



*“We are committed to promoting the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.”*

# Safeguarding Policy Statement

April 2024

## Purpose and Scope

The overall aim of Autism Arena is to provide advice and guidance to parents, carers and professionals who are working with or caring for autistic children and young people. Training, workshops and webinars are delivered to professionals and, through virtual consultations, support and guidance is provided to parents and carers to help them navigate health and social care, education and leisure.

Whilst Autism Arena will not have any direct contact with children and young people, it will be providing advice and guidance to the parents / carers of vulnerable children. This policy statement is therefore in place to protect from harm the children of adults who use the services of Autism Arena.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect from harm the children of adults who use the services of Autism Arena.
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Autism Arena, including Directors, paid staff and volunteers.

## Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, in particular Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) which is the Department for Education statutory guidance that sets out what organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children must do to help, protect, and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

The Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) guidance includes:

- Principles for working with parents and carers that highlights the importance of building positive, trusting, and co-operative relationships to deliver tailored support to families.

- Expectations for strong multi-agency partnership working together and applies to all individuals, agencies and organisations working with children and their families, across a range of roles and activities.
- New national multi-agency child protection standards that set out actions, considerations and behaviours for improved child protection practice and better outcomes for children.

Further information on key legislation and guidance can be found at [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](https://nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

## Supporting documents

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

- safeguarding procedure
- whistleblowing
- managing complaints

## Policy Statement

We believe that children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind and that 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 is paramount in all the work we do. Working in partnership with children and families is essential in promoting children and young people's welfare.

## Equality Statement

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. However, some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues and so extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

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

- appointing a nominated safeguarding lead for children and young people / lead board member for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures 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, 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](http://ico.org.uk/for-organisations)]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with our parents / carers
- making sure that parents / carers know where to go for help if they have a concern
- 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
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, parents and carers treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

## Contact details

**Senior Safeguarding Lead:** Nikki Wilson

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**Deputy Safeguarding Lead:** Gillian Rogers

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This policy came into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

This policy was last reviewed on: .....(date)

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

Signed: 

[this should be signed by the most senior person with responsibility for safeguarding in your organisation].

Date: 15/04/24