

MARCHES FAMILY NETWORK 01 (a) SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Our Safeguarding 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 Marches Family Network; Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The purpose of this policy is:

1. To protect children and young people who receive services from Marches Family Network. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
2. To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guides our approach to safeguarding.

Marches Family Network believes that a child or young person 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 practice in a way that protects them. All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and will be responded to appropriately.

Legal Framework

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

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- 'No Secrets' guidance 2000
- Children Act 2004
- Care Act 2014
- 'We Have the Right to be Safe' report 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

We recognise that:

1. The welfare of the child is paramount
2. All children and young people, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse and equal access to services which meet their particular needs
3. Some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
4. 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 them and respecting them
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing effective confidentiality, social media, and whistleblowing policies and procedures
- Informing children, young people and families of the policies and procedures as appropriate
- Providing effective support and training for staff and volunteers
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing concerns and relevant information about child protection, safeguarding and good practice with the people that need to know, including children, young people, parents, carers, staff, volunteers, and other agencies
- Responding to, recording and reporting concerns promptly and accurately
- Responding to and recording complaints promptly and accurately

Useful Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for Marches Family Network	01568 614 908 or 07437 902 661
Ofsted	0300 123 1231
Herefordshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	01432 261708
Herefordshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	01432 260 800
Herefordshire Advice and Referral Team (ART)	01432 260 715 or 0330 123 9309
Herefordshire Emergency Duty Team (out of hours for when MASH are unavailable)	01905 768 020
Shropshire Initial Contact Team	0345 678 9021
Shropshire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	01743 254 408
Shropshire Emergency Duty Team (out of hours for when Initial Contact Team are unavailable)	0345 678 9040
NSPCC	0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually

This policy was last reviewed on (date):.....

The next review date for this policy is (date):.....

Signed by Designated Safeguarding Officer:.....

Signed by Manager:.....

Signed by Chair of Trustees:.....