



Steps Ahead Life CIC Child Protection Policy Statement

Steps Ahead Life CIC takes seriously its responsibility to promote, protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people in its care.

Steps Ahead Life CIC believes that all participants have the right to enjoy activities and experiences, in a happy, safe and secure environment. We acknowledge our duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people involved in our activities and within our programmes.

All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse and have their needs taken into account.

The safeguarding of children, young people specialist and volunteers is the responsibility to anyone working on behalf of Steps Ahead Life CIC and participants on programmes. Safeguarding is integral to all our activities associated with Steps Ahead Life CIC.

The persons responsible for Safeguarding at Steps Ahead Life CIC are as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Name: Viv Stevens Position: Education Director Contact Number (01702 290692) hello@stepsahead.life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deputy Designated Child Protection Lead Name: Laura Bowen-Davies Position: Creative Director Contact Number (01702 290692) hello@stepsahead.life</p>
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If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999. In case of an emergency, contact local Social Services or NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and board member for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for specialists and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all specialists and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting specialists and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [*more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: ico.org.uk/for-organisations*]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against specialists and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, specialist and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where specialists and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Safeguarding Policies are available for your information upon request hello@stepsahead.life

Viv Stevens-Steps Ahead Life Safeguarding director.