

# Safeguarding Policy

**Preamble:** What Next is a registered charity, registration number 1196404, and is referred to as 'the Charity' in the following document.

## 1. Introduction and Purpose

This policy sets out how the Charity operates to keep adults at risk of abuse or neglect and children safe from abuse.

The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

We have a Duty of Care to our volunteers and service users. We are committed to the protection and safety of adults at risk and children whether they are Members, Volunteers, Supporters and / or participants in our projects / events / activities. We will protect and support the volunteers who work with us as well as users of our services.

All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. Children's legislation includes the Children's Act 1989 and 2004.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. For our safeguarding policy to be effective every volunteer, and staff member who supports us whatever their role, will play their part in keeping people safe.

## 2. Definitions

### Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 42.1 of the Care Act 2014:

- Has care and support needs;
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and / or,
- As a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service they may still be an adult at risk

### Children and Young people

For the purposes of this policy, children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all Trustees, Members, Volunteers and / or Contractors and will be used to support their work.

"Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children" is defined in Working Together 2018 as:

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

### 3. Persons affected by this policy

- All Trustees
- All Members
- All Volunteers
- All Service Users
- All Visitors and Contractors

### 4. Our Policy

Although the Charity does intend to run projects / activities / events specifically for adults at risk or children, we recognise that such individuals may take part / attend projects / activities / events if they are made available to the general public. In such cases, the Charity Members or Volunteers running the project / activity / event should endeavour to identify the adult / guardian responsible for the adult/s at risk or the children. This individual should then clearly communicate to the responsible adult / guardian that the Charity is not in a position to support the needs of adults at risk or children and they should supervise the the adults at risk or children concerned while attending the project / activity / event. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, we recognise that safeguarding issues may still arise and our policy is as follows:

- The Charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- There are no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk and children from abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment.
- The Charity recognises that under the Care Act 2014 it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- The welfare of the child and / or adult at risk is paramount and all adults have the right to protection from abuse.
- We are committed to working with appropriate agencies including Local Authority Safeguarding Teams or the Police to ensure the reporting of abuse is appropriate and in line with local, national and Charity Commission requirements and Information Sharing guidance.
- The Charity will create an environment where Trustees, Members and Volunteers feel able to raise safeguarding concerns and feel supported with their safeguarding responsibilities.
- All Trustees, Members and Volunteers are required to report any suspected abuse and be aware of the appropriate reporting and support procedure for safeguarding including the reporting of people at risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- All Trustees, Members and Volunteers must be clear on appropriate behaviour and responses and follow our agreed Code of Conduct.
- A Designated Lead for safeguarding at the Charity will be appointed.
- All Trustees, Members and Volunteers who come into contact with adults at risk of abuse, and children and their families as part of their Charity duties will be alert to possible signs of abuse and consider whether there may be safeguarding concerns. They will discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, to get appropriate support.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (see below) for the Charity will fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in a way that ensures that adults and children are safeguarded from harm. The Safeguarding Lead is responsible for following up and reporting any suspected reports of abuse.
- The Charity does not plan to run events / activities where its volunteers are required to take responsibility for young people or vulnerable adults.
- If young people or vulnerable adults attend an event / activity they must be accompanied by a guardian, carer or other responsible adult. If a young person or vulnerable adult is an attendance at an event / activity, the organisers should ensure that the responsible person is identified.
- The Trustees / Members will regularly review events / activities undertaken by the Charity to confirm that DBS checks are not required. However, if circumstances change, or are unclear, the Trustees / Members may recommend or require DBS checks for volunteers for specific events / activities.
- The Chair of the Charity will have leadership responsibility for the Charities safeguarding arrangements
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board or Trustees.

**Current Designated Safeguarding Lead: Rieks Drijver**

Contact Details for Designated Safeguarding Lead: [rieks.drijver@gmail.com](mailto:rieks.drijver@gmail.com)

Date Policy Adopted: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Date of Policy Review: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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