

# Safeguarding Children

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Vision4Children (The Littler Trust) hereafter referred to as V4C, is committed to safeguarding children.

## **Statement of Purpose**

### **V4C ensures that:**

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children without exception involved in any way with V4C have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
- There is an approved, named individual in charge of child protection who is Mark Welling, one of our Trustees.
- This policy is approved and endorsed by V4C's Board of Trustees.
- This policy applies to all V4C staff, trustees and volunteers.
- Children and parents involved with V4C are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate.
- All concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by V4C's trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately – including, if required a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police.
- V4C are committed to ensuring safe recruitment, selection and vetting.
- This procedure will be reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

### **Policy and Procedures if an allegation or report is made:**

If someone discloses that they are being abused, then upon receiving the information you should

- React calmly.
- Reassure the child that they were right to tell and that they are not to blame and take what the child says seriously.
- Be careful not to be deemed as putting words into the child's mouth, the easiest way of doing this is by asking questions.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Inform the child/ young person what you will do next.
- Make a full and written record of what has been said as soon as possible and don't delay in passing on the information.

The report should include:

- The child's known details including name, date of birth, address and contact numbers.
- Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else.
- The nature of the allegation, including dates, times, specific factors and any other relevant information.



- Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay.
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries. Also any indirect signs, such as behavioural changes.
- Details of witnesses to the incidents.
- The child's account if it can be given, of what has happened and how any bruising or other injuries occurred.
- Accounts from others, including colleagues and parents.

This report must then be submitted to the named individual in charge of child protection for further action to be taken:

Referral to Careline (Liverpool Children's Services)- 0151 233 3700:

Have all the information at hand- details of the young person and any written concerns.

Emergency action.

In some cases you may need to protect a child immediately- in these situations dial 999. *(The Police are the only agency with statutory powers for the immediate protection of children)*

Serious Incident Report to the Charity Commission - [RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

All safeguarding incidents should be reported to the Charity Commission as a Serious Incident in accordance with their specific guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-report-a-serious-incident-in-your-charity>.

**It is not V4C's responsibility to decide whether abuse has taken place or not, however it will pass on information to the appropriate authority immediately.**

### Contact Us

For more information regarding our Safeguarding Policy, please email or write to

[info@vision4children.org.uk](mailto:info@vision4children.org.uk)

**Vision 4 Children (The Littler Trust)**

**The Eye Department**

**Alder Hey Children's Hospital**

**Liverpool**

**L12 2AP**