

Safeguarding Children & Young People

Policy and procedures

Aug 2025-26

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| 0 | May 2022 | Sian Fitzpatrick (Head of Youth Engagement) Jordan Ignatius (Head of Strategy & Operations) | Policy reviewed and put to approval by Jordan and the Trustees Board, before formally being published. |
| 1 | June 2022 | Jordan Ignatius (Head of Strategy & Operations) | Approved |
| 2 | February 2023 | Alecia Blackford (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Lisa Harrison (Interim Executive Director) | Addition of data sharing clause specific to Reaching Higher's partnership with P4YE under Section 5.3. Reviewed and approved. |
| 3 | February 2024 | Alecia Blackford (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Karllys Thompson (Designated Safeguarding Lead) | Revised details of DSL and Deputy DSL. Reviewed and approved. |
| 4 | August 2025 | Karllys Thompson (Designated Safeguarding Lead) | Reviewed and revised to reflect updates in legislation and organisational structure of Reaching Higher. |
| 5 | September 2025 | Hannah Lashley (Director of Services) Karllys Thompson (Head of Contextual Safeguarding & DSL) | Reviewed and amended policy. Added Section 9 details and contact information Removal of flowchart. Removal of safeguarding team contact details. Changes in RH storing of safeguarding case loads via a different online system. Changes |

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| | | | and clarity to RH Safeguarding team details and responsibilities. Clarity added under Confidentiality on RH process. |
| 7 | 22 nd April 2026 | Hannah Lasley (DoS), Amie Cooper-Abbott (EA+A) | Review Date Change Added Working Together Safeguarding Children 2026 |

Contents

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Purpose, scope and context of policy and procedures..... | 5 |
| 2. Contact details and responsibilities..... | 7 |
| 3. Introduction and definitions..... | 9 |
| 4. Confidentiality..... | 11 |
| 5. Recruitment..... | 11 |
| 6. Induction and training..... | 12 |
| 7. How to respond to a disclosure..... | 12 |
| 8. Responding to allegations of abuse made against a child or young pers..... | 15 |
| 9. Preventing and responding to bullying..... | 15 |
| 10. Allegations made against a staff member or volunteer..... | 16 |
| 11. Support for those affected by abuse..... | 17 |
| 12. Media consent..... | 17 |
| 13. Overnight trips away..... | 18 |
| Appendix A – Safeguarding Form..... | 19 |

Purpose of Safeguarding Policy

Reaching Higher is a charity supporting young people in Croydon who have complex needs. We have worked in Croydon since 2004, initially as a voluntary group, and as a registered charity since 2010. We support just over 1600 young people each year across school and community-based programmes.

We are committed to keeping young people safe and to promoting their welfare.

Scope of Safeguarding Policy

This policy relates to all young people aged 10-21 with whom Reaching Higher comes into contact.

Context of Safeguarding Policy

Reaching Higher's commitment to safeguarding is underpinned by the following legislation and guidance:

- Working together to safeguard children, 2023 and 2026
- Safeguarding People for Charities and Trustees, 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Children's Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Online Safety Act 2023

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Reaching Higher's Trustees and Senior Leadership Team recognise the importance of our obligations to young people and our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the organisation's care.

The Senior Leadership Team at Reaching Higher oversee the charity's duty to safeguard and are identified as competent professionals to respond or signpost concerns and/or disclosures. Reaching Higher has a senior operational team who hold DSL certificates and/or have undergone comprehensive safeguarding training. This team leads on ensuring that safeguarding is prioritised across all our provisions and services.

Reaching Higher understands that it is our legal and ethical duty to ensure that we take reasonable actions to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people. We aim to ensure that the welfare of the children and young people we encounter are placed at the centre of the work we do, and that we exercise our duty of care towards them at all times. This policy provides the framework for Reaching Higher's fulfilment of these responsibilities.

Reaching Higher commits to:

- Valuing, respecting and listening to young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all Reaching Higher team members.
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers.
- Supporting those affected by abuse.
- Maintaining good links with statutory childcare authorities and other organisations.

