

PCoS Safeguarding Policy

Introduction Paragraph:

Portsmouth is a city proud to offer safety and sanctuary to anyone fleeing violence and persecution and to those who are vulnerable and isolated. With dignity and compassion, we welcome all vulnerable people. 115 local organisations have thus far come together to form Portsmouth City of Sanctuary (PCoS), connecting a network of important projects and services. With dignity and compassion, we are committed to building working streams of action to offer support to vulnerable groups in the community. <https://portsmouth.cityofsanctuary.org>

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable People

Policy Name:	Safeguarding Policy
Last update:	2 November 2020
Charity name:	Portsmouth City of Sanctuary
Responsible person:	Malcolm Little

- **Definition:**

Safeguarding is the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding means that all agencies working with children, young people and their families, or vulnerable adults, should take all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm are minimised. Where there are concerns about the welfare of children/vulnerable adults, all agencies should take appropriate action to address those concerns. The purpose of this policy is to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding children and vulnerable Adults.

- **Policy Statement**

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary (PCoS) believes that a child or a vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and vulnerable people and keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them. The charity will therefore ensure that all those using our services have the following rights when taking part in activities or benefitting from services:

- To be valued and respected as an individual
- To be listened to
- To be treated with dignity and compassion
- To be safe.

- **Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable people, 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
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers; HM Government 2015.

- **General provision**

This policy applies to all people that access, attend or support the work of PCoS. This includes (future) staff, volunteers and members of the public.

The Responsible Person, as agreed by the trustees, shall take responsibility for the Charity's ongoing compliance with this policy.

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually.

- **Keeping Children and vulnerable people safe:**

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

- Honouring the rights covered in paragraph 2 above

- 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, and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, vulnerable people, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one-to-one discussions
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring that (when we do in time have physical PCoS infrastructure) we provide a safe environment for children, vulnerable people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Ensuring that families using the services of the charity are encouraged to report any concerns they have to a staff member or a trustee of the charity
- Ensuring that the safeguarding policy is available to all and can be downloaded from the PCoS website.

- **Breach of the policy**

In the event of a breach of this policy, the investigation suspension and disciplinary procedure may be instigated. All unlawful acts will be reported to the police.

END OF POLICY.

2 November 2020.

Signature of the responsible person:	
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