

Youth PWR Charity- Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

Our charitable activities include working with vulnerable people. The purpose of this policy is to protect them and provide stakeholders and the public with the overarching principles that guide our approach in doing so.

Applicability

This policy applies to anyone working on our behalf, including our trustees, managers, staff, and volunteers.

Partner organisations will be required to have their own safeguarding procedures that must, as a minimum, meet the standards outlined below, and include any additional legal or regulatory requirements specific to their work. These include, but are not limited to:

- Other UK regulators, if applicable
- Charity Commission guidance, if working overseas.
- The International Child Safeguarding Standards, if applicable.

Safeguarding should be appropriately reflected in other relevant policies and procedures, such as recruitment and whistle blowing.

Principles

We believe that:

- Nobody who is involved in our work should ever experience abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation.
- The Board and staff have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all of our beneficiaries, staff and volunteers, to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.
- We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which our people not only feel safe, but also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

Types of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, such as physical, psychological or emotional, financial, sexual or institutional abuse, including neglect and exploitation. Signs that may indicate the different types of abuse are at Appendix 1.

Reporting Concerns

If a crime is in progress, or an individual in immediate danger, call 999, as you would in any other circumstances.

If you are a beneficiary, or member of the public, make your concerns known to a member of staff who will alert a senior member of the team.

For staff and volunteers, you should make your concerns known to your line manager, or other supervisor. If you feel unable to do so, speak to a member of the management team.

The trustees are mindful of their reporting obligations to the Charity Commission in respect of Serious Incident Reporting and, if applicable, other regulator. They are aware of the Government guidance on handling safeguarding allegations.

If a child/young person/vulnerable adult says that he or she is being abused or provides information that suggests that they are being abused ('allegation of abuse'), the person receiving that information should:

- remain calm, accessible and receptive
- listen carefully without interrupting or asking leading questions
- communicate with the child/young person/vulnerable adult in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference
- be aware of the non-verbal messages you are giving
- make it clear that you are taking them seriously
- acknowledge their courage and reassure them that they are right to tell
- reassure them that they should not feel guilty and say that you're sorry that this has happened to them
- let them know that you are going to do everything you can to help them and what may happen as a result

- make a note of what was said and who was present, using the person's actual words wherever possible

You should NEVER:

- investigate or seek to prove or disprove possible abuse
- make promises about confidentiality or keeping 'secrets'
- assume that someone else will take the necessary action
- jump to conclusions, be dismissive or react with shock, anger, horror etc
- speculate or accuse anybody
- investigate, suggest or probe for information
- confront another person (adult or child/young person) allegedly involved
- offer opinions about what is being said or the persons allegedly involved
- forget to record what you have been told
- fail to pass this information on to the correct person

Responsibilities

Trustees. This safeguarding policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board annually.

Trustees are aware of and will comply with the Charity Commission guidance on safeguarding and protecting people and also the 10 actions trustee boards need to take to ensure good safeguarding governance.

A lead trustee/committee will be given responsibility for the oversight of all aspects of safety, including whistleblowing and H&SW. This will include:

- Creating a culture of respect, in which everyone feel safe and able to speak up.
- An annual review of safety, with recommendations to the Board.
- Receiving regular reports, to ensure this and related policies are being applied consistently.
- Providing oversight of any lapses in safeguarding.
- And ensuring that any issues are properly investigated and dealt with quickly, fairly and sensitively, and any reporting to the Police/statutory authorities is carried out.

Management.

- Leading the organisation in way that makes everyone feels safe and able to speak up.
- Ensuring safeguarding risk assessments are carried out and appropriate action taken to minimise these risks, as part of our risk management processes.
- Ensuring that all relevant checks are carried out in recruiting staff and volunteers.
- Planning programmes/activities to take into account potential safeguarding risks, to ensure these are adequately mitigated.
- Ensuring that all appointments that require DBS clearance and safeguarding training are identified, including the level of DBS and any training required.
- Ensuring that a central register is maintained and subject to regular monitoring to ensure that DBS clearances and training are kept up-to-date.
- Ensuring that safeguarding requirements (eg DBS) and responsibilities are reflected in job descriptions, appraisal objectives and personal development plans, as appropriate.
- Listening and engaging, beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and others and involving them as appropriate.
- Responding to any concerns sensitively and acting quickly to address these.
- Ensuring that personal data is stored and managed in a safe way that is compliant with data protection regulations, including valid consent to use any imagery or video.
- Making staff, volunteers and others aware of:
 - Our safeguarding procedures and their specific safeguarding responsibilities on induction, with regular updates/reminders, as necessary.
 - The signs of potential abuse and how to report these.

Everyone. To be aware of our procedures, undertake any necessary training, be aware of the risks and signs of potential abuse and, if you have concerns, to report these immediately (see above).

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). To take the lead in ensuring that appropriate arrangements for keeping children and young people safe are in place at Youth PWR Charity, and to promote the safety and welfare of children and young people involved in Youth PWR Charity's activities at all times. Details of the charity's DSL are as follows:

Name: Adeola Onigbanjo

Contact: dee.o@youthpwr.org

Fundraising

We will ensure that:

- We comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice, including fundraising that involves children.

