



**This policy outlines how Foyle International ensures that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is at the heart of all of our activities.**

The document reflects the safeguarding needs of the children and vulnerable adults that use the services of Foyle International or who come into contact with staff and volunteers of Foyle International. It works with and aligns with our other key safeguarding and organisational policies, procedures and standards.

### **The purpose and scope of this policy statement**

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and vulnerable adults who receive Foyle International's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who may use our services
- to provide all staff and volunteers, as well as children, vulnerable adults and their families or guardians, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Foyle International including managers, teachers, all paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, host families and collaborators.

*Please also see the document: Guidelines for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults for detailed information on safeguarding issues, responsibilities of the key safeguarding staff, and the step-by-step procedures for implementing the safeguarding policy.*



## Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in Northern Ireland. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [www.safeguardingni.org](http://www.safeguardingni.org).

## Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents which cover:

- role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- recording concerns and information sharing
- child protection records retention and storage
- code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- behaviour codes for children and young people
- photography and sharing images guidance
- safer recruitment
- online safety
- anti-bullying
- managing complaints
- whistleblowing
- health and safety
- induction, training, supervision and support
- adult to child supervision ratios.

## We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.



## We recognise that:

- the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all children and vulnerable adults, 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
- some children and vulnerable adults are at additional risk because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

## We will seek to keep children and vulnerable adults safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a trained nominated safeguarding lead
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for all staff and volunteers
- implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff 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
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with vulnerable adults and children via our publicity and marketing
- making sure that children and vulnerable adults 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 those children, vulnerable adults, carers, families appropriately
- using appropriate procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers
- maintaining an anti-bullying environment
- ensuring we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place



- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## Contact details

### **Nominated child protection lead**

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### **Deputy Nominated child protection leads**

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### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Signed: *Kelley Proctor* - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Date: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022