



Safeguarding Policy Overview

Our full policy and procedures are available on request by emailing hello@circusful.org

AIMS

The purpose of the following Safeguarding policy is to protect children by ensuring that everyone who works for Circusful has clear guidance on the necessary action required, where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

We will endeavour to safeguard children by:

- Adopting safeguarding guidelines through a code of behaviour for staff, facilitators and volunteers.
- Sharing information about child protection, safeguarding children and good practice with children, parents, staff, facilitators, volunteers and relevant agencies/community groups.
- Reporting concerns with statutory agencies which need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Following carefully the procedures for safe recruitment, selection and vetting of staff, facilitators and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff, facilitators and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- Recognising that younger volunteers may themselves be vulnerable and therefore consideration should be given to their safeguarding needs.
- Ensuring that safety procedures are adhered to.

We wish to ensure that everyone participates in an enjoyable and safe environment in which they can have fun and feel valued.

The principles and philosophy which underpin our work with children are those set out in the UN Convention on the Right of the Child and enshrined in the [Children \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1995](#), effective from November 1996.

In particular, the principle we support is that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and with proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being by those looking after them. All our staff and volunteers have been subject to the appropriate background checks and accept and recognise their responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues which cause children or young people harm, and to establish and maintain a safe environment for them.

A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of others, but where there is conflict, the child's interests must always come first.

Children have a right to be heard, to be listened to and taken seriously.

In any incident the child's welfare must always be paramount, this overrides all other considerations.

RECOGNITION

We recognise the following as Child Abuse:

- Neglect, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation, Self-Harming and Suicide.

Our full policy defines each of these terms.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF, FACILITATORS AND VOLUNTEERS

All staff, facilitators and volunteers have a responsibility to initially inform and report to one of the 2 Designated Safeguarding Officers any concerns they have in connection with Safeguarding issues.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (AND DEPUTY)

The Designated Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Safeguarding Officer will receive training and assist in the annual review of the Safeguarding Policy. The policy should be disseminated to all staff, facilitators and volunteers and measures put in place to ensure it is adhered to. Appropriate training and support will be given to staff and the Designated Officers will act as a point of contact for staff. The Designated Safeguarding Officer in conjunction with the Deputy Safeguarding Officer will be responsible for making any referrals to Social Services.

- Establish contact with the senior member of Social Services staff responsible for safeguarding children in the organisation's catchment area.

- Provide information and advice on safeguarding children within the organisation.
- Ensure that the organisation's Safeguarding Children policy and procedures are followed and particularly to inform Social Services within the appropriate Trust of relevant concerns about individual children.
- Ensure that appropriate information is available at the time of referral and that the referral is confirmed in writing, under confidential cover.
- Liaise with Social Services and other agencies as appropriate.
- Keep relevant people in the organisation, particularly the leader of the organisation, informed about any action taken and any further action required.
- Ensure that an individual case record is maintained of the action taken by the organisation, the liaison with other agencies and the outcome.
- Advise the organisation of safeguarding needs.

The Designated Safety Officer is responsible for acting as a source of advice on safeguarding children, for co-coordinating action within the organisation and for liaising with Health & Social Services Trusts and other agencies about suspected or actual cases of child abuse.