Related Policies & Procedures

- Safer Recruitment Policy

- Volunteer Recruitment & Selection Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- RIDDOR Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Bullying & Harassment Policy
- Equality Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Social Media & Online Safety Policy
- Reaching Higher Operational Handbook

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| Senior Leadership Team | Executive Team members; Heads of Service Team members |
| Safeguarding Team | Heads of Service (senior); Delivery Co-ordinators (Non-senior) |
| Safeguarding Committee | Minimum - 1 x Board of Trustee; 1 x Executive Team; 1 x Head of Service |

1. Contact details and responsibilities

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| <p>Reaching Higher Designated Safeguarding Lead Senior Operational & Safeguarding Team member; Safeguarding Committee member</p> | <p>Karlys Thompson – Head of Contextual Safeguarding 07492761645 Karlys@reachinghigher.org.uk</p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads on safeguarding across the charity • Oversees service referrals and tiering • Manages and delegates caseloads • Point of contact for external authorities, partners and agencies • Acts as the organisation's Designated Safeguarding Lead. • Leads and organises regular safeguarding meetings (internally and externally). • Oversees all safeguarding referrals and actions. • Manages complex safeguarding cases. • Coordinates multi-agency safeguarding responses. • Leads serious incident reviews within the charity. • Develops and maintains safeguarding policies. • Ensures compliance with statutory requirements. • Delivers internal and external safeguarding training |
| <p>Reaching Higher Safeguarding Team (Senior) Senior Operational & Safeguarding Team members</p> | <p>Warren Andrews – Head of Contextual Youth Work (Schools) Alecia Blackford – Head of Contextual Safeguarding (Community)</p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for safeguarding each operational area • Manage young people’s referrals • Quality assuring services to ensure delivery is safe and relevant • Act as active members of the safeguarding team. • Ensure all programmes operate in line with safeguarding policies. • Liaise with services-based safeguarding leads (as appropriate). • Work closely with members of the Safeguarding Team to support at-risk young people. • Maintain robust risk assessment processes in school and community provisions. • Ensure safe information sharing protocols within school and community provisions. • Work collaboratively with schools, social workers, youth services and other relevant partners. |
| <p>Reaching Higher Executive Senior Leadership Team (overseeing Safeguarding)</p> | <p>Jordan Ignatius – Managing Director (Trustees liaison) Jordan@reachinghigher.org.uk</p> <p>Emma Barlow (Trustee responsible for Safeguarding) Emma@reachinghigher.org.uk</p> |
| <p>Croydon Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) <i>Allegations against staff</i></p> | <p>Steve Hall 02082552889 OR 07825830328 steve.hall@croydon.gov.uk</p> <p>Jane Parr (Assistant LADO)</p> |

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| | <p>0208 726 6000 (Ext.84343) OR 07985 590505 jane.parr@croydon.gov.uk</p> <p>Other email: LADO@Croydon.gov.uk</p> |
| NSPCC | NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000 |
| Croydon Single Point of Contact for Early Help & Children’s Social Care: | <p><i>Made up of MASH.</i></p> <p>For urgent child protection matters needing immediate attention: 0208 255 2888</p> |
| Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Professionals | <p>SPOC Consultation Line - 0208 726 6464 Out of Hours Emergency Line - 0208 726 6400</p> |
| Croydon’s Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF) | <p>Following a safeguarding referral call, the Designated Safeguarding Lead must complete a Croydon Local Authority Safeguarding online referral form needs to be completed straight away:</p> <p>Click here for MASH Referral Form Form found on https://my.croydon.gov.uk/MashReferrals</p> |
| Childline | Call 0800 1111. |

2. Introduction & Definitions

This policy has been designed based on legislation, policy and guidance that seek to protect children in England, which also provides the following explanations and definitions. Further definitions can be found at the end of this document.

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Safeguarding meaning and terms:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing harm to children’s health or development
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes¹.

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| CHILD PROTECTION | Child protection means safeguarding children from harm. Harm includes violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE | Children and Young People will be defined for the purpose of this document as anyone under the age of 21. |
| STAFF | Staff will be defined for the purpose of this document as anyone employed by Reaching Higher, including Sessional Workers, and Interns. |
| VOLUNTEER | Volunteer will be defined for the purpose of this document as anyone volunteering for Reaching Higher. |
| ABUSE | Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. ² |
| PHYSICAL ABUSE | Physical Abuse is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose. It includes hitting with hands or objects, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding or drowning. It’s important to remember that physical abuse is any way of intentionally causing physical harm to a child or young person. It also includes making up the symptoms of an illness or causing a child to become unwell ³ . |
| EMOTIONAL ABUSE | Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It’s sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate or ignore a child. Emotional abuse is often a part of other kinds of abuse , which means it can be difficult to spot the signs or tell the difference, though it can also happen on its own ⁴ . |
| 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. And it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing ⁵ . |

¹ NSPCC LEARNING (2019). Safeguarding children and child protection. What is Safeguarding?

² HM Government (2018). Working Together to Safeguard Children. A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

³ NSPCC. What is physical abuse | ⁴ NSPCC. What is emotional abuse. | ⁵ NSPCC. What is neglect. | ⁶ NSPCC. What is sexual abuse.

