



1. Objective

Seed is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk of abuse at all times in order for them to benefit from and enjoy the opportunities/resources Seed has to offer, whether face to face or through the use of Art/community events. This policy should be read in conjunction with our safeguard procedures, activity risk assessments and diversity, social media, health & safety and data protection policies. The procedures and recommendations have been made apply to all staff and volunteers including consortium members, contractors and freelancers where appropriate.

This policy is informed by the guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children and BFI Self-Auditing tool and by legislation such as the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Care Act 2014. A summary of the key legislation relating to children and young people is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

2. Responsibilities

The person with designated responsibility for safeguarding strategically is Laura Hylton, Seed Acting Producer with special responsibility for children and young people. Contact laura@seedsedgemoor.com 01278 433172

The person with designated responsibility for safeguarding at operational level is Scott O'Hara, Project Director. Contact scott@seedsedgemoor.com 01278 433172

Key external contacts : NSPCC Helpline 0800 800 5000
 Adult Social Care in Somerset 0300 123 2224

The Seed Consortium is responsible for the content and enforcement of this policy, including reviewing it annually or as appropriate in response to new guidance and best practice.

3. Definitions

In law, a child is defined as up to and including the age of 18 in The Children Act 1989. (extensions of this exist for children who are disabled and for those in local authority care settings)

An adult at risk of abuse is defined by Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 as someone who:

- (a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- (b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.



In loco parentis (the Latin means 'in place of parent') refers to the person legally responsible for the child in the absence of the child's parent(s) or regular carer. For instance, in a school setting this is the child's teacher.

4. Policy

Participation in an Art/moving image/music or digital project can give a sense of identity, develop confidence and provide the individual with a voice. Such benefits require trust between the participants and practitioners. Seed believes in the rights of children and adults to be protected from abuse, harm or bullying.

Seed recognises the value of its relationships with leading organisations in this field such as Social Services, Barnardos and the Children's Fund to advise on policy and training when required.

Seed has experience in working with children and adults at risk of abuse. It constantly draws on this experience for risk assessments, project planning and the undertaking of projects. Seed recognises its responsibility when dealing with commissioning bodies to discuss and advise on matters contained within this policy.

Children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their day-to-day lives. These threats can take a variety of different forms, including: sexual, physical and emotional abuse; FGM; honour-based violence; neglect; exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups; trafficking; online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation. Whatever the form of abuse or neglect, practitioners should put the needs of children first when determining what action to take. An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.

Adults may be vulnerable to a different and wide range of types of abuse including physical; domestic violence; sexual; psychological; financial; modern slavery; discriminatory; institutional; neglect; self-neglect. People with care and support needs, such as older people or people with disabilities, are more likely to be abused or neglected. They may be seen as an easy target and may be less likely to identify abuse themselves or to report it.

Children and Young People

From 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' children have said that they need:

- Vigilance: to have adults notice when things are troubling them
- Understanding and action: to understand what is happening; to be heard and understood; and to have that understanding acted upon •
- Stability: to be able to develop an ongoing stable relationship of trust with those helping them
- Respect: to be treated with the expectation that they are competent rather than not



- Information and engagement: to be informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans
- Explanation: to be informed of the outcome of assessments and decisions and reasons when their views have not met with a positive response
- Support: to be provided with support in their own right as well as a member of their family
- Advocacy: to be provided with advocacy to assist them in putting forward their views
- Protection: to be protected against all forms of abuse and discrimination and the right to special protection and help if a refugee”

Adults who may be at risk of Abuse

First introduced by the Department of Health in 2011, but now embedded in the Care Act, the following six principles should be used to inform any response to a concern about an adult who may be at risk.

1. **Empowerment** People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent
2. **Prevention** It is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. **Proportionality** The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. **Protection** Support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. **Partnership** Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. **Accountability** Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

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

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people and a lead Consortium/trustee/board member for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing effective online safety including social media 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



- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with staff and volunteers via induction procedures and staff training
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns about children and young people and relevant information with agencies who need to know, to obtain consent from adults or where it is necessary to share information without the express consent of the adult concerned that a record of this is made of the reasons for this; and to involved 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 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.

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