

Forward Stockport Safeguarding policy

Date / Version : 15 July 2020

Our commitment to safeguarding

Safeguarding is extremely important to Forward and sits at the heart of our programmes and events. We believe that no one should ever experience abuse, exploitation or neglect.

We believe it's everyone's responsibility to safeguard children and adults at risk from abuse and to take action when made aware of the risk of harm.

In line with UK legislation, Forward recognises it has particular responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of:

All children who engage in Forward activities, including the children of adults that use Forward services or attend Forward events

All adults at risk who engage in Forward activities

And to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

[Reference 4](#)

Purpose of policy

Forward is committed to creating an environment which ensures all those accessing services or working with Forward enjoy opportunities to thrive, develop to their full potential and can feel safe from risk of harm or abuse.

The purpose of Forward's safeguarding policy is:

To **protect** children and adults at risk who engage with Forward activities through effective safeguarding practice and codes of conduct

To uphold safer recruitment practices to **prevent** those intent on harming children and adults at risk from accessing the children or adult at risk who engage in Forward activities

To make sure we effectively **recognise, respond, record and report** safeguarding concerns or disclosure so that those who engage with us access the safeguards they need if at risk of harm or abuse

To provide those who work with Forward, all who engage with Forward activities, and the parents and carers of the children who take part in our programmes and events, the overarching principles that guide our approach to child and adults at risk protection

Forward recognises that many of our programmes and events are centred around creating trusted spaces for exploring personal identity and life experiences which could increase the likelihood of those who engage with Forward activities disclosing current or past experiences of safeguarding concerns. This makes Forward's commitment to, and responsibility for, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and adults at risk central to our practice.

[Reference 4](#)

Purpose of policy

Forward is committed to creating an environment which ensures all those accessing services or working with Forward enjoy opportunities to thrive, develop to their full potential and can feel safe from risk of harm or abuse.

The purpose of Forward's safeguarding policy is:

To protect children and adults at risk who engage with Forward activities through effective safeguarding practice and codes of conduct

To uphold safer recruitment practices to prevent those intent on harming children and adults at risk from accessing the children or adult at risk who engage in Forward activities

To make sure we effectively recognise, respond, record and report safeguarding concerns or disclosure so that those who engage with us access the safeguards they need if at risk of harm or abuse

To provide those who work with Forward, all who engage with Forward activities, and the parents and carers of the children who take part in our programmes and events, the overarching principles that guide our approach to child and adults at risk protection

Forward recognises that many of our programmes and events are centred around creating trusted spaces for exploring personal identity and life experiences which could increase the likelihood of those who engage with Forward activities disclosing current or past experiences of safeguarding concerns. This makes Forward's commitment to, and responsibility for, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and adults at risk central to our practice.

[Reference 4](#)

The policy

The policy and all accompanying procedures apply to all those who work with Forward, including members of staff, trustees, contractors, partners, volunteers, visitors and any other individual who may work with Forward from time to time.

It is the responsibility of all who work with Forward to act if there is a cause for concern about a child or an adult at risk, or the behaviour of an adult towards a child. It is not their responsibility to determine what action is required to protect them. Responsibility for deciding whether to escalate a concern to the appropriate authority lies with the Forward D

Forward requires that our partners with whom we contract, share our commitment to safeguarding. We will expect them to demonstrate this to us by having their own safeguarding policy and procedures in place that are 'fit for purpose' before any partnership agreement is agreed and continued or that the partners are in agreement to adhere to Forward's safeguarding policy and procedures while working under the Forward umbrella.

Forward is committed to ensuring all those who work with Forward [also volunteers, trustees and relevant contractors] are trained to the appropriate level to fulfil both their day to day role and safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

[Reference 4](#)

References

The Safeguarding policy of Forward is strongly influenced by the policies of other organisations within the UK who are working to best practice in this field. We would like to thank.

The safeguarding policies of the UK Government, Ofsted, Girlguiding UK among others have been consulted and adapted in preparation of this document

1. <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/policies/safeguarding-policy>
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-safeguarding-policy/ofsted-safeguarding-policy>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>
4. <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding-policy>

Author : Anna Gray anna.gray@iweua.com
Reviewed by : Tina Carnally

July 2020