

Safeguarding Children Policy

Open Culture Project

18-32 Brentfield Avenue

M8 0TW Manchester

1. This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Open Culture Project.
2. Open Culture Project provides a community service to Polish community and local people. These procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any child who accesses services provided by Open Culture Project. The procedures recognise that abuse can be a difficult subject for workers to deal with. Open Culture Project is committed to the belief that the protection of children from harm and abuse is everybody's responsibility and the aim of these procedures is to ensure that all managers, trustees of the organisation, management committee members, staff and volunteers act appropriately in response to any concern around adult abuse.
3. The purpose of this policy:
 - to protect children and young people who receive Open Culture Project's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
 - to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection;
4. Open Culture Project 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 practise in a way that protects them.
5. Legal framework:

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

 - Children Act 1989
 - United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
 - Data Protection Act 1998

- Human Rights Act 1998
 - Sexual Offences Act 2003
 - Children Act 2004
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
 - Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
 - Children and Families Act 2014
 - Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years – Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities; HM Government 2014
 - Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015
 - Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015
6. We recognise that:
- the welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
 - all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal 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
 - working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
7. We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:
- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
 - appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children and young people
 - a deputy and a lead board member for safeguarding
 - adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
 - 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

