



Child Safeguarding Policy statement

Aim of the Policy

This policy sets out the key elements and overarching principles of Age UK Merton's commitment to the safeguarding of children and young adults under 18. This policy draws from legislation and best practice identified in Working Together (2015) and specific guidance around the issues of Child Sexual Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation.

Purpose of the policy

It is recognised that AUKM do not provide specific services for children or young adults. However, from time to time children and young adults under 18 access our premises to take part in some of the activities put on for our older clients and through our work experience programme. We also recognise that staff and volunteers seeing clients in their own homes may very occasionally encounter visiting children or young adults.

Age UK Merton (AUKM) acknowledges that whilst the children and young people are on our premises we have a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of those children and young people and are committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and current child protection legislation requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience at AUKM in a safe environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in any activities provided by the organisation or outside of the activity

Responsibilities

AUKM acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy AUKM will

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people

- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in AUKM. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Designated Persons

The Designated Persons for Safeguarding at Age UK Merton are Lynne Mitchell and Jo Hulton.

If you have any concerns at all about the possible abuse of a child who needs care and support, and are not sure what to do, you should immediately contact the Designated Person for Safeguarding. If an urgent concern arises or it is out of office hours advice should be sought from the Police (via 999) or MASH* Team, Children, Schools and Families Department at London Borough of Merton Council - Telephone: **020 8545 4226** or **020 8545 4227** (out of hours: 020 8770 5000)

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

Date Implemented:	Future Review Dates					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Date to be reviewed				√		
Date approved By Trustees	√					