



# SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

At Caritas Care we believe that everyone deserves chances, choices and opportunities to live the best lives they can. The services and projects we provide are dedicated to making a positive difference to the lives of all children, vulnerable adults, families and communities. We support people in building the lives that they want and we believe that everyone has the right to be able to reach their goals and aspirations, no matter what their background may be.

### **The Services we provide:**

- Adoption
- Fostering
- Learning Disability Services
- Community Support Services

### **The purpose of this policy statement is:**

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive Caritas Care's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child
- protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Caritas Care, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students. It has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2> and the legislation which seeks to protect vulnerable adults in England <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/14/contents>

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents as follows:

- Role description for the designated safeguarding lead officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Child protection records retention and storage
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Safer recruitment
- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision and support

### **We believe that:**

- Children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- all children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion, belief or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- some children and adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
- We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:
  - valuing, listening to and respecting them.
  - appointing a nominated safeguarding lead for children, young people and vulnerable adults, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding.
  - adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
  - developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
  - providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
  - recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
  - recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: [ico.org.uk/for-organisations](http://ico.org.uk/for-organisations)].
  - sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, vulnerable adults and their families via our website, written agreements with them, our training workshops and leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.
  - making sure that children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
  - using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, vulnerable adults, 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.

For information, visit

[www.caritascare.org.uk](http://www.caritascare.org.uk) or give us a call on

**0800 652 6955**



- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, vulnerable adults, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## Contact details

### Nominated Safeguarding lead – Children:

**Name:** Kate Knowles

**Phone/email:** 01772 732313

### Nominated Safeguarding Lead – Vulnerable Adults:

**Name:** James Haigh

**Phone/email:** 01772 732313

### Deputy Safeguarding lead – Children:

**Name:** Louise Young/Rebecca Hughes

**Phone/email:** 01772 732313

### Deputy Safeguarding lead – Vulnerable Adults:

**Name:** Martin Layton

**Phone/email:** 01772 732313

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

**This policy was last reviewed on: 3.3.25**

**Signed:** *S. B. Swaback*

**Date:** 3.3.25