



Hampton & Hampton Hill Voluntary Care  
Safeguarding Children Policy

**This Safeguarding Children policy makes a public commitment to people and children in our care, or with whom we come into contact during the course of our activities, from any form of abuse.**

The following procedures are in place to ensure that this commitment is put into practice by all staff and volunteers of Hampton & Hampton Hill Voluntary Care (H&HHVC). The management committee will review the policy yearly.

**1 CORE PRINCIPLES:**

H&HHVC considers the following to be the core principles when working with young people who are clients' relatives or who use the centre or who are volunteers, to provide information, training and advice as appropriate:

- i. A child or adolescent is not an adult. Approaches need to reflect the intrinsic differences between adults and young people of different ages. In all interactions with young people considerations should be given to differences in legal competence, age appropriateness, parental responsibility, confidential and exposure to, as well as protection from risk and harm.
- ii. The overall welfare of the individual young person is of paramount importance. In accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, all professional agencies offering services and opportunities to young people should have the interests of the individual as their primary concern.
- iii. The views of the young person are of central importance and should be sought and considered. Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Children Act 1989 place emphasis on the need for those taking in relation to a young person to ascertain their views and wishes. The young person's views should be listened to and given weight according to their age and maturity.
- iv. H&HHVC should recognise and co-operate with local authorities when carrying out responsibilities towards young people. Local authorities have responsibilities to ensure that appropriate services are provided for young people and children in their area who are 'in need' and to investigate and protect young people and children 'at risk of significant harm'. Protocols for liaison and joint working should be established with the local authority services.
- v. A multi-agency approach is vital at all levels. There should be a co-ordinated approach by relevant services and agencies involved in youth provision
- vi. H&HHVC must be fully responsible to the needs of young people acting as volunteers or to young people met during the course of any of its activities. The staff team must incorporate core skills in working with young people.

- vii. The staff including volunteers who work with young people will be subject to police checks before they can start working directly with young people. They will also be provided with appropriate training before commencing any role that involves working with young people.
- viii. H&HHVC should aim to operate in all cases according to the principles of best practice. It must operate within the current legal framework, respecting the underlying philosophy of the Children Act 1989 and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They should also reflect accepted, evidence-based effectiveness. Services are responsible for being aware of the latest locally and/or nationally established policy and guidance on working with young people.

The named person (CEO) is responsible for the recording, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the policy. The named person will provide the necessary support to staff and volunteers.

## **2 CHILD ABUSE**

All staff and volunteers must be aware of the signs of child abuse, which may be Physical, Sexual, Neglect or Emotional. In case of suspected abuse action will be taken by the staff or volunteer and the CEO notified immediately to enable professional intervention. The normal H&HHVC confidentiality rules apply. The confidentiality statement will be displayed on the internal H&HHVC notice board.

If the CEO is subject to any complaint arising directly out of this policy, then the matter should be referred to the Chair of Trustees, or Vice Chair in his or her absence, who will be responsible for the recording, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the policy.

## **3 NOTE**

Activities of H&HHVC in which contact is made with young people fall into four categories:

- Volunteers seeking work experience or working for a community award – two or three per year
- Relatives of clients who are befriended under the Neighbourhood Care project
- Attendees at classes for dance and recreation held in The Greenwood Community Centre – all under their own management who have acknowledged police clearance and safeguarding policies.

Named contact for safeguarding:

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Further guidance: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/>