- Staff and volunteers are made aware of the Institute of Fundraising guidance on keeping fundraising safe and the NCVO Guidance on vulnerable people and fundraising.
- Our fundraising material is accessible, clear and ethical, including not placing any undue pressure on individuals to donate.
- We do not either solicit nor accept donations from anyone whom we know or think may not be competent to make their own decisions.
- We are sensitive to any particular need that a donor may have.

Digital Safeguarding

Purpose

Our charitable activities increasingly involve the use of digital platforms to engage with beneficiaries, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and responsible use of digital technologies to protect vulnerable individuals from harm, abuse, or exploitation online.

Applicability

This section applies to all trustees, managers, staff, and volunteers who interact with others through digital platforms on behalf of Youth PWR. Partner organisations must also ensure their digital safeguarding practices align with these standards.

Principles

We believe that:

- Everyone involved in our work has the right to be protected from harm, abuse, or exploitation when engaging online.
- Our digital communications and platforms must foster an environment of respect, inclusion, and safety.
- Trustees, staff, and volunteers share responsibility for implementing and adhering to digital safeguarding measures.

Guidelines for Safe Digital Practices

- **Use of Technology:** Ensure all interactions on Youth PWR's digital platforms adhere to professional boundaries. Personal accounts must not be used to contact beneficiaries unless expressly authorised and documented.
- **Data Protection:** Personal data must be stored securely, used responsibly, and in compliance with data protection laws. Ensure valid consent is obtained for sharing or publishing any digital content, including images or videos.

- **Online Behaviour:** All communications, including emails, social media posts, and virtual meetings, must remain respectful and free of harassment, discrimination, or exploitation.
- **Monitoring and Security:** Use appropriate security measures, such as password protection and software updates, to safeguard systems and prevent unauthorised access. Report any breaches immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Types of Digital Abuse

Digital abuse can manifest as cyberbullying, grooming, online exploitation, exposure to inappropriate content, or unauthorised sharing of personal information.

Reporting Digital Concerns

- Follow the same reporting process outlined in the main policy for safeguarding concerns.
- For digital-specific issues, such as phishing attempts or harmful online interactions, report these directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Responsibilities

- **Trustees:** Ensure the annual safeguarding review includes digital safeguarding practices and oversee the implementation of this section.
- **Management:** Identify digital risks, ensure all staff and volunteers receive digital safeguarding training, and regularly review the security of online platforms.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Monitor digital safeguarding incidents, support those affected, and liaise with external authorities if required.
- **Everyone:** Be vigilant online, report digital safeguarding concerns, and maintain safe and respectful conduct in all digital interactions.

Approval and Review

Approval By	Date	Next Review Date
Trustee Board	Nov 2024	Nov 2025

Useful Links:

[NCVO: Online safeguarding resources.](#)

[Gov.UK – Guidance: Handling safeguarding allegations](#)

[NSPCC: Writing a safeguarding policy](#)

[CC: Infographic; 10 actions trustees need to take.](#)

[CC: Safeguarding duties of charity trustees](#)

CC: Safeguarding - policies and procedures

CC: How to protect vulnerable groups

CivS: How to bring your charity's safeguarding up to scratch

Appendix 1 – Signs of Abuse

Physical Abuse.

- bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, and rope marks.
- broken bones.
- open wounds, cuts, punctures, untreated injuries in various stages of healing.
- broken eyeglasses/frames, or any physical signs of being punished or restrained.
- laboratory findings of either an overdose or under dose medications.
- individual's report being hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated.
- vulnerable adult's sudden change in behaviour.
- the caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see a vulnerable adult alone.

Sexual Abuse.

- bruises around the breasts or genital area.
- unexplained venereal disease or genital infections.
- unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding.
- torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.
- an individual's report of being sexually assaulted or raped.

Mental Mistreatment/Emotional Abuse.

- being emotionally upset or agitated.
- being extremely withdrawn and non-communicative or non-responsive.
- nervousness around certain people.
- an individual's report of being verbally or mentally mistreated.

Neglect.

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores and poor personal hygiene.
- unattended or untreated health problems.

- hazardous or unsafe living condition (e.g., improper wiring, no heat or running water).
- unsanitary and unclean living conditions (e.g., dirt, fleas, lice on person, soiled bedding, faecal/urine smell, inadequate clothing).
- an individual's report of being mistreated.

Self-Neglect.

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene.
- hazardous or unsafe living conditions.
- unsanitary or unclean living quarters (e.g., animal/insect infestation, no functioning toilet, faecal or urine smell).
- inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids.
- grossly inadequate housing or homelessness.
- inadequate medical care, not taking prescribed medications properly.

Exploitation.

- sudden changes in bank account or banking practice, including an unexplained withdrawal of large sums of money.
- adding additional names on bank signature cards.
- unauthorized withdrawal of funds using an ATM card.
- abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents.
- unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions.
- bills unpaid despite the money being available to pay them.
- forging a signature on financial transactions or for the titles of possessions.
- sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming rights to a vulnerable adult's possessions.
- unexplained sudden transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family.
- providing services that are not necessary.
- individual's report of exploitation.