⁷ NSPCC. What is child sexual exploitation.

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| SEXUAL ABUSE | When a child or young person is sexually abused, they're forced or tricked into sexual activities. They might not understand that what's happening is abuse or that it's wrong. And they might be afraid to tell someone. Sexual abuse can happen anywhere – and it can happen in person or online. It's never a child's fault they were sexually abused – it's important to make sure children know this ⁶ . |
| CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) | <p>Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. When a child or young person is exploited they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called grooming. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.</p> <p>Children and young people can be trafficked into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They're moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.</p> <p>Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they've no choice. They may lend them large sums of money they know can't be repaid or use financial abuse to control them. Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.</p> |
| CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION | Child Criminal Exploitation is when a child or young person is manipulated, coerced, or forced into criminal activity by an individual or group for personal or financial gain. This includes involvement in county lines, theft, drug trafficking, or cuckooing (where the child's home is taken over for illegal purposes). Exploitation often involves grooming, threats, debt bondage, or violence. |
| ONLINE SAFETY | Online Safety refers to protecting children and young people from harm while using digital technologies, including the internet, social media, apps, games, and AI-powered tools. It includes protection from cyberbullying, grooming, radicalisation, exposure to harmful content, misinformation, and image-based abuse (like cyberflashing or coercive image sharing). |
| DOMESTIC ABUSE | “Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. But it isn't just physical violence – domestic abuse includes emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse” ⁷ . |
| FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) | “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. Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM” ⁸ . |

⁷ NSPCC (2019). Domestic abuse. What is domestic abuse.

⁸ NSPCC (2019). Female genital mutilation (FGM). What is FGM.

3. Confidentiality

3.1 WORKING IN SCHOOLS

When working with children and young people in schools, Reaching Higher staff will follow Reaching Safeguarding policies and procedures. When raising concerns, Reaching Higher staff will be required to complete the Safeguarding Online/Disclosure Form (see Appendix A), pass the information onto the Safeguarding Lead at the school, and keep a copy within our online database, which only the Safeguarding Team can action and review.

3.2 WORKING IN COMMUNITY SESSIONS

When working with children and young people in the community, in the event of a disclosure or concern, Reaching Higher staff will let the child or young person know that information will be shared with the RH Safeguarding team (and relevant trusted professionals). If a child or young person are deemed at serious risk of immediate harm, staff might need to contact emergency services. Reaching Higher staff should aim to explain why and let the child or young person know what will happen next.

Reaching Higher staff are not to confront the alleged abuser(s).

Staff must complete a Safeguarding Online/Disclosure Form (See Appendix A), and record everything that the child or young person has been said in the disclosure conversation in the child/young person’s own words, and pass this onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will respond as soon as possible.

4. Specific arrangements for partnerships and third parties

Reaching Higher undertakes partnerships with varying funders and organisations to deliver services for young people. Reaching Higher formalises this arrangement through signed agreements and/or successful funding applications. How information is shared with parties can vary and specific arrangements to share safeguarding information of young people will be shared as appropriate. Partners are expected to undertake regular meetings and partnership review meetings to ensure safeguarding obligations are upheld. All data protection and sharing procedures will apply as per the partnership Service Level Agreements.

5. Recruitment of staff and volunteers

At a minimum, Reaching Higher undertakes the following processes as part of safe recruitment of staff members and volunteers:

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| 1. Advertising material contains a policy statement demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults |
| 2. The requirement for a DBS (and at which level) is stated on advertising materials and recruitment packs. |
| 3. The job description sets out the extent of the relationship with, and degree of responsibility for, children and young people in the role. |
| 4. The application process requires full personal information, full employment history, details of relevant qualifications and a declaration whether the applicant has any convictions, cautions or reprimands. |
| 5. Applicants are asked to provide two references including their current or most recent employment. |
| 6. References should contain objective, verifiable information. |

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| 7. Successful candidates are asked to provide documentary evidence of their identity. |
| 8. Interview questions are set to test the candidate's specific skills and abilities to carry out the job. |
| 9. The candidate's attitude towards children and young people is tested along with their commitment to safeguarding. |
| 10. At least 1 member of the panel is trained in safer recruitment practices or has previous experience. |
| 11. Any gaps or changes in employment history are fully explored at interview. |
| 12. All candidates are given the opportunity to disclose an offending history. |
| 13. An offer of employment or volunteering is conditional upon pre-employment checks being completed satisfactorily. |
| 14. An up-to-date DBS certificate is retained by Reaching Higher, including the certificate date & number (this applies to both paid staff and volunteers) |

All workers (employees, sessional workers and volunteers) who wish to join Reaching Higher are expected to complete an enhanced DBS check. If a volunteer worker refuses to be checked, they will automatically be refused any further involvement with Reaching Higher.

