



## Safeguarding Children policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how Make 2nds Count operates to safeguard children in order to;

- protect them from harm.
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

We recognise we have a duty of care and we are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who comes into contact with our organisation; including children involved as participants in all of our activities. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our staff and volunteers.

This policy is a fundamental part of our governance responsibilities and priorities. Trustees responsibilities include ensuring that the organisation provides a safe environment and protects staff, volunteers, and anyone who comes into contact with it from abuse or maltreatment of any kind.

We are committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects our legal responsibilities and government guidance requirements. The organisation recognises that it has responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and Working Together 2023. The organisation will act in accordance with all relevant legislation including the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Terrorism Act (2000) and the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

We recognize that we are likely to have contact with children and vulnerable adults and may become aware of situations where we believe that an individual may be at risk. In such circumstances, we will exercise our responsibility to safeguard and protect in accordance with the legislation. Where necessary, this duty to safeguard will supersede an expected right to confidentiality on the part of the individual concerned.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the safeguarding procedures and the wider policies and procedures for the organisation which when combined develop a comprehensive and more robust framework for safeguarding including: Code of Conduct and the following policies and procedures; Safeguarding Incident Plan, Crisis Intervention Policy, privacy policy, volunteer policy, Whistleblowing, Complaints, Health and Safety, Finance, and communications..

### Definitions

- **Children** are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

- **Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Working Together 2023 as:**
  - providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
  - protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
  - preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
  - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
  - promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
  - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework.
- Different types of child abuse:
  - Bullying and Cyberbullying
  - Child sexual exploitation
  - Child trafficking
  - Criminal exploitation and gangs
  - Domestic abuse
  - Emotional abuse
  - Grooming
  - Neglect
  - Physical abuse

### **Persons affected**

This policy applies to everyone working/ volunteering on behalf of Make 2nds Count, including the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, contractors and agency staff.

### **Safeguarding policy**

- We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.
- We recognise that while it is the responsibility of the relevant statutory agencies to determine whether or not abuse has taken place it is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns and all staff, volunteers, trustees and contractors will know how to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.
- We have a zero tolerance approach to abuse. There are no excuses for not taking all reasonable actions to protect children at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment.

- We recognise that all children whatever their age, ability, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity have equal rights to protection from abuse.
- We are committed to inter agency collaboration and information sharing to safeguard children.
- We recognise the need to protect children from harm both in person and/or from cyber/ virtual risks.
- We ensure all of the organisation's operations and activities are designed and delivered with effective safeguarding in mind to protect children from abuse.

## **Intervention Principles**

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 provides the legal context upon which Make 2nds Count bases its assessment and measurement of the level of service or intervention provided, whilst principally seeking to uphold the individual's human rights and empowering them to have responsibility for their own lives.

The general principle on intervention in a child's affairs is that their welfare and best interests must always be the primary consideration. Intervention is justified if:

- (a) it will prevent or reduce significant harm to the child,
- (b) it is necessary to protect the child from abuse, neglect, exploitation, or harm,
- (c) the child is unable to safeguard their own well-being and requires protection, or
- (d) intervention is in the best interest of the child and the least intrusive option available.

A child may be considered to be at risk if they:

- (a) are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm,
- (b) are experiencing neglect or abuse by another person,
- (c) are engaging in self-harming or high-risk behaviors,
- (d) are exposed to domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, or other adverse childhood experiences.

Where concerns about a child's safety arise, Make 2nds Count will act in accordance with national safeguarding guidance and local child protection procedures using our Crisis Intervention Policy and Family Support Service Incident Report Form.

## **We will keep children safe by;**

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them

- Recognising;
  - The welfare of the child is paramount
  - All children have the right to protection from abuse
  - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
  - Professional Curiosity is important in recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns
  - The importance of following information sharing procedures in safeguarding
- Providing effective management, induction training, regular refresher training and support for all staff, volunteers and trustees to know about and follow our safeguarding policy and procedures for safeguarding children.
- Using our safeguarding policies and procedures to share and manage any allegations of safeguarding concerns about staff or volunteers against a child/ren using the Local Authority Designated Officer process.
- We will make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works/volunteers with children who has:
  - behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
  - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
  - behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children
- Acting in an appropriate professional behaviour as set out in our Code of Conduct. Failure to maintain standards may be dealt with using our Disciplinary Procedures.
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely; ensuring all necessary checks are made, including on when to obtain a DBS check.
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance and our IT policies and procedures.
- Having a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed, and for staff/volunteers and trustees to feel able to raise concerns and feel supported in fulfilling their safeguarding role.
- Implementing effective safeguarding systems where; The child's needs are paramount: and staff, volunteers and trustees use their professional judgement to put the child's needs at the heart of the safeguarding system so that the right solution can be found for each individual
- Practising Professional Curiosity, understanding what life is like for the individual and being alert to the needs of children and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children
- Ensuring a senior board trustee lead takes leadership responsibility for the organisation's safeguarding arrangements, contact details in the accompanying procedures.
- A Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for the organisation.

- Making our safeguarding children policy and procedures available on our website, and or on demand, for anyone using our services to know what to do if they have a concern.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints, grievances and whistleblowing policies and procedures.

## **Disclosure Checks and Safe Recruitment**

We will require employees or volunteers to undertake a DBS where their role involves 'regulated' work as defined by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

### **Handling of Disclosure Information:**

Disclosure information will not be used for any other purpose than the reason for which it was originally requested.

### **Access and Storage:**

This information will be held securely and marked as Private and Confidential in the individual's personal file. Only those authorized by the Chair of the Board of Trustees may access the secure storage facility in the course of their duties.

## **Reporting and Responding to Concerns**

Any concerns about the welfare of a child should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead.

Where action needs to be taken, there should be no delay in reporting a concern about a child who is in immediate danger. In cases where an individual is in immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted without delay. Access Make 2nds Crisis Intervention Policy and Incident Reporting Form for guidance.

In all other circumstances, the decision to breach a client's confidentiality for the purposes of support and protection must be made by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the CEO and, where possible (avoiding any unnecessary delay), with the informed consent of the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

## **Safeguarding lead at Make 2nds Count**

If you are concerned about anything you see or hear relating to a child, young people or vulnerable adult you must contact the charity's Deputy CEO:

Name: Emma Hall

Email: [emma.hall@make2ndscount.co.uk](mailto:emma.hall@make2ndscount.co.uk)

Mobile: 07527199448

### **Agreement to follow this policy**

The safeguarding children policy is fully supported by the Board of Trustees and management team.

## **Document version control**

Version number	Change or update	Author or owner	Date	
2.0	Policy updated	Emma Hall	July 2025	
	Initial review	Noms & Governance committee	August 2025	
	Board approval	Board of Trustees	5 September	
		Next review		Sept 2026