



**Maindee Unlimited** - UK Charity No: 1160272

## **Our policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults**

### **1. Policy Statement**

The important thing is to act on your concerns!

Abuse of vulnerable people of all ages is a global phenomenon. It occurs in all countries and in all societies. It can involve physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect. It is nearly always preventable.

**Maindee Unlimited** ("The Charity") believes that:

- Children have the right to a happy, healthy and secure childhood
- The abuse of children is an abuse of their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The abuse of any child or vulnerable person is *never* acceptable.

The Charity will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all children, young people & vulnerable adults participating in any activity we are responsible for.

### **THE PROBLEM OF ABUSE**

The Charity works with a full cross section of people who live or work in Newport, South Wales. Sadly, a proportion of these people will have experienced abuse, or will be at risk of abuse in one form or another. This policy recognises this fact and aims to ensure that the problem of abuse and how to prevent it is addressed in every aspect of our work.

### **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND CHILD ABUSE**

The Charity supports the vision of a world where the lives of all children reflect the international standards set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes the right to freedom from abuse and exploitation. This policy aims to translate this commitment to children's rights into a practical reality through our work with children.

### **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS**

Through its emphasis on prevention, the policy aims to minimise the risks of children and vulnerable adults being abused. The Charity will also do all it can to ensure that people who are being abused, or who are at risk of abuse, are supported and given protection. It is also possible that, on occasions, staff, volunteers and others engaged by The Charity or its partners, may pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults and abuse their position of trust. The policy demands the highest standards of practice in work with children and describes the values and principles that must underpin our approach to children.

## POLICY COMMITMENT

This policy covers all contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults at any event or activity. We will ensure that our staff, volunteers, contractors or partners:

- are aware of the problem of abuse
- safeguard people from abuse through good practice
- report all concerns about possible abuse
- respond appropriately when abuse is discovered or suspected.

## WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE POLICY?

All staff, volunteers and other representatives of The Charity must be familiar with the policy and be aware of the problem of abuse.

Everyone is responsible for defending everyone's rights and, where possible, preventing any abuse.

This means raising any concerns you may have about the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adult and/or the behaviour of adults.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE OR SUSPECT POSSIBLE ABUSE?

Beyond immediate action to intervene to protect a child or vulnerable adult in cases where actual or potential harm is directly witnessed at that time, as a small Charity we do not have the expertise or authority to act on behalf of a child at risk. You therefore should:

- discuss the matter as soon as possible with a colleague, or another member of The Charity, or a trusted adult in the first instance to clarify your concern and then:
- Contact Newport Social Services Duty Desk on 01633 235407 (office hours)
- If there is a need for intervention out of hours, contact the police.

Concerns for the safety and well being of people can arise in a variety of ways and in the whole range of different settings in which we work. For example, a child may tell you or display signs that they are being abused; someone may hint that a vulnerable adult is at risk or that a colleague is an abuser; you may witness or hear about abuse in another organisation.

If you have any suspicions or concerns regarding possible child abuse, or if there is anything with which you feel uncomfortable, you should raise these concerns with an officer of Maindee Unlimited or a trusted adult and then contact the Newport County Borough Council Social Services Duty Desk (01633 235407).

**The important thing is to act on your concerns!**

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Office CHAIRPERSON	Office TRUSTEE
Signature 	Signature 
Date: November 2019	Date: November 2019

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