

PATCHWORKING AGAINST POVERTY

Registered Charity 1149806

Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all trustees, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Patchworking Against Poverty (P.A.P.).

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children, young people and adults who receive P.A.P.'s services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

P.A.P. believes that a child, young person or adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of children, young people and adults and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

We will seek to keep children, young people and adults safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a trustee with specific responsibility for Safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for volunteers and trustees
- Developing an effective data protection policy
- Providing effective management for volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against 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 we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, adults and volunteers by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Ensure all trustees and volunteers have DBS checks to the required level
- Volunteers will be issued with a documented role description which makes it clear what the boundaries and expectations are.

Working overseas

When carrying out activities in overseas (non-EU) countries P.A.P. will take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the current effective laws and regulations of that country.

Where volunteers are recruited in the field the P.A.P. project manager will ensure the volunteer has met UK safeguarding checks (DBS) or equivalent. Where that is not possible the volunteer should only work under direct supervision during the project.

Where local medical professionals are employed on sessional basis in the delivery of a field based project (eg a medical camp) the PAP project manager will ensure, and document, qualifications and any professional registration (right to practice).

Responsible local medical professional(s) will be assigned to oversee clinical activities and local medical staff (employed on a sessional basis)

Where safeguarding concerns for charity beneficiaries (patients) which relate to local circumstances are identified the PAP project manager will report this to relevant local authorities. The circumstances and actions taken will be documented for internal PAP records.

NOTE: The decision to provide treatment or services for children presenting without parent or guardian at medical camps will be made by the local accountable medical professionals.

Legal Framework

The policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance, applicable within the UK, that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016 (UK enforceable May 2018)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2014
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities> HM Government 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

This policy should be read alongside all other Patchworking Against Poverty Policies

Contact Details

Safeguarding Lead (trustee)

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

This policy was last reviewed on 30 April 2018

Signed : *Laura Scott*

(chair of board of trustees)