



#FeedthehomelessBristol Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

#FeedthehomelessBristol, is a registered charity and will work to uphold its legal and moral duty with regards to safeguarding and duty of care for children and young people.

This policy applies to all trustees, volunteers, parents, carers, group leaders ie: scouts, who wish to involve children in #FeedthehomelessBristol activities including walks, events and meetings. It may also apply to children or young people whom we may come into contact with or encounter whilst on walks and during events. For parents, carers or group leaders, this must be read and understood before children / young people take part in working with our charity.

The Policy

The purpose of this policy, is to demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding children / young people. Children and young people under 18 years of age are an especially vulnerable group and through working together we can work to ensure their safety, as required by law.

#FeedthehomelessBristol welcomes the involvement of children and young people under 18 years of age on walks and events. Through allowing children and young people to take part in working with our charity, we have a legal duty to act carefully and take all reasonable steps that children and young people are not harmed and kept safe. Equally, there may be times whilst on walks or at events we provide meals or provisions to young people on the streets and this policy will apply to those young people also. Safeguarding includes what we can do to keep children / young people safe, including minimizing the risk of harm, accidents and taking action in handling safety concerns. For all volunteer team members, parents, carers and group leaders, this document should be read together with the walk guidelines and walk risk assessment.

If you would like to bring a children or young people to a walk or event, a request to the Head of Walk Team or Project Co-ordinator must be made so that it can be considered and included on the rota. To meet safeguarding requirements for children and young people who take part in walks and events we request parents and carers take lead responsibility in their care as normal, throughout the whole time they are present. We must request that as a parent or carer, the walk guidelines and risk assessment be read and that children and young people are supported to follow them.

#FeedthehomelessBristol cannot provide specialist care or support for children / young people who are unable to care independently for themselves. We cannot take lead responsibility for looking after children under the age of 18 years. However, we can enable this activity to make it safe for parents and carers who wish to involve children or young people to take part in walking or events and help in distributing provisions to the homeless community we serve.

Our child protection policy states the following points to safeguard children and young people working with us or whom we may come into contact with whilst working.

- The welfare and safety of children / young people who are present or who take part in working with #FeedthehomelessBristol is paramount
- All children / young people without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality and beliefs
- No child or group of children will be treated less favourably when serving or taking part in working with our charity



- This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees, Head of Walks, and all appropriate management members annually or when legislation changes.
- This policy applies to all volunteers, parents and carers of children and young people who work with #FeedthehomelessBristol
- All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees and volunteers and responded to appropriately, this may require a referral to the independent Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), children's social care services and in emergencies the police.
- We commit to safe recruiting and selection of volunteers.
- We request that parents or carers of children follow the advice of the lead walker at all times.
- A walk requires that we work as a team, walkers do not lone work. Children present will not be left alone and be in line of sight.
- We will not take photos or use images of children or young people for promotional purposes without parental / carer's permission.

In the event there is cause for concern regarding a child's welfare or safety we will report it to the relevant bodies, following the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures. The name of our LSCB is Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB). BSCB is also a member of the South West Child Protection Procedures (SWCPP), their procedures and requirements have also been referred to and incorporated into this policy. The BSCB can be contacted on **0117 903 7768**, their website can be referenced at www.bristol.gov.uk/bristol-safeguarding-children-board

There are many types of child abuse, these can include physical, sexual, emotional or neglectful or a combination of these. Children / young people can be abused by adults as well as by other young people or children. The authorities will be notified if it is suspected that a child is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm.

A trustee or member of our management team may discuss concerns regarding a child / young person with their parent, carer or group leader only in circumstances where it would not put the child at risk.

These concerns may include:

- Significant changes in behaviour
- Deterioration in a child / young person's wellbeing
- Unexplained bruising, marks, signs of abuse or neglect
- Inappropriate behaviour presented by a person working with a child or young person, including inappropriate sexual comments, excessive 1 to 1 attention beyond the requirements of their role, inappropriate sharing of images.
- Children / young person's / parent / carer's comments which give cause for concern including extremist views.

In the event a child or young person discloses harm or abuse regarding themselves or another child, we will take the following actions:

- We will listen to the child / young person
- We will take the allegation seriously
- We will not ask leading questions or put words into the child's account
- We will make a record of what the child said, including the date, time and people present and any other information which is relevant.



- We will contact Bristol Social Services and request to speak to the Duty Social Worker / Designated Senior Manager for advice and an assessment as required by Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board. This referral needs to be made as soon as there is an opportunity, the call is confidential and children must not to be present or overhear details of the call.
- When talking to Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board, the concerns / incident that has happened will be reported to them and we agree to email or post the written referral.
- We will follow any guidance or advice Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board give us
- We will give them our contact details so they can discuss any further issues if necessary

In the event an allegation is made against a member of #feedthehomelessBristol team, the following procedures will be carried out.

- We will continue to maintain professionalism and remain calm
- We will contact the Bristol Safeguarding Children's Board and refer the allegation to the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)
- We may suspend the volunteer from working with the charity whilst an investigation is taking place
- We will maintain confidentiality regarding the allegation only sharing the information on a need to know basis
- We will keep all records of conversations regarding the accusation.
- We will ensure at all times that records are up to date including the accident and incident records and registers are clearly recorded and up to date
- We will Inform the Public Liability Insurer
- We will keep accurate records of calls, conversations and letters.
- If an allegation is of an urgent and serious nature, we will contact the police.

Please speak to a Trustee or Head of Walk member should you wish to discuss any child protection issues further.

Websites referenced to create this policy include:

www.bristol.gov.uk/safeguarding

www.gov.uk/safeguarding-children-and-young-people

Contact information

Bristol Safeguarding Children Board

Parkview, P.O Box 3176, Bristol, BS3 9FS

Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5pm

Friday: 9am to 4.30pm Email: bscb@bristol.gov.uk Tel: 0117 357 6257