

Warrington Youth Voice - Safeguarding Policy (August 2021 - February 2022):

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Requests to share information in this document should be made to the Chief Executive Officer - Louis Groarke (Contact information Below)

*****This document is published as Version (R)1.0*****

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children and young people who participate in Warrington Youth Voice's activities and events from harm; this includes but is not limited to: Chief Officers, Youth Officers and Youth Ambassadors. This includes children of adults who use our services.
- To provide overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.
- To provide guidance to those who have safeguarding concerns regarding any person(s) who is of relation to Warrington Youth Voice.
- To provide safeguarding guidelines for all those working within or on behalf of Warrington Youth Voice.

This policy applies to anyone working within or on behalf of Warrington Youth Voice.

The Board of Governors and the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) have overall and final responsibility for any safeguarding issues that arise or are brought to our attention. The parties listed above wholly accept responsibility for any safeguarding related decisions and any implications or consequences of these decisions, both positive and negative.

The Chief Officers, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Administration Officers have a duty to ensure that this policy is implemented on a day-to-day and operational basis at all times. The safety of all involved with Warrington Youth Voice should be the number one priority of all concerned and as such, the implementation of the safeguarding policy should be reviewed regularly and any changes that are identified must be executed immediately and without delay. All changes to the implementation of this policy should be reported to the Chair of the Board of Governors at the first appropriate opportunity. However changes in this policy are of such importance and urgency that this policy and any amendments may be introduced without prior authorisation from the Board of Governors. Despite this, the Board of Governors reserves the right to suggest amendments and temporarily revoke the policy altogether if necessary, revocation may only be executed with authorisation from the Board of Governors.

This policy must be reviewed every 6 Months by the Board of Governors and an overview of changes made available publicly alongside the policy itself.

We strongly believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to carry out our operations in a way that protects them from harm in any way possible.
- We have a duty to make young people aware of services that can help keep them safe and how to contact them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take and should be an important factor in any decisions made.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding guidelines through our procedures and our code of conduct where possible.
- Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made (DBS/CRB).
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation (GDPR Laws) and guidance.
- Using our safeguarding policies to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involving those people appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and emphasizing that bullying will not be tolerated and is punishable via the Code of Conduct.
- Applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Ensuring that adults aren't alone in a room with minors at any time or for any reason.
- Risk assessing any Cabinet activities.

Procedures:

- If any safeguarding or child protection issues are found or suspected, the person who finds or suspects the issue must go directly to the Designated Safeguarding lead immediately and must inform the Chief Officers that they have spoken to the board about a safeguarding issue (without revealing any details of the case).
- All volunteers at Warrington Youth Voice and its user groups must ensure that they know the child protection procedures that are in force and who is responsible for child protection issues (as mentioned previously).
- **Under no circumstances should you speak to or confront the abuser. Do not share suspicions or information with any other person other than the Board of Governors, MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and the Police. Information given to MASH or the Police will be taken seriously, handled sensitively and shared only on a 'need to know' basis, wholly to protect the child. However, in order to ensure that children are safeguarded based on proper evidence, the source of the referral cannot be kept anonymous.**

Anybody who is a part of or associated with Warrington Youth Voice has a responsibility to ensure that this policy is followed at all times and in the event of a safeguarding issue arising or being suspected must follow procedure immediately and inform the Board of Governors without delay. Failure to do this is breach of our code of conduct and is punishable in line within guidelines outlined in said policy.

Any volunteers who do not already have a DBS/CRB certificate will be expected to fund said checks themselves and Warrington Youth Voice will not make any financial contribution to these checks. As of 8th August 2021, the fee for a 'basic check' is £23. You can apply for a Declaration and Barring Service (DBS) Basic Check at: <https://www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record>.

How to report a safeguarding incident:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead can be contacted by emailing: governors.wyv@gmail.com

You can also report issues on our website at: warringtonyouthvoice.org

Points of Contact for services:

The MASH can be contacted for safeguarding advice, guidance and support on:

Tel: 01925 443400/ 442468; Out of Hours: 01925 444400.

The Cheshire Police non-emergency helpline can be accessed by dialing 101.

In an emergency always dial 999!

Issues and Queries:

If there is any issue or query relating to any aspect of this policy please contact:

For Internal Personnel:

The Chief Officers or Administration Team via email

You will receive an email reiterating the information brought to our attention and acknowledging that we are working to look into said information. We will provide further information within 28 days of acknowledgement.

For External Personnel:

Email us straight away at corporate@warringtonyouthvoice.org. After receiving your email our team will acknowledge your email within 5 working days and endeavour to provide any further information necessary within 28 working days of Warrington Youth Voice acknowledging your email.

This policy is created by Warrington Youth Voice and is designed to be implemented where possible and both implementation and policy content will be reviewed regularly. Warrington Youth Voice is the official Youth Voice Organisation in Warrington and only those listed above may be held accountable for this policy, its implementation, its execution and any consequences or implications.

Warrington Youth Voice may be contacted via:

Our website:

warringtonyouthvoice.org

Email:

Admin Team: corporate@warringtonyouthvoice.org

Board of Governors: governors.wyv@gmail.com

Post:

Safeguarding - Warrington Youth Voice

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Warrington

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Document updated on: **8th August 2021**

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