



PALS Society Children and Young Persons Safeguarding Policy

May 10th 2017

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and seasonal workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of PALS Society.

The policy applies to any activity involving children or young people under 18 years of age. It also includes our beneficiaries: people with autism or learning difficulties aged 16 to 25 who, by the nature of their difficulties are deemed to be vulnerable notwithstanding their age.

Purpose

- To protect children and young people who receive PALS Society's services. This includes the children of adults who are customers, staff, or volunteers.
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection; PALS Society is a charity devoted to improving the life chances of young people with alternative learning styles and believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years - Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter—agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Recruitment, induction and training
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording and information sharing
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment
- E—safety
- Anti—bullying
- Complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Training, supervision and support
- Lone working policy and procedure
- Quality assurance

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- In particular, children with alternative learning styles may have additional sensitivities and anxieties
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people, a deputy and a lead board member for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing information professionally and securely, and
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, and one to one discussions
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers 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
- 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

Contact details

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and senior board lead for safeguarding

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

This policy was last reviewed on: May 10th 2017

Signed:



Neil Armitage