

Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy

Mandatory Read



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Lead Director Bethan Eaton-Haskins, Director of Nursing and Care	Date Reviewed October 2025
Lead Author(s) Gemma Johns, Head of Safety, Clinical Governance, Risk and Quality Gertrude Morgan, Named Nurse for Safeguarding	Date Drafted October 2025
Recommended By Quality and Patient Safety Meeting and Quality and Safeguarding Committee	Endorsed Date December 2025 and January 2026
Approved By The Children's Trust Board of Trustees	Ratified Date February 2026
Published Date February 2026	Next Review Date October 2028 School updates SOP on annual basis following KCSIE updates

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Policy

1 Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to set out The Children's Trust's commitment and statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people, and to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

It aims to ensure that everyone involved with the Trust including staff, volunteers, and contractors across all settings and services understands their responsibility to create safe environments, prevent harm, respond effectively to concerns, and work in partnership to uphold the law and safeguarding principles outlined in the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, Act 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025, and Care and Support Statutory Guidance. It is essential that we also meet the regulatory requirements set out by both Ofsted and the CQC to ensure compliance and uphold best practice.

This policy should be used in conjunction with The Children's Trust's School Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedure and Standard Operating Procedure.

The objectives of the policy and this procedure are to:

- Ensure all children, young people and adults (CYP) with care and support needs are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and harm.
- Embed safeguarding as a core responsibility across all services and roles and provide necessary training supervision and support that is appropriate to staffing level and supports best practice noted in the intercollegiate guidance document
- Foster an environment where individuals feel safe, able to speak, be heard and respected.
- Ensure all safeguarding concerns are documented, investigated, and reported in line with legal requirements.
- Align safeguarding practices with statutory duties.
- To work in partnership with families and multiagency partners to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.

Relevant laws, regulations and best practice guides include but are not limited to:

- Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competencies framework 2025
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2023 (PREVENT duty)
- Health and Social Care Act 2022
- Safeguarding accountability and assurance framework 2022
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Children and Social Work Act 2019
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 (amended 2019)
- Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Children Acts 1989 & 2004
- Sexual Offences Act 2003

2 Scope

This policy applies to:

- It applies to:
- All staff (clinical and non-clinical), volunteers, contractors, and visitors.
- All settings and services delivered by The Children's Trust.
- Everyone- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

3 Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, the words or expressions contained in this document shall have the following meaning:

TCT/organisation	The Children's Trust
CYP	Children and/or Young People
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
NMC	Nursing and Midwifery Council
RCN	Royal college of nursing
GMC	General Medical Council
NHSE	National health service England
HCPC	Health and Care Professionals Council
NAI	Non-Accidental Injury
ICB	Integrated Care Board
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
EPR	Electronic Patient Record
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

4 Policy Statement

This section sets out the intent and the guiding principles in relation to safeguarding at The Children's Trust.

The Children's Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people, and to protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, in line with statutory duties under the Children Act 1989, Children Act 2004, Care Act 2014, and associated statutory guidance including Working Together to Safeguard Children and Care.

- 4.1 We will foster safe, responsive, and an inclusive culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, ensuring that all staff, volunteers, and contractors understand their duties, can recognise risks and act promptly to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm.
- 4.2 We will work in partnership with children, young people, adults, families, carers and multi-agency partners to prevent harm, respond effectively to concerns, uphold the rights and voices of those we support, and continuously improve safeguarding practice across all settings and services of the Trust.

5 Stakeholder Consultation

Appendix 6 details the stakeholders who were consulted in the development of this policy and SOP.

6 Related Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures stated below support the effective application of this policy and SOP:

- Mental Capacity Act, Best Interest and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Policy
- Supervision Guidelines
- School child protection safeguarding procedure and SOP
- Safer Recruitment Policy and SOP
- Managing Safeguarding Allegations Against People that Work or Volunteer with Children Policy and SOP
- Child Death Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Policy and Procedure for Record Keeping in Children's Records
- Sudden Unexpected Child Death Policy
- School Safeguarding and Child Protection SOP (updated annually)
- Clinical Safeguarding and Child Protection SOP

7 External References and Guidance

The following external resources and guidance were consulted in drafting this policy and SOP:

- Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competencies framework 2025, available online at

- <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/publications/pub-007366>
- CQC 2016 *Not seen, not heard* available online:
https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20160707_not_seen_not_heard_report.pdf
- Data Protection Act 2018 available online:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents>
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 available online:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf
- Department for Education Analysis of Serious Case reviews 2011-2014 available online:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysis-of-serious-case-reviews-2011-to-2014>
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
- Female Genital Mutilation fact sheet from the World Health Organisation available online:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>
- Human Rights Act 1998 available online:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>
- Laming 2009 The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report available online:
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/HC-330.pdf>
- Munro, E 2012 Progress Report Moving Towards a Child Centred System Department for Education, London
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Association of Police Surgeons (2002) Guidance On Paediatric Forensic Examinations In Relation To Possible Child Sexual Abuse
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health 2017 Child Protection Companion available online:
<https://pcouk.org/companion>
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health 2018 Intercollegiate Document: Safeguarding Children and Young People, roles and responsibilities available online:
<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/safeguarding-children-young-people-roles-competencies>
- Sexual Offences Act 2003 available online:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/42/contents>
- The Children Act 2004 available online:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/ukpga_20040031_en_1

School Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - can be found separately on The Loop / Website

Clinical Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) – can be found separately on The Loop