDECG).

### What are the purposes of our policy?

* To protect children and young people who take part in activities and events organised by the WDECG.
* To provide committee members and volunteers with knowledge of the principles that guide our approach to safeguarding child protection.

### Our duty of care

The WDECG acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. We believe that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We recognise that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. We aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

* have a positive and enjoyable experience while participating in events organised by the WDECG in a safe and environment.
* are protected from abuse whilst participating in any activities or events organised by the WDECG.

### How we safeguarding children and young people

We aim to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people by:

* Valuing children and young people and always listening to and respecting their concerns
* Adopting a code of conduct for staff and volunteers of the WDECG.
* Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring that DBS checks are carried out where appropriate.
* Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
* Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
* Providing effective management for committee members and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

As part of our safeguarding policy the WDECG will:

* promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
* ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
* ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
* prevent unsuitable individuals leading events and activities.

The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved in the WDECG. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in exclusion from the organisation.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy annually to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

### Forms of abuse to recognise

#### Physical abuse

When an adult deliberately hurts a child, such as hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning or suffocating.

#### Emotional Abuse

This includes, for example, when a child is being unfairly blamed for everything all the time; or told they are stupid and made to feel unhappy.

#### Sexual abuse

An example of sexual abuse would be where a child is forced to take part in sexual activities; or in taking rude photos.

#### Neglect

This is when a child is not being looked after properly; for example, not getting enough to eat, or being left alone in dangerous situations.

#### Bullying

Calling names, damaging property, stealing, spreading rumours, cyber bullying, hurting, getting people into trouble.

#### Domestic Abuse

When one adult in a family or relationship threatens, bullies or hurts another family member e.g. physically, psychologically, emotionally, sexually or financially.

### Procedures for referral

Any member of staff or volunteer who receives a disclosure of abuse or suspects that abuse may have occurred must report it immediately to the designated person for child protection - **Holly Jones**, or if they are unavailable to the deputy designated person - **Yasmin Brodie**. In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff. A report must be submitted detailing what was said or seen, putting the event into context, and giving the date, time and location. All records must be dated and signed.

If it is decided to report the situation, the designated person will contact the Manchester Contact Centre by telephone - **0161 234 5001** (open 24 hours a day, seven days a week), and also make a report.

Confidentiality must be maintained and information relating to individual children and young people/families shared with staff only on a strictly need to know basis.

### Parental involvement

* Parents/carers will be given information about the organisation’s child protection procedures.
* Where possible, concerns should be discussed with parents/carers and the designated person should seek agreement to making a referral, unless to do so would place the child/young person at increased risk of significant harm.

### How our records are kept

* All records will be stored in a secure location and remain confidential.
* Written records of concerns about children should be kept, even where there is no need to make a referral immediately. However records should not be kept for longer than necessary.
* It should be recorded whether the concern was followed up and reported or disregarded, with reasons given for each situation.

### Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn upon the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children:

* Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015
* What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused 2015
* Children 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

### How often this policy is reviewed

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

* changes in legislation and/or government guidance
* as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board,
* as a result of any other significant change or event.