



**SPPA**  
Social Pedagogy  
Professional Association

## **Safeguarding Policy 2017-2018**

A. The scope of this policy

- i) The purpose of this document is to set out the SPPA Safeguarding Policy to be used in conjunction with Members/Organisation's own Safeguarding Policies
- ii) To fulfil SPPA's commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, all organisations that provide services for, or work with, children and vulnerable adults and wish to be corporate members, or are employers of members must have:
  - Clear priorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, explicitly stated in strategic policy documents
  - A clear commitment by senior management to the importance of safeguarding and promoting welfare
  - A clear line of accountability and defined roles and responsibilities within the organisation for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.
  - Recruitment and human resources management procedures that take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, vulnerable adults and young people, including arrangements for appropriate checks on new staff and volunteers. eg DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service), Registration via LSCB and the use of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) (when operational)
  - Safe working practice guidance which staff/volunteers have read and understood
  - Procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse against members of staff and volunteers, including a Named Senior Officer to whom allegations and concerns are reported
  - Arrangements to ensure that all staff undertake appropriate training to equip them to carry out their responsibilities effectively, and keep this up-to-date by refresher training at regular intervals; and that all staff, including temporary staff and volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults, are made aware of the establishment's arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and their responsibilities for that
  - Policies for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults including a child protection policy, and procedures that comply with LLC Safeguarding Children and vulnerable adults policies and procedures for safeguarding.
  - Arrangements to work effectively with other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, including arrangements for sharing information.

- A culture of listening to, and engaging in dialogue, with children and vulnerable adults- seeking children's views in ways that are appropriate to their age and understanding, and taking account of those views in individual decisions and in the establishment or development of services
- Appropriate whistle-blowing procedures, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults to be addressed.
- Safeguarding of on-line, social media and generic ICT activities by and for learners and staff and stakeholders.

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### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the SPPA Safeguarding Policy to be used in conjunction with other relevant policies.

This document is the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for SPPA which will be followed by all members of the organisation and followed and promoted by those in the position of leadership within the organisation. It is intended to be used IN CONJUNCTION WITH Members' organisational policies and procedures.

1.2 Individual agencies are responsible for ensuring that their employees are competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare and vulnerable adults.

1.3 We know that being a young person can make them vulnerable to abuse by adults and other young people. The purpose of this policy is to make sure that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by the organisation are transparent and safeguard and promote the welfare of all young people and vulnerable adults.

1.4 The organisation is not responsible for the day to day actions carried out by its Members in the course of their employment or volunteering. However, should SPPA be made aware of any investigation or concern regarding a Member, SPPA shall have the right to consider the individuals continued membership of the organisation.

1.4 This document is written in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013).

1.5 Principles upon which the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy is based:

- The welfare of a child, young person and vulnerable adults will always be paramount
- The welfare of families will be promoted
- The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and vulnerable adults and their families will be respected and listened to Keeping safe from harm requires people who work with children and vulnerable adults to share information.

See the Information Sharing: Practitioners Guide published by the DfES.

- Those people in positions of responsibility within the organisation will work in accordance with the interests of children, vulnerable adults and young people and follow the policy outlined below.

## **2. Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy**

### **2.1 Immediate Action to ensure Safety**

Immediate action may be necessary at any stage in involvement with children and vulnerable adults and families.

**IN ALL CASES IT IS VITAL TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD THE CHILD OR CHILDREN AND/OR VULNERABLE ADULTS CONCERNED:**

- If emergency medical attention is required this can be secured by calling an ambulance (dial 999) or taking a child to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department.
- If a child is in immediate danger the police should be contacted (dial 999) as they alone have the power to remove a child immediately if protection is necessary, via their powers to use Police Protection.

### **2.2 Recognition of Abuse or Neglect**

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child and/or vulnerable adults. Somebody may abuse or Neglect a child and/or vulnerable adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and vulnerable adults may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

### **2.3 Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

### **2.4 Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children and vulnerable adults that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children and vulnerable adults frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of Emotional Abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child and/or vulnerable adult though it may occur alone.

## 2.5 Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child, young person and/or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children and vulnerable adults in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children and vulnerable adults to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

## 2.6 Neglect

Neglect is the failure to meet a child's and/or vulnerable adult basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision(including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

It may also include Neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's and/or vulnerable adult basic emotional needs.

2.7 Individuals within the organisation need to be alert to the potential abuse of children and vulnerable adults both within their families and also from other sources including abuse by members of that organisation.

2.8 The organisation should know how to recognise and act upon indicators of abuse or potential abuse involving children and vulnerable adults and where there are concerns about a child's welfare. There is an expected responsibility for all members of the organisation to respond to any suspected or actual abuse of a child or vulnerable adult in accordance with these procedures.

