Online Services Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding is **everyone's** responsibility and all staff who, during the course of their employment have direct or indirect contact with children and families and vulnerable adults, or who have access to information about them, have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

There is a duty on organisations to make appropriate arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Government guidance makes it clear that it is a shared responsibility and depends upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise.

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, and the need for our services to move online, PACSO has responded to the additional online safeguarding risk by writing and following this policy. It is to be shared with all staff. The Play Manager, Trustees and staff are all accountable for ensuring that it is adhered to and for ensuring that the PACSO children and young adults are safe whilst engaging in our online services.

This policy is to be used in conjunction with the PACSO Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy of 2019.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. Summaries of the key legislation and guidance are available on:

- online abuse learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse
- bullying learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying
- child protection learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- children should be able to use the internet for education and personal development, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times.

We recognise that:

- the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however it can also present risks and challenges
- we have a duty to ensure that all children, young people and adults involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- we have a responsibility to help keep children and young people safe online, whether or not they are using PACSO's network and devices
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- appointing an **online safety coordinator** [Emma Kennedy]
- providing clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online **through our behaviour code for staff.**
- supporting and encouraging the young people using our service to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others (outlined in our staff guidelines and our staff code of conduct.)
- supporting and encouraging parents and carers to do what they can to keep their children safe online
- developing online safety tips for use with young people and their parents/carers
- developing clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult or a child/young person
- reviewing and updating the security of our information systems regularly
- ensuring that user names, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- ensuring personal information about the adults and children who are involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- ensuring that images of children, young people and families are used only after their permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- providing supervision, support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- regularly examining and risk assessing any social media platforms and new technologies that are used within the organisation.

If online abuse occurs, we will respond to it by:

- having clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- ensuring that parents and carers are fully informed of what has happened, to the best of our knowledge
- recording and reporting the incident as necessary, including to the social media site, our Local Designated Officer and/or police where necessary
- offering support to the children, young people, families and staff involved in the incident
- making sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our organisation as a whole into account
- reviewing and updating our policies, guidelines and risk assessments to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term.

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures, including:
- Safeguarding and Child protection Policy
- Incident Policy
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers (including our online code)
- Behaviour Policy
- Photography Policy
- Online Services Risk Assessment

In partnership with Supported by https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/

learning@nspcc.org.uk 0116 234 7246 @NSPCCLearning   NSPCC 2019.

Registered charity England and Wales 216401. Scotland SC037717