



# **Children's Safeguarding Policy for The Teignbridge Community Project Community Interest Company**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead: Colette Palmer**

**Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Anna Lofthouse**

**Level 3 Safeguarding: Team Leaders**

The Directors at The Teignbridge Community Project are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from us or working with us are not harmed in any way. The Directors of The Teignbridge Community Project have a legal duty to act prudently, and this means that they must take all reasonable steps within their power to ensure that no one is harmed. It is particularly important where beneficiaries are vulnerable persons or children in the community.

This policy applies to all those involved in The Teignbridge Community Project, including, but not exclusively: Directors, Management, Team Leaders, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers.

The Teignbridge Community Project abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has an equal right to 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.

### **Purpose:**

The Teignbridge Community Project will:

- Protect children and young people who receive services at The Teignbridge Community Project from harm.
- This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- Provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of The Teignbridge Community Project including; Directors, Management, Team Leaders, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

## **Definitions:**

**The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is:** anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

### **Vulnerable Adult at Risk:**

- An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

**Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse:** Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

**Safeguarding children:** Safeguarding children is defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) as:

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

### **Safeguarding as Part of the Deal:**

In safeguarding children, The Teignbridge Community Project is committed to the principles of the Devon County Council Safeguarding team.

### **Legal Framework:**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://nspcc.org.uk/learning).

The Teignbridge Community Project have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults.

## **The Prevent duty**

Some organisations in England, Scotland and Wales have a duty, as a specified authority under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, to identify vulnerable children and young people and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty. These organisations include:

- Schools
- Registered childcare providers
- Local authorities
- Police
- Prisons and probation services
- NHS trusts and foundations.
- Other organisations may also have Prevent duties if they perform delegated local authority functions.

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme.

**Radicalisation** is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

## **Training and Awareness:**

The Teignbridge Community Project will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its Directors, Management, Team Leaders, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers.

For all employees who are working or volunteering with children, 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 child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with children.
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Children Policy.

Similarly, employees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an adult at risk of abuse. For more information about adults safeguarding, refer to The Teignbridge Community Project's Adults Safeguarding Policy.

## **Confidentiality and Information Sharing:**

The Teignbridge Community Project expects all Directors, Management, Team Leaders, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers to remain confidential. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and

Data Protection. Any undue sharing of information could jeopardise an investigation and bring The Teignbridge Community Project into disrepute.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding, see the Teignbridge Community Project's Personal Data Protection and Privacy Policy or, speak to one of the Safeguarding team.

### **Recording and Record Keeping:**

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding a child or vulnerable adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made. The Teignbridge Community Project has a SG1 'Child and Vulnerable Adult Incident and Concern Reporting Form' which will help make sure you have included all relevant information. In addition to this; we have a SG1 Body Map which will help you to record injuries. Please remember: Never ask a child or vulnerable adult to remove clothing for this purpose. SG1 forms are available in the main office or, speak with a member of the Safeguarding team.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Please pass your completed forms to your Designated or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads for action, logging and storage.

### **Safe Recruitment & Selection:**

The Teignbridge Community Project is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

This is called the Safer Recruitment of Staff and Volunteers Policy.

### **Social Media:**

All employees and volunteers should be aware of The Teignbridge Community Project's social media policy and procedures: Online Safety and Acceptable User's Policy and the Code of Conduct Policy.

### **Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:**

All Directors, Management, Team Leaders, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers should be aware of policy and procedures regarding the use of mobile phones and any digital technology and understand that it is unlawful to photograph children and young people without the explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities. This is stated in the Online Safety and Acceptable User's Policy.

## **Whistleblowing:**

There is also a requirement by The Teignbridge Community Project to protect whistleblowers. (Whistleblowing Policy.)

It is important that people within The Teignbridge Community Project have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong- doing within their company.

## **Important Contacts:**

### **Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding**

Name: Colette Palmer

Email address: colette\_palmer02@msn.com

Telephone number: 07790930938

### **Deputy Designated Senior Lead for Safeguarding**

Name: Anna Lofthouse

Email address: annaf663@gmail.com

Telephone number: 07445158419

Or, please speak to one of our Team Leaders who are Level 3 trained in Safeguarding.

**0345 155 1071**

**Worried that a child is at risk? If you are concerned that a child is being abused please call 0345 155 1071 or email [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) Professionals should complete the MASH contact form. If it's an emergency call 999.**

For Early Help: Southern Devon: [Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Earlyhelpsouthsecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

**The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is the person who should be notified when there are concerns with a professional or volunteer who works with children who has: Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child.**

If you need to contact Devon's LADO, please consider all guidance first. If you believe the concern meets the remit of the LADO service, please **complete the notification form or, telephone 01392 384964 or, email [ladosecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ladosecure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) for a notification form.**

**Police**

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

**NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

Reviewed: 1st August 2024

Next Review: 1st August 2026

*Signed:*



*Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024*

**Colette Palmer, Director**

*Signed:*



*Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024*

**Anna Lofthouse, Director**