



Covid 19- ADDENDUM TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Reviewed on: June 2021

Next review date: June 2022

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Rapaport', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief Executive/Responsible Officer: Mrs C Rapaport

SCOPE OF ADDENDUM

This addendum has been added to the Safeguarding Children Policy, in light of the effects of Covid 19. It will remain in force as long as service provision is impacted on site or off site by Covid 19; staff or volunteers work or volunteer remotely and non-face to face activities are in place to enable services and programmes to continue. Together with the Safeguarding Children Policy, and other policies to which it is linked, it forms part of our stated aims of robust consideration for the safety of children and young people and protecting them from harm.

In all activities where there is provision for children and young people, staff, volunteers, management and others will be bound by our Safeguarding Children Policy and any subsequent addendum, which may be added as the need arises.

OBJECTIVE OF THIS ADDENDUM

Kids N Action is aware of government Covid 19 guidance by which all operations are governed. Although we are operating in a different way to normal, we are still following important safeguarding principles.

- The best interests of children come first
- If anyone has a safeguarding concern about any child, they should continue to act on it immediately
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or deputy will be available at all times
- It is essential that unsuitable people do not gain access to children
- Children should continue to be protected when they are online

COVID 19 SECURITY

- During the acute stages of Covid 19 and as long as restrictions do not allow for face to face provision, Kids N Action will offer some services remotely via telephone or zoom which may be supplemented with activity packs sent home to service users.
- Face to face activities and trips will only be offered when safe operation in line with government guidance will allow. Measures such as social distancing, and hygiene protocols will be followed at all times. This will incorporate elements such as no sharing of food or equipment, and more intensive, logged cleaning regime of facilities.
- Parents will receive clear notice regarding staying alert and controlling the spread of the virus through isolation when appropriate and instructions as to when and how to access services. There will be controlled access to sites, not allowing any unnecessary visiting. Parents will be asked to stay outside when bringing or collecting their children.
- There will be appropriate signage at multiple locations flagging different Covid messages to raise awareness for staff and service users around how to stay safe and stop the spread of Coronavirus.

RAISING AWARENESS AND REPORTING CONCERNS

We will be mindful as to the effects of exposure to trauma, crises or bereavement and the effects of lockdown can have on the emotional welfare and stability of families. Staff and volunteers should be alerted to any early warning signs and Kids N Action will give consideration to staff or volunteer training needs in this regard. There will be a focus on the emotional health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers during these challenging times, so that everyone performs at their optimum levels.

It is still vitally important that any concerns about children or young people should be raised immediately with Designated Safeguarding Leads in line with protocols and/or addendums to Safeguarding policies.

Designated Safeguarding Leads can be contacted in the usual way to deal with any concerns in a timely and appropriate manner.

Whether working remotely or on site, any contact with service users still offers opportunities to pick up concerns which should be acted upon in line with existing policies or special arrangements that may have to be put into place. It is better to err on the side of caution and to remember that information being shared might be the missing piece of the jig saw puzzle.

The community does not generally encourage the use of social media and networking. As a result, children that have had minimal or no exposure to social media may be blissfully unaware of the risks involved. Schools and other settings have reached out to all aged children and young people via a plethora of conference call provision and zoom meetings and teaching. Children are tuning in to their arranged provisions, but some are also consciously experimenting with other avenues of communication online. Covid-19 has been an opportunity to educate and strengthen online safety, including effective filters and restricting social media use and educating about responsible use of mobile phones and other technology.

We will raise awareness with families about keeping children safe online.

RECRUITING NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

We continue to recognize the importance of robust safer recruitment procedures, so that adults and volunteers applying to work or volunteer are safe to work with children. We continue to follow Safer Recruitment procedures which could be supplemented with remote meetings.

In urgent cases, verification of scanned proof of identity documents to apply for a DBS check will be accepted, rather than being in physical possession of the original documents (in line with revised guidance from the DBS). New staff or volunteers must still present the original documents when they first attend work.

SAFEGUARDING INDUCTION AND TRAININGS

Safeguarding training will continue to be offered in line with our Safeguarding Children Policy. New staff and volunteers will be given safeguarding induction including a focus on the Covid-19 Addendum for as long as it is operational. They will be required to familiarise themselves with the Safeguarding Children Policy and Addendum.

Existing staff/volunteers will be briefed on the Addendum to the Safeguarding Policy with which they should familiarise themselves and use as part of operating safely.


DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS CONTACT DETAILS

Name Mrs Yutta Domb

Telephone number- 02088029925

Name Mrs Chani Rapaport

Telephone Number 07826446670

Signed: 

Date: 31/08/2020