

## **Safeguarding Children Policy**

*(To be read in conjunction with Safeguarding Adults Policy)*

### **Introduction**

Dyslexia Cornwall acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Board requirements.

[Child Protection and Safeguarding - Cornwall Council](#)

[Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership - Home page \(ciossafeguarding.org.uk\)](#)

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of services at Dyslexia Cornwall in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in Dyslexia Cornwall's activities or outside of these activities.

A child is "anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. 'Children' therefore means 'children and young people' throughout. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate for children and young people, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989. (See Children's Act 2004)

Dyslexia Cornwall acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Dyslexia Cornwall will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.

- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals, by ensuring robust recruitment procedure for all trustees, staff and volunteers, to include application form, references and appropriate DBS check.
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Dyslexia Cornwall. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

## **Reporting Concerns**

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused, report your concerns to Dyslexia Cornwall's Safeguarding Children Lead Person as soon as possible:

### **Barbara Hewett-Silk**

Safeguarding Children Lead Person

Mobile: 07828 676385

All staff and volunteers should never assume that somebody else will recognise and report any concerns of alleged neglect or abuse.

If the allegation is against the named Safeguarding Children Lead Person or the allegation is not taken seriously, the Deputy Safeguarding Children Lead Person should be contacted:

### **Ruth Symons**

Deputy Safeguarding Children Lead Person

Telephone: 07977 870839

If further disclosures are made by the same vulnerable child, without evidence of any action being taken from the original disclosure, immediate contact should be made to the named Safeguarding Children Lead Person and the Deputy to ensure the allegation is being suitably dealt with.

If a member of staff or volunteer cannot speak to anyone in Dyslexia Cornwall, then Cornwall Council Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) should be contacted.

### **Multi-Agency Referral Unit**

MARU: 0300 123 1116

Out of Hours Service: 01208 251 300

[multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)

#### **Isles of Scilly:**

Children's Social Care 01720 424 354 (Out of hours 01720 422 699)

**If you have concerns about a professional working with a child you need to contact your Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on:**

- Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly - 01872 326536

Referrals can be made to Cornwall Council and the Isles of Scilly Children in Need team using the referral form on the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

[Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Partnership - Referral forms \(ciossafeguarding.org.uk\)](https://ciossafeguarding.org.uk)

If you are unsure the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Board Procedures Manual](#). Alternatively, you can call ChildLine for advice on 0800 1111 or email them by visiting [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### **Monitoring and review**

The Board of Trustees, will review the operation of this policy on an annual basis, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- As required by the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Safeguarding Children Board.
- As a result of any other significant change or event

**This policy has been approved and authorised by the Trustees of Dyslexia Cornwall.**

Signed:



Name: Barbara Hewett-Silk

Position: Chairperson

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Next review due: October 2024