

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**Adopted**: September 2014

**APPROVED BY**

The Chair of Trustees:

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Trustee:

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REVISION HISTORY**

**ISSUE DATE REASON FOR CHANGE**

Issue 1 09.2014 Created

Issue 2 10.2015 Reviewed

Issue 3 02.2017 Reviewed

Issue 4 02.2018 Revised

Issue 5 02.2019 Revised

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**Bereavement Care**

The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road

Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4HZ

Telephone: 020 8427 5720

**Safeguarding Children Policy Statement**

**Safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone**

**Statement of commitment**

We are aware that many children and young people are victims of different kinds of abuse. We are also aware that many families experience hardship and various difficulties and they need support in order to provide adequate care for their children.

At **Bereavement Care** we aim to create an environment that is safe and we are committed to doing everything in our power to protect children, promote their welfare and support their families.

**Purpose of this policy**

The purpose of this policy is to:

* Effectively safeguard children and promote their rights and welfare
* Provide all staff and volunteers with clear rules to follow
* Make all staff and volunteers aware of what is expected of them in terms of their approach, behaviour and actions
* Give evidence to **Bereavement Care** users, parents and carers, the local community, partner organisations, the Local Authority and funding and commissioning bodies that **Bereavement Care** is committed to safeguarding.

**Scope of this policy**

This policy applies to all **Bereavement Care** staff and volunteers, including trustees and anyone working on behalf of **Bereavement Care**.

**Definitions**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the process of:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.

- Preventing impairment of children’s health or development.

- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Child Protection is the process of protecting individual children identified as either suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

**Legislative framework**

At **Bereavement Care** we recognise our legal responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare. We will therefore act within the framework set by the Children Act 1989 and The Children Act 2004. We will also follow the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 guidance.

For our safeguarding procedures we adopt the Harrow Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) Guidance 2017. (previously the Green Book) .

**From 1 January 2019 there is a legal requirement to report a Serious Incident to the Charity Commission. This is in addition to any requirement to notify the police, local authority, statutory agency or other relevant authority. (see Appendix)**

**Underlying principles**

At **Bereavement Care** we will endeavour to safeguard children by:

* Following the (HSCB) guidance in our day-to-day work
* Ensuring that safeguarding training for all children’s visitors is repeated every 2/3 years
* Ensuring that the Safeguarding Children Policy Statement is seen and understood by **ALL visitors**
* Keeping a record of Safeguarding training, as well as the most recent DBS check (dated) on the Bereavement Care office database.
* Listening to children and young people and respecting and valuing them at all times
* Challenging discrimination and promoting the right to equal protection regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, faith, gender, sexual orientation, disability, social or immigration status or any other element of diversity
* Providing effective management to staff and volunteers through support, supervision and training.
* Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring that all necessary checks are made and safe recruitment good practice guidelines are followed
* Responding to both child protection and non-child protection concerns immediately
* In cases of doubt, questions or need for guidance, always seeking advice by calling the **Harrow Golden Number (020 8901 2690),** or, in cases involving staff/volunteers, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) via the Golden Number
* Working in partnership with children, their parents and carers, members of the local community and local statutory and voluntary organisations
* Adhering to the **Code of Best Practice when visiting Children & Young People** at all times

**Details of the Nominated Safeguarding Person and their Deputy**

The Nominated Safeguarding Person for **Bereavement Care** is ***Sue Ellis***

Role title: *Trustee & Children’s Visitor*

The Deputy Nominated Safeguarding Person for **Bereavement Care** is ***Helena Reid***

Role title: *Trustee*

**Appendix**

What is a safeguarding “Serious Incident”? A safeguarding Serious Incident is an adverse event, whether actual or alleged, which results in or risks significant harm to the charity’s beneficiaries, employees, office holders, volunteers or to others who come into contact with the charity through its work. This includes where there are allegations or incidents of abuse of or risks to beneficiaries or others connected with the charity’s activities. What is considered to be “significant” is a matter for the trustees to determine

**Review arrangements**

**Bereavement Care** will review this policy annually. In cases of relevant legal or local procedures changes, we will review this policy accordingly.