



Safeguarding Policy for Children

Unity Support Network (USN) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children participating in our programmes and activities. This Safeguarding Policy outlines the principles and procedures that USN follows to protect children from harm, abuse, or exploitation. The policy aligns with current UK legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)

Definitions

1. Child: Any person under the age of 18.
2. Safeguarding: Measures to protect the health, well-being, and rights of children and prevent abuse, harm, or exploitation.
3. Abuse: Includes physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect.
4. Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): The person responsible for overseeing safeguarding concerns and reporting to external agencies.

Principles

1. Best Interest of the Child: Prioritising the child's welfare and protection.
2. Empowerment: Creating an environment where children feel safe to speak.
3. Prevention: Regular training and awareness for staff and volunteers.
4. Compliance: Adhering to UK safeguarding legislation.
5. Accountability: Clear responsibility for safeguarding at all levels.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL for USN is Miranda Josiah, Founder/Director. A Deputy DSL will be appointed. Their contact information will be made available to all staff, volunteers, and relevant parties.



Guidelines

1. Training: All staff and volunteers will complete regular safeguarding training and refresher courses.
2. Risk Assessment: Conducted for all activities involving children.
3. Safer Recruitment: Enhanced DBS checks, references, and interviews.
4. Reporting: Staff must report concerns immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL. Records will be confidential and stored securely.
5. Digital Safety: Guidance for online interaction will be issued.
6. Whistleblowing: Staff may raise concerns confidentially.
7. Partnership: Work with statutory agencies, MASH, LADO and local safeguarding partners.

Responding to Concerns

1. Immediate Action: Prioritise child safety and contact emergency services if required.
2. Reporting: Follow internal procedure. External reports made to relevant local authority within 24 hours.
3. Support: Children will be offered support services such as counselling.
4. Record Keeping: Factual, timely records kept securely in line with GDPR.

Review and Amendments

This policy is reviewed annually or following significant changes in legislation or safeguarding guidance.

Approval:
Miranda Josiah
Founder/Director
Unity Support Network (USN)

Adopted on:	April 2025
Review on:	April 2026