

Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

Last review – May 2018

Latest review – Commenced May 2019 Completed September 2019

The following Policy must be read in conjunction with the Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Policy Statement

Government Guidance in the publication “Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2013 states:

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

Everyone who works with children - including teachers, GPs, nurses, midwives, health visitors, early years professionals, youth workers, police, Accident and Emergency staff, pediatricians, voluntary and community workers and social workers - has a responsibility for keeping them safe.

No single professional can have a full picture of a child’s needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

In order that organisations and practitioners collaborate effectively, it is vital that every individual working with children and families is aware of the role that they have to play and the role of other professionals. In addition, effective safeguarding requires clear local arrangements for collaboration between professionals and agencies.”

Cruse Bereavement Care is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of 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. Cruse Bereavement Care acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations and reports of suspicions of abuse.

Scope

- This policy and its procedures apply to all volunteers and staff of Cruse Bereavement Care., whether they are providing, face to face, Email, telephone or other forms of Bereavement Support to children.
- Where children and young people are referred to within this document this relates to persons who have not yet reached their eighteenth birthday.

Principles

This policy is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of the child / young person is paramount
- All children and young people (including an unborn child) whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse

- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report any concerns to the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and their Area / Branch Safeguarding Officer

Minimum Standards:

Cruse Bereavement Care aims to safeguard children and young people by:

- Ensuring that all Areas have a Safeguarding Officer who is appropriately experienced and trained, and whose name is notified to and recorded by Area Support. (N.B. This may be the same person for both Vulnerable Adults and Children and Young People.)
- Ensuring that all Regions and Nations have a Safeguarding Officer who is appropriately experienced and trained, and whose name is notified to and recorded by Area Support on CIS.
- Ensuring that National Services e.g. Helpline, Hope Again etc. have a Safeguarding Officer who is appropriately experienced and trained, (minimum training being Cruse safeguarding module and briefing about understanding of role) and whose name is notified to and recorded by Area Support.
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers are aware of and abide by the procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People.
- Sharing information across professional boundaries and with agencies that need to know.
- Following the procedures for the recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers.
- Ensure volunteers and employees access safeguarding training annually (on-line courses will be forthcoming)
- Providing staff and volunteers with appropriate training, support and supervision.
- Responding to allegations of abuse, including those made against staff and volunteers.
- Reviewing this policy and its procedures annually.
- Ensuring that disclosures of historic abuse are dealt with appropriately.