Please also see Reaching Higher's Safer Recruitment Policy and Volunteer Recruitment and Selection Policy.

6. Induction and Training

Reaching Higher will ensure all staff members and volunteers appointed are trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government guidelines in the publication "Safeguarding People for Charities and Trustees" (GOV.UK 2018). All safeguarding training will take place during induction and will be refreshed at least annually.

Reaching Higher staff will receive up to date safeguarding training delivered by the organisation's DSL annually (Level 3 trained). This will include checking the individual status of all volunteers who are involved in regulated activity through the DBS. We define the context of regulated activity as being:

- Working in a position of responsibility as a youth worker at youth meetings on a frequent basis
- Working intensively with the youth on three or more consecutive days (e.g. a youth production)
- Volunteering at any residential camps where they are staying overnight

7. How to respond to a disclosure

7.1 GUIDANCE FOR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

1. Stay calm and approachable. Try not to be perceived as a person who is shocked.
2. Listen very carefully to what is being said without interrupting.
3. Explain that the information being given by the child or young person may need to be shared and passed on to others. Seek their permission. Do not in any circumstances agree to keep it a secret.
4. Make it clear that you are taking them seriously and acknowledge how difficult this must be.
5. Allow the child or young people to speak at their own pace.
6. Reassure the child or young person that they are doing the right thing in telling you.
7. If you need to ask questions, then only ask questions for clarification (open-ended questions). Avoid asking questions that suggest particular answers or are probing questions (closed questions) – you do not need to know all the details that are a job for the experts.
8. Let the child or young person know what will happen next, who you will report the information to, what will happen once it has been recorded.

9. Ask the young person what they want to happen as a result of sharing this information with you?
10. Record all the details of what was said using the exact wording of the child or young person on RH Safeguarding online system OR use the Safeguarding Disclosure Form – See Appendix A. Do not try to interpret any of the information yourself. Record details such as names mentioned, dates, times, who the information went to, what action was taken next on the incident/disclosure form. Don't forget to sign it and if appropriate, ask the young person to read it, record any amendments/disagreements and sign it.

If they cannot finish what they are telling you, make them aware that they can always come back and talk to you, or if not, refer them to Child Line – 0800 1111.

7.2 GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS (AGED 17+)

Reaching Higher encourages young people from 17 years and over to be volunteers. If another young person tells you something that you feel is not right and you are uncomfortable, please inform a member of the Safeguarding team.

1. Let the young person know that you cannot keep what they have said a secret and you will let the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the Safeguarding team.
2. Please do not think you are betraying their trust, especially if you are friends or know the person who has given the disclosure.
3. Do not confront the alleged abuser. Your role is to listen, encourage them that they have done the right thing by telling you and immediately let the safeguarding team know.

You will be asked to fill out a Safeguarding online/Disclosure Form (See Appendix A).

7.3 FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN DECIDING IF SOMEONE IS AT IMMEDIATE RISK

- The severity of the neglect/abuse
- Category of concern: Physical; Sexual; Emotional; Neglect
- The duration & frequency of neglect/abuse
- The age/vulnerability of the child
- The family context and previous history
- Siblings – Are there any other children in the family that may be at risk
- Child's development within the context of family, wider social and cultural environment.
- The adequacy of parental care
- The child's views, wishes, feelings and reactions
- Any special needs such as medical condition, communication difficulty or disability that may affect the child's development and care within the family
- The nature of the harm, in terms of ill-treatment or failure to provide adequate care
- The impact upon the child's health and development
- Associated physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- Reliability of concerns
- Other risk factors: mental health; substance misuse; social isolation.

If, after consultation, it is decided to break confidentiality without permission of the child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will carry out the following.

7.4 BREACHING CONFIDENTIALITY GUIDANCE

In exceptional circumstances, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may decide to break confidentiality. It is not Reaching Higher's role to investigate the concerns or to assess whether a child/young person has suffered abuse or significant harm. In making this decision, it will be necessary to consider the following guidance questions (this is not exhaustive):

- Does the child/young person/someone else require immediate protection or medical treatment?
- Is the child/young person at immediate risk of harm?
- Is another child/young person at immediate or potential risk of harm?
- Are there younger siblings in the home that are, or may be, at risk?
- Are there other children/young people that visit the home? (Or setting where the alleged abuse is/has occurred)
- Have there been any previous concerns identified by staff/volunteers?
- Is this historic abuse? (I.e. how long ago did it happen? Are there any concerns that it could still be continuing with other children?)
- How have these concerns arisen? (E.g. disclosure by young person; observation from staff/volunteer; indirectly)
- Has the young person told anyone else about the concerns? If so, what has happened as a result of them sharing the concerns?
- Are there any other professionals involved in working with this young person/their family/others? If so, are they aware of the concerns?
- What support network does the young person have?
- What would the young person like to happen next?

