



The Headlight Project Safeguarding Policy Statement

The purpose and scope of this policy statement The Russ Devereux Headlight Project (thereafter referred to as The Headlight Project) works with children and families as part of its activities.

These include:

- providing appropriate emotional wellbeing support to children, families and professionals.
- one to one counselling and play therapy
- Group work and support

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people (under 18) who receive The Headlight Project's services
- To protect anyone over the age of 18 who may be considered a vulnerable adult. (This is someone who has care needs, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect or as a result of care needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect
- This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of The Headlight Project, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, staff freelancing for the Project, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Key Legislation around Child Protection is : The Children Act 1989 (as amended by section 53 of the Children Act 2004) and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Further Guidance is: Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015), Safeguarding Disabled Children: Practice Guidance (2009) and What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015) (Department for Education 2015).

A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from the [NSPCC website](#). For Vulnerable Adults key legislation is the Care Act 2014.



We believe that:

- children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount
- all children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children and adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's and vulnerable adult's welfare.

We will seek to keep children, young people or vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated Trustee for safeguarding
- developing child and adult protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people and vulnerable adults, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made

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- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide 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
- recording and storing information professionally and securely.

Contact details Nominated adult protection lead

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Contact details Nominated child protection lead

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This policy was guided by two main pieces of Government Guidance :-

- Department for Education (DfE) (2015) What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners (PDF). London: HM Government.
- Department for Education (DfE) (2018) Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (PDF). London: HM Government.

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed: 06/08/2024

Signed:

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'Alison', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alison Turner, Safeguarding Trustee