



# **YOUTH INITIATIVES CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

## **Policy Procedures and Guidelines**

**“The welfare of the child is paramount”**

“We in Youth Initiatives are committed to practice which protects children from harm.

Staff and volunteers in this organisation accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children harm.”

**“We will endeavour to safeguard children by:**

- Adopting safe guarding guidelines through a code of behaviour for staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about safe guarding and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Following carefully the procedures for recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

**We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice every 3 years.**

**Definitions of young people and children by age:**

- A child is anyone who has not yet reached the official minimum school leaving age (MSLA) – pupils will reach the MSLA in the school year in which they turn 16.
- The definition of a child in safe guarding guidance – a child is anyone who is under the age of 18.

An adult at risk of harm is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may increase their:

- Personal characteristics (may include, but not limit to age, disability, illness, physical or mental infirmity and impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain); and /or
- Life circumstances (may include, but not limited to, isolation socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions).

Whilst Youth Initiatives recognises that the primary responsibility for the care of children and young people rests with parents and guardians, the community as a whole has responsibility for their wellbeing and protecting them.

Youth Initiatives is committed to taking every appropriate step to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those with whom it works, regardless of class, gender, race or creed. This policy applies to all children and young people with whom Youth Initiatives is involved with regardless of age.

All Youth Initiatives staff, volunteers and casual workers must be aware of this policy and it is their duty to guarantee its implementation in accordance with their role and responsibilities.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

It is not Youth Initiative's responsibility to identify and investigate possible instances or abuse – this is the role of the statutory agencies: Social Services, PSNI, and NSPCC. However Youth Initiatives does have a statutory responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns, allegations or disclosures.

### **The Appropriate Statutory Agencies involved in investigating safeguarding issues are:**

1. Gateway Teams – <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect>  
Contact- [http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/gateway\\_teams\\_contact\\_details.pdf?rev=1](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/gateway_teams_contact_details.pdf?rev=1)  
Tel: 028 9050 7000
2. Police Service Northern Ireland – P.P.U (Public Protection Unit)
3. NSPCC 0808 800 5000
4. Adult Safeguarding Teams in Trusts.

### **Designated Officers 2018/2019 for Youth Initiatives:**

Siobhan Darragh – West Belfast & Downpatrick  
Jonny Ewan – L/Derry  
Matt McCullough – East Belfast  
Ryan Lillie – Lisburn  
Anna Cruickshank – Banbridge