

Person(s) Responsible For Dealing with Safeguarding Issues:

Linda Wilde or Eric Hall (Shop Managers) – 0191 4600297

Senior Safeguarding Lead - Eileen McMaster (Trustee) 0191 4900945

In the event that a safeguarding issue relates to your safeguarding contact, report issues to Bernadette Gill, 0191 4900945.



Child Protection Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people of adults who use our services from harm
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Foundations Furniture, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Scope of Policy Statement

Foundations Furniture is a registered charity that helps to alleviate the effects of unemployment and poverty in Gateshead. We provide a community furniture service that helps residents in receipt of Benefits or on low income to establish and sustain safe, settled and stable tenancies.

Foundations supports around 2000 people each year, from over 900 households experiencing hardship, of which 40% tend to be children living in the household. Our social value report recognises the positive changes that families with children experience, and the benefits that rebuilding and maintaining a place fit to call home has on the wellbeing of children. Our organisation therefore values the children from the households we support, and we welcome them to our showroom with their parents and carers while they select their furniture. We have a number of practices in place to ensure the safety of children while they are visiting Foundations.

On a daily basis, households who visit our charity for help are often accompanied by small children and babies during term time, and older children during school holidays. Children are also often present at the homes of our beneficiaries when we deliver their items, and from local residents who we collect donated furniture from.

We have a number of practices in place to ensure the safety of children while they are visiting Foundations or when our staff and volunteers are collecting or delivering furniture to their homes. We recognise the following needs of the children that we come into contact with:-

- Safe and comfortable furniture and home items, including bedroom storage, beds and mattresses, dining tables and chairs and sofas.

Gateshead Children's Services for advice about referrals during office hours. Call 0191 433 2653

Gateshead Emergency Duty Team outside of office hours. Call 0191 477 0844

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) 24 hour helpline. Call 0800 800 5000

Northumbria Police Safeguarding Department offers advice. Call 101 and ask for the Safeguarding Department

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- Accessible facilities at our showroom including a safe route through the showroom for parents with small children or babies in pushchairs or prams
- Supervision from parents/carers to avoid injury in our showroom (falls, bumps, catching fingers when closing drawers or door) and when we deliver furniture (injury associated with moving and handling furniture and with moving tail lifts on our van)
- We are aware that there are risks faced by children and young people in their every day lives, such as a family situation or within the community.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England (Children and Social Work Act 2017). A summary of the key legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.
- We recognise that:
- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to 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

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice

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- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection 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 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
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, including:

- Role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Child protection records retention and storage
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision and support

This policy statement came into force on 3rd December 2019. We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy statement and accompanying procedures were last reviewed on 3rd December 2019 and will be reviewed again by 3rd December 2021.

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