



Child Protection Policy

Guiding Principle:

The management of Voluntary Action Barnsley is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation. Voluntary Action Barnsley acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

Child Protection is not an isolated issue and we will work in partnership with other organisations and ensure paid staff and volunteers work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

Policy Statement:

In implementing this child protection policy Voluntary Action Barnsley will:

- Ensure that **ALL** staff and volunteers having contact with children will be carefully selected and vetted to try and ensure that they pose no risk to children or vulnerable groups. Staff and volunteers having contact with children will be thoroughly checked through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) at the appropriate level.
- Ensure that all staff understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation;
- Ensure that all staff understand their responsibility to work to the standards that are detailed in the organisations ***Child Protection Procedures*** and work at all times towards maintaining high standards of practice;
- Ensure that the named persons understands their responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. Police and/or Social Care);
- Ensure that any procedures relating to the conduct of workers are implemented in a consistent and equitable manner;

- Provide opportunities for all workers to develop their skills and knowledge particularly in relation to the welfare and protection of children and young people;
- Ensure that children and young people are enabled to express their ideas and views on a wide range of issues and will have access to the *VAB Complaints Procedure*;
- Ensure that parents/carers are encouraged to be involved in the work of the organisation and, when requested, have access to all guidelines and procedures;
- Endeavour to keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the welfare and protection of children and young people and a commitment to reviewing our policy and good practice at regular intervals.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

The safety, protection and well-being of all children and young people accessing Voluntary Action Barnsley's services is the paramount consideration in all decisions staff and volunteers make about sharing sensitive information with third parties.

All information which a child or young person discloses with a member of staff or volunteer will be treated fairly and lawfully. Staff and volunteers of Voluntary Action Barnsley are bound to work within VAB's policies and procedures having a duty to respond where it is deemed that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm.

Where possible consent from the child/young person will be sought prior to sharing sensitive information with third parties however in particular circumstances obtaining consent may be neither possible nor desirable as the safety and the welfare of the child/young person remains paramount.

Any breach of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with VAB's disciplinary policy and procedure.

Revised: June 2008

Ratified: June 2008