

Policy name	Safeguarding Children
Date approved	April 2024
Review date	March 2025

Introduction

Sutton Vision does not provide services to children. However, Sutton Vision has responsibilities for children who are cared for by our adult service users. We are also responsible to other children in the wider community that come to our attention in the course of our work. This Safeguarding Children Policy outlines our approach to protecting children from harm.

Definitions

A child is a person who is under the age of 18.

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from significant harm.

Safeguarding children and young people includes:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring the children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Significant harm can include any form of abuse, neglect, accident or injury that is sufficiently serious to adversely affect progress and enjoyment of life.

Purpose

This document sets out Sutton Vision's policy regarding safeguarding children and applies to all staff, volunteers and individuals associated with the charity.

Principles

We work in line with the requirements of legislation and statutory guidance including:

- London multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH)
- The Children Acts (1989) and (2004)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The welfare of the child is paramount.

All children, without exception, have the right to be protected from harm.

Safeguarding is given high priority within the organisation and we will act without delay where there are areas of concern.

Practices

Recruitment practices and related employment procedures support safeguarding best practice.

Staff and volunteers who provide services for adults with vision impairment will also be mindful that they have an equal responsibility for safeguarding children and must read the safeguarding children policy and follow its procedures should they become aware that a child may be being abused or harmed, even when they are not working directly with the child.

Sutton Vision will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its Trustees, Employees, Volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors).

For all employees who are working or volunteering with Sutton Vision this requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

- understand what safeguarding is and their role in Safeguarding children;
- recognise a situation in which a child needs safeguarding;
- understand how to report a safeguarding Alert;

Reporting Concerns

Any employee, trustee or volunteer who becomes aware that a child is or is at risk of being abused must raise the matter immediately with their supervisor or with the organisation's designated safeguarding lead.

If the child requires immediate protection from harm, we will contact the emergency services.

The Designated Safeguarding lead will:

- Provide advice about concerns, actions to take and whether or not referral and information sharing is appropriate;
- Seek advice and support from other professionals where appropriate;
- Make referrals to the local safeguarding board where a safeguarding issue is suspected;
- Maintain records of safeguarding incidents, reporting and lessons learned.

Where the concern is about a staff member or volunteer, the matter will be referred to the staff Safeguarding Lead (General Operations Manager) who will discuss and agree a course of action with the Trustee Safeguarding Lead (Vice

Chair). Our response will be in line with our disciplinary procedures and statutory responsibilities.

Responsibilities

The Vice Chair and Board of Trustees have responsibility for providing leadership and ensuring that there are effective systems in place to safeguard children.

The designated lead for Safeguarding (General Operations Manager) has responsibility for:

- Providing advice about concerns and acting when referral and information sharing with Sutton Safeguarding partnership is appropriate;
- Supporting staff members and volunteers including supervision and debriefing;
- Maintaining organisational records of safeguarding incidents and reporting;
- Reviewing policy, procedure, practice and training regarding safeguarding;
- Producing annual safeguarding report for trustees.

Individual staff and volunteers have responsibility for:

- Being alert to the signs of possible abuse;
- Raising and discussing any safeguarding concerns with the General Operations Manager;
- Co-operating with any enquiry or review instigated by Sutton Children's services or Sutton Vision;
- Updating personal knowledge and awareness by attending training and other development activities.

Important Contacts

Designated Lead for Safeguarding

Name: Denise Crone (General Operations Manager)

Email address: denisecrone@suttonvision.org.uk

Telephone number: 020 8409 7166 (07711949314 out of hours)

Designated Trustee for Safeguarding

Name: Louisa Syrett

Email address: louisasyrett@suttonvision.org.uk

Telephone number: 07841 708927

To contact Sutton Local Safeguarding Children Partnership team:

Children First Contact Service 020 8770 6001 or cfc@sutton.gov.uk

If out of hours call the Emergency Duty Team 020 8770 5000

020 8770 5000

Police

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

ENDS.