

## **Our safeguarding policy**

This policy applies to all members of Sparkles, including committee members and the board of trustees, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, parents, students and anyone working/attending sessions/providing services on behalf of Sparkles.

## **The purpose of this policy:**

- To protect children and young people who receive Sparkles' services.
- To provide people working/attending sessions/providing services on behalf of Sparkles with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection;

Sparkles believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all Sparkles' children whilst attending our support sessions. 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 education 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 children, 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

## **We recognise 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 experienced, 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.

## 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
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely and sharing information about safeguarding and good 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 we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have an effective complaints and whistleblowing 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.

## Contact details

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) Name: Tony Hynes Phone: 07768 348 859	CEOP <a href="http://www.ceop.police.uk">www.ceop.police.uk</a>
Deputy DSO Name: Marianne Selby-Boothroyd Phone: 07852 442 090	NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

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

Reviewed	Signed
11th May 2017	C. Scurlock
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	C. Scurlock

C. Scurlock

**Chair of Board of Trustees**

**Sparkles**