2.9 It is good practice to be as open and honest as possible with parents/carers about any concerns. However, you MUST NOT discuss your concerns with parents/carers in the following circumstances:

- where Sexual Abuse or sexual exploitation is suspected
- where organised or multiple abuse is suspected
- where there are concerns a child may be at risk of Female Genital Mutilation
- where fabricated or induced illness (previously known as Munchausen Syndrome by proxy) is suspected

- where contacting parents/carers would place a child, yourself or others at immediate risk

2.10 These decisions should not be taken in isolation. Trustees should be consulted with regard to any suspected issue.

### **3. What to do if Children and Vulnerable Adults talk about abuse or neglect**

3.1 It is recognised that a child and/or vulnerable adult may seek individuals out to share information about abuse or Neglect, or talk spontaneously individually or in groups when staff or Trustees are present. In these situations, staff and Trustees WILL:

- Listen carefully to the child and/or vulnerable adult, without directly questioning
- Give the child and/or vulnerable adult time and attention.
- Allow the child and/or vulnerable adult to give a spontaneous account; not stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make an accurate record of the information given, taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, the child's and/or vulnerable adult's presentation as well as what was said. Do not throw this away as it may later be needed as evidence.
- Use the child's and/or vulnerable adult's own words where possible.
- Explain that they cannot offer false confidentiality.
- Reassure the child and/or vulnerable adult that:
  - o they have done the right thing in telling;
  - o they have not done anything wrong;
- Tell the child and/or vulnerable adult what will happen next and explain that they will need to get help to keep him/her safe.
- NOT ask the child and/or vulnerable adult to repeat his or her account of events to anyone

### **4. Consulting about concerns**

4.2 If concerned about a child and/or vulnerable adult Trustees, staff and volunteers must share their concerns. Initially individuals should talk to one of the people designated as responsible for child and/or vulnerable adult protection within the organisation.

4.4 If one of those people is implicated in the concerns you should discuss your concerns directly with SPPA's appointed Safeguarding Trustee.

4.5 Individuals should consult with their local Social Care Duty & Investigation Team in the area where the child and/or vulnerable adult resides, in the following circumstances:

- when you remain unsure after internal consultation as to whether child and/or vulnerable adult protection concerns exist
- when there is disagreement as to whether child and/or vulnerable adult protection concerns exist
- when you are unable to consult promptly or at all with your designated internal contact for child and/or vulnerable adult protection

- when the concerns relate to any member of the organising committee

SPPA will support Members who have concerns about their internal safeguarding policy and procedures by signposting to organisations who are able to support/advise further.

4.6 Consultation is not the same as making a referral but should enable a decision to be made as to whether a referral to Social Care or the Police should progress.

## **5. Making a Referral**

5.1 A referral involves giving Social Care or the Police information about concerns relating to an individual or family in order that enquiries can be undertaken by the appropriate agency followed by any necessary action.

5.2 It is concerned to be a rare possibility that SPPA will have direct involvement in referrals. However, as the organisation grows, it is possible that its actions and projects may involve direct work with young people and/or vulnerable adults. Therefore, it is considered important that this policy include relevant information.

- If concern is about harm or risk of harm from a family member or someone known to the children and/or vulnerable adults, individuals should make a telephone referral to the Social Care Duty & Investigation Team in the area where the child and/or vulnerable adult resides
- If concern is about harm or risk of harm from someone not known to the child and/or vulnerable adult family, individuals should make a telephone referral directly to the Police.
- If concern is about harm or risk of harm from an adult in a position of trust see Section 6: Allegations Against Adults Who Work With Children.
- If concern is that a child and/or vulnerable adult or their family need additional help or support, you should contact the appropriate Locality Team

### **5.5 Information required when making a referral**

Individuals should be prepared to give as much of the following information as possible (in emergency situations all of this information may not be available). Unavailability of some information should not stop individuals making a referral.

- Own name, telephone number, position and request the same of the person to whom speaking.
- Full name and address, telephone number of family, date of birth of child and/or vulnerable adult and siblings.
- Gender, ethnicity, first language, any special needs.
- Names, dates of birth and relationship of household members and any significant others.
- The names of professionals known to be involved with the child/family and/or vulnerable adult e.g.: GP, Health Visitor, School.
- The nature of the concern; and foundation for the concern.
- An opinion on whether the child may need urgent action to make them safe.
- What appears to be the needs of the child and/or vulnerable adult and their family.

- Whether the consent of a parent with Parental Responsibility has been given to the referral being made.
- 5.6 Action to be taken following referral
- SPPA will ensure that accurate records are kept of the organisation's involvement in any referral or other issue involving young people or vulnerable adults.

## **6. Allegations against Adults who work with Children and/or vulnerable adults.**

6.1 If SPPA receive information which suggests an adult who works with children and vulnerable adults (in a paid or unpaid capacity) has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child and/or vulnerable adult.
- possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child and/or vulnerable adult.
- behaved towards a child/children and/or vulnerable adult/s in a way that indicated s/he is unsuitable to work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

The Designated Trustee will consult with/make a referral to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) via the LSCB.

6.3 If one of those people is implicated in the concerns you should discuss your concerns directly with the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) via the LSCB

## **7. E-Safety**

7.1 SPPA has a policy that covers the use of all ICT related activities including the use of social media, email and internet.

7.2 If any Trustee, staff member or volunteer experience or are subject to any form of abuse via any form of ICT communications SPPA will take this matter very seriously and all and any incidences will to be reported immediately to the Chair and investigated in accordance with the e-safety policy and procedures.

## **8. Confidentiality**

8.1 The organisation will ensure that any records made in relation to safeguarding are kept confidentially and in a secure place.

8.2 Information in relation to child protection concerns will be shared on a "need to know" basis only.

However, the sharing of information is vital to child protection and, therefore, the issue of confidentiality is secondary to the need for protection.

## **9. Review**

This policy will be reviewed at intervals of 2 years to ensure it remains up to date and compliant with the law. The first review date will be September 2018.

## **10. Declaration**

I confirm I have read and understood SPPA's Data Protection Policy and will act in accordance with it.

I am connected with this organisation in my capacity as a

- Member of staff
- Volunteer
- Trustee/ management committee member

Signature:

Print name:

Date:

Please return this form to the Secretary.