



Child Safeguarding Policy

Reviewed: January 2026

Next review: January 2028

Safeguarding lead: Holly Dale

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Survivor Researcher Network C.I.C.

Child Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Survivor Researcher Network C.I.C. (SRN) abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are at additional risk because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

Our work may involve children and young people in various contexts including:

- young people involved in our activities as part of our team,
- children and young people who are the focus of research activities that SRN is involved in,
- children of adults who are involved in our activities

Our general policies and processes for safeguarding both children and adults are set out in our Adult Safeguarding Policy. This policy is intended to highlight risks that are particularly relevant for children and young people and aspects that require specific or extra attention.

SRN will:

- protect children and young people who are involved in our activities from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services,
- provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of SRN (our team), including Directors, associates, staff, volunteers. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Definitions

Children:

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital. SRN prefers to refer to teenagers as young people and to use the term Children and Young People (CYP) for those who are not yet 18.

Adult at Risk:

An adult at risk is defined as

- An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Child and Adult Abuse:

In addition to the ten main areas of abuse set out in the Care Act (and listed on our Safeguarding policy), children and young people may be at risk of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, including:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

Safeguarding children: Safeguarding children is defined in the Government statutory guidance, [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#), as:

- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

SRN should have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults.

Training and Awareness

SRN will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to our team. This should enable them to:

- understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children,
- recognise a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action,
- understand how to report a safeguarding concern,
- understand dignity and respect when working with children,
- have knowledge of the Safeguarding Children Policy.

Similarly, employees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an adult at risk of abuse. For more information about adults safeguarding, refer to our Adults Safeguarding Policy.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

SRN expects all our team to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**. For further guidance on information sharing see our Privacy Policy.

Recording and Record Keeping

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made. All records must be signed and dated.

Our Safeguarding Lead will be responsible for ensuring that our recording obligations are fulfilled and records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Safe Recruitment & Selection

SRN is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

Social Media

SRN expects all our team to have regard for our safeguarding policies in any social media activity, together with any specific social media policy and procedures which we adopt.

Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology

All employees, trustees and volunteers should be aware of any SRN policy and procedures regarding the use of mobile phones and any digital technology and must understand that it is unlawful to photograph children and young people without the explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities.

Whistleblowing

It is important that people within SRN have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong- doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another employee or volunteer. SRN will protect whistleblowers.

Important Contacts:

SRN Safeguarding Lead: Holly Dale

Email address: holly.dale@survivorresearcher.net

Police Emergency – 999 Non-emergency – 101	NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000
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