

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT: SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of **RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT**.

Safeguarding is about embedding practices throughout the organisation to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults and children wherever possible. In contrast, **Child and Adult Protection** is about responding to circumstances that arise.

Definition of a child

A child is under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of a Child).

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm. Abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender or culture.

It can take a number of forms, including the following:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Bullying
- Neglect
- Financial (or material) abuse
- Hate Crime

The purpose of this policy:

To protect children and young people who receive **RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT** 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 and young adults.

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT

- Believes that a child – including unborn children - or young persons should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them

Legal framework

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

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- 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 safeguarding children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015

**RED CARD does it's very best to ensure all legal Acts are up-to-date.*

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:

- Recruitment, induction and training
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording and information sharing
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers

Providing Gambling Addiction Support, Education and Awareness

- Safer recruitment
- Anti-bullying
- Complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Training, supervision, and support
- Lone working policy and procedure
- Quality assurance

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT recognises that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT will come into contact with children through the following activities:

- Educational events, workshops and talks (in-person and online)
- Telephone, website, and e-mail inquiries

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

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people, a deputy and a lead board member for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and 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 in accordance to GDPR regulations, and sharing information about safeguarding and good

Providing Gambling Addiction Support, Education and Awareness

practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one-to-one discussions

- 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 staff and 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 that we have effective complaints and whistle-blowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT is committed to reviewing policies and good practice.

This policy will review every 2 years.

This policy was last reviewed on: **4th January 2022**

The next review is scheduled for **4th January 2024**

Tony Kelly

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT – Designated Safeguarding Officer

Responsibilities: Senior Family Practitioner and Safeguarding advisor, policy maker and lead.

Signature: Tony Kelly

Date: 4th January 2022

Countersigned by:

Paul Taylor

RED CARD GAMBLING SUPPORT PROJECT – Director

Responsibilities: overall running of the project, oversees workshops and managing the team.

Signature: Paul Taylor

Date: 4th January 2022