



Children & Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

Approved by: Board of Trustees
Policy owner: Director of Services
Issue date: December 2019
Review date: December 2020

Annually reviewed unless earlier review is indicated by changes to legislation or guidance

Beat works with children and vulnerable adults and has a responsibility to promote the wellbeing and safety of all people it comes into contact with. Beat is committed to practices that protect children and vulnerable adults from harm and recognises its duty to ensure that appropriate action is taken where a child or vulnerable adult is experiencing harm or is at risk of harm.

Purpose

- To safeguard and promote the wellbeing of the children and vulnerable adults with whom Beat has contact
- To ensure that all members of staff and others covered by this policy understand the context within which checking with the Disclosure and Barring Service takes place
- To provide all members of staff and volunteers with guidance on how they should behave if they suspect that a child or vulnerable adult may be experiencing or be at risk from abuse or harm.
- To guide members of staff and volunteers on how to respond to and report concerns

This policy applies to all members of staff, trustees and volunteers working on behalf of Beat in any capacity and in any setting.

This policy relates to all children up to 18 years of age and includes children with whom Beat has direct or indirect contact with. This policy also relates to vulnerable adults who need to be safeguarded from harm.

As per the definitions set out in the Children Act 1989, a 'child' is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Adults aged 18 and over have the potential to be vulnerable (either temporarily or permanently) for a variety of reasons and in different situations. An adult may be vulnerable if he/she:

- Has a learning or physical disability
- Has a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Has a reduction in physical or mental capacity
- Is unable, for any other reason, to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Legal framework

Everyone has a right to be safeguarded from abuse or neglect. There is a legislative framework in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults through The Children Act 1989 (as amended by section 53 of the Children Act 2004) and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

All members of staff and volunteers should have a basic awareness of safeguarding issues. This includes:

- Being alert to the possibility of abuse and neglect
- Having enough knowledge to recognise an abusive or potentially abusive event or set of circumstances

- Knowing who in the organisation to raise concerns with
- Being competent to take the appropriate immediate or emergency action.

If any member of staff or volunteer has any concerns about a child or vulnerable adult they must alert a Beat Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) immediately. If the DSO agrees there is grounds for concern, they must take appropriate action to safeguard the child or vulnerable adult. This may include contacting the relevant local authority social care service or the local police child abuse investigation team.

If a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger the member of staff or volunteer who first becomes aware of the danger should dial 999 for the police.

The above may include concerns about a member of staff, a suspicion that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused or neglected, or a suspicion that an activity is taking place that could place a person at risk.

In any situation where there is a suspicion of abuse, the welfare needs of the child or vulnerable adult must come first even where there may be a conflict of interest (e.g. where the suspected perpetrator may be a member of staff or volunteer).

All safeguarding incidents are logged and shared with the board of Trustees at quarterly board meetings.