**EMPOWER ME TOGETHER**

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY**

*Safeguarding in relation to supporting young people*

1. **Introduction**

The Children Act 1989 states that the child’s welfare is paramount and that every child has a right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

1. **Purpose**

This policy sets out Empower Me Together’s (EMT) approach to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people being supported within our service. Safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility and applies to all aspects of our work whether on site or offsite. This policy is to be followed by all employees, contractors and volunteers.

1. **Scope**

The scope of this policy encompasses EMT management, staff and volunteers by providing them with an understanding of the legal frameworks to ensure the young people attending our workshops are safeguarded. This policy aims to ensure staff and volunteers have the knowledge to safeguard them and provides procedures for if concerns are raised regarding them.

Alongside this policy staff and volunteers will be trained prior to beginning work in relation to safeguarding and safer recruitment practices that will be followed.

1. **Policy Statement**

Each young person will be initially screened in risk assessment to ensure the safety of the young person and staff supporting them. EMT provides support for young people with a wide variety of needs.

Anyone working with young people should see and speak to the young people; listen to what they say; take their views seriously. Special provision should be put in place to support dialogue with young people who have communication difficulties, unaccompanied young people, refugees and those young people who are victims of modern slavery and/or trafficking.

1. **Definitions**

Safeguarding children is defined in ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ as:

* Preventing impairment of children’s health or development
* Protecting children from maltreatment
* Taking action to enable all children the best outcomes
* Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

**TYPES OF ABUSE**

**Physical Abuse –** *Physical child abuse is physical injury inflicted upon the child with cruel and/or malicious intent. Physical abuse can be the result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, shaking, or otherwise harming a child physically*

**Emotional Abuse –** *Emotional abuse happens when a child is repeatedly made to feel worthless, unloved, alone or scared. Also known as psychological or verbal abuse, it is the most common form of child abuse. It can include constant rejection, hostility, teasing, bullying, yelling, criticism and exposure to family violence.*

**Sexual Abuse –** *Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor. A child cannot consent to any form of sexual activity, period. When a perpetrator engages with a child this way, they are committing a crime that can have lasting effects on the victim for years.*

**Neglect –** *Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse. A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger.*

**Financial abuse –** *Financial abuse is a form of family violence. Withholding money, controlling all the household spending or refusing to include you in financial decisions can be defined as family violence. Your partner's behaviour may include: Controlling your access to finances such as cash, bank accounts and benefits or pensions*

**Domestic abuse –** *Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. It can seriously harm children and young people and witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse*

**Female genital mutilation -** *(FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting.*

**There are 6 main areas of safeguarding:**

1. **Empowerment -** Young people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions
2. **Prevention** - Action is taken before harm occurs
3. **Proportionality -** The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. **Protection -** Support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. **Partnership -** Services offer local solutions through working closely with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. **Accountability -** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.
7. **Procedures**

How to Report a Safeguarding Concern

1. If a safeguarding concern arises staff should call the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so and inform them of the concern / the disclosure.
2. The Safeguarding Lead will share the relevant information with the appropriate people on a need to know basis.
3. In Empower Me Together the Safeguarding lead is Angela Whiteley (07731 322134) If Angela is unavailable, make a call to Roz Brown on 07873 614846)
4. Furthermore, the details of the matter should be written in a report ‘Safeguarding disclosure form’
5. If the safeguarding concern is in relation to any member of staff, volunteers or the management team they will be removed from conducting any further sessions and an investigation will be carried out.