



# Safeguarding Policy Statement

September 2024

## Purpose and Scope

Orchard House - Northampton work with children/young people, their families and care authorities and organisations to enhance their chances of leaving care with successful outcomes. These include providing a safe, nurturing home that builds and develops children and young people to support their transition into adulthood and improving opportunities.

## The purpose of this policy statement is:

to protect children and young people who receive Orchard House - Northampton's services. This extends to when young people leave our services and have ongoing support.  
to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child/young person protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Orchard House-Northampton, including senior managers and the directors, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

## Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children & young people in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/england/>

## 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 a child or young person is paramount
- all children and young people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues which means they may not make safe decisions



- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare and improve outcomes.

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child/young person safeguarding lead for safeguarding
- developing and updating our child & young person protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best current practices
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers 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
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, young persons, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- Safer recruiting of staff and volunteers, ensuring all necessary checks are made in line with recognised safer recruitment practices. *See 2.5 OHN Safer Recruitment & Processes Policy*
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that 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
- recording and storing information professionally and securely.

## **Related policies and procedures**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies and procedures:

- Procedures for responding to concerns about a child or young person's wellbeing
- Role of the designated safeguarding officer
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Safer recruitment policy and procedures
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Online safety policy and procedures for responding to concerns about online abuse
- Radicalisation and Extremism Policy
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) policy
- Gangs' policy
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) policy
- Substance Misuse Policy
- Records retention and storage policy
- Whistleblowing policy



Orchard House – Northampton aligns with NSCB & NSAB policies and procedures online manual which is fully accessible here: <http://northamptonshirescb.proceduresonline.com/index.html>

## Reporting Concerns

<b>Orchard House – Northampton Safeguarding Manager</b> Ruth Carter <a href="mailto:rcarter@orchardhouse-northampton.com">rcarter@orchardhouse-northampton.com</a> Office Tel: 01604 536728	<b>Orchard House - Northampton Deputy Safeguarding Lead</b> Sarah Humphrey <a href="mailto:shumphrey@orchardhouse-northampton.com">shumphrey@orchardhouse-northampton.com</a> Office Tel: 01604 536728	<b>Orchard House - Northampton Nominated Individual</b> Mark Carter <a href="mailto:mcarter@orchardhouse-northampton.com">mcarter@orchardhouse-northampton.com</a> Tel: 07592757456
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Police	999	If person believed to be in immediate risk of harm
Missing Person / Absent	101	For non-urgent notifications
Missing Independent Return Interviews (MISPER)	07736638555 <a href="mailto:IRT@northamptonshire.gov.uk">IRT@northamptonshire.gov.uk</a>	Contact the Initial Response Team (IRT)
RISE	01604 888345 <a href="mailto:rise@northants.pnn.police.uk">rise@northants.pnn.police.uk</a>	Reporting concerns of sexual exploitation (999 if urgent)
Northamptonshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	0300 126 7000 MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk	For referrals and Non-emergencies
Ofsted	0300 123 1231 <a href="mailto:SC.suppacc@ofsted.gov.uk">SC.suppacc@ofsted.gov.uk</a>	For reporting concerns about a Supported Accommodation provider
Northampton Duty/EDT	EDT - 01604 361408 OOH – 01604 626938	NCT – West Northampton Area
North Northants Duty/EDT	EDT – 01604 364 939 Leaving Care – 01604 364779/364778	NCT/Leaving Care North Northampton
Milton Keynes CC Duty/EDT	EDT – 01908 253434 OOH – 01908 265545	For Children & YP from MK
Buckinghamshire Duty/EDT	EDT – 01296 387933 Leaving care – 01296 387 968	For Children & YP from Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire Duty/EDT	EDT – 01865 323222 OOH – 0800 833 408	For Children & YP from Oxfordshire CC
Bedfordshire Duty/EDT	EDT – 0300 800 8123 LD EDT – 01234 27 762	For Children & YP from Beford BC
Leicestershire Duty/EDT	EDT – 0116 305 3051 OOH – 0116 255 1606	For Children & YP from Leicester CC
Rutland County Council Duty/EDT	EDT – 01572 758407 OOH – 0116 3050005	For Children & YP from Rutland CC
Luton Borough County Council	EDT – 01582 547820 OOH – 0300 300 8123	For Children & YP from Luton BC

We are committed to reviewing our safeguarding policies and practice and do this at least once annually.