8. Responding to allegations of abuse made against a child or young person

8.1 REPORTING CONCERNS

If you think a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on **999** as soon as possible, you must also record the allegation using the Safeguarding Disclosure Form (See Appendix A). If you're worried about a child but they are not in immediate danger, you should record the allegations and then share your concerns with Reaching Higher's Safeguarding Team as soon as possible, **please do NOT investigate it**. The child's parents or carers should be told what has happened, as long as it doesn't increase the risk to the child.

The RH Safeguarding Team will do the following:

- Contact the local authority children's social care team and follow its advice, as well as the police if the allegation involves a potential criminal offence.
- Implement a risk assessment and support plan for all children involved – both the victim(s) and the child(ren) against whom the allegation has been made – with a named person they can talk to if needed.
- Contact the children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), if appropriate.
- Reassure the family that support is available to help them and their child throughout the process.

The Safeguarding Team will ask the child how they would like their parents/carers to be told. You could suggest:

- talking to parents first without the child there, then summarising everything with the child present
- helping the child tell their parents in their own words, with you present for support.

9. Preventing and responding to bullying

9.1 PREVENTING BULLYING

At Reaching Higher, we place an emphasis on the importance of working with children and young people to create a culture where children feel they can tell someone if they have a problem and where it is clearly communicated that bullying will not be tolerated.

This includes:

- Talking to children and young people about healthy relationships to help create positive social norms and challenge unhealthy behaviors.
- Promoting sources of help and information such as ChildLine so children and young people know where to go to get help if they don't feel able to talk to any of the adults working with them.

9.2 RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OR INCIDENTS OF BULLYING

When responding to bullying incidents or allegations of bullying staff members and volunteers will take the following steps in line with the Anti-bullying policy:

- Listen to all the children involved to establish what has happened

- Record details of the incident on the Safeguarding Disclosure Form (See Appendix A) and any actions you've taken
- Inform the Reaching Higher Safeguarding Leads
- Inform parents and carers (unless doing so would put a child at further risk of harm)
- Provide support to the child/children being bullied, children who witnessed the bullying and the child/children who has been accused of bullying
- Ask the child/children who have been bullied what they would like to happen next
- Consider appropriate sanctions for children that have carried out bullying
- Continue to monitor the situation even if the situation has been resolved.

10. Allegations against a staff member or volunteer

This section of this policy applies to all cases in which it is alleged that a current Reaching Higher staff member or volunteer has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm to children

It applies regardless of whether the alleged abuse took place whilst the staff member or volunteer was on shift. Allegations against a staff member or volunteer who is no longer employed by Reaching Higher, and historical allegations of abuse will be referred to the police.

CONCERNS ABOUT RH STAFF, VOLUNTEERS OR CHARITY

If you have concerns or allegations against Reaching Higher staff, please contact:

| Contact... | Concern or allegations against... |
|---|--|
| RH SAFEGUARDING TEAM (DSL or SENIOR) | ...A member of non-senior, delivery staff or volunteers. Karlys (DSL) – karlys@reachinghigher.org.uk |
| RH EXECUTIVE TEAM | ...A member of the RH DSL or Safeguarding Team/Senior team. Jordan Ignatius – jordan@reachinghigher.org.uk |
| RH Trustees | ...A member of the Executive Team Emma Barlow - Emma@reachinghigher.org.uk |
| CHARITIES COMMISSION | ...Reaching Higher Charity itself. Raising Concerns - Charity Commission for England and Wales (raise concerns via Charity Commission website) |

10.1 PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS

In the event of an allegation that meets the criteria above, the Designated Safeguarding Leads will deal with any allegation of abuse against a member of staff or volunteer immediately, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective child protection while also supporting the individual who is the subject of the allegation.

The Safeguarding Leads will take the following steps:

- Contact the police if the child is at immediate risk.

- Immediately seek advice and discuss the allegation with the “Designated Officer” (known as the LADO, Local Authorities Designated Officer) at Croydon local authority.

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| <p>Steve Hall 02082552889 / 07825830328 steve.hall@croydon.gov.uk</p> | <p>Jane Parr (Ast. LADO) 0208 726 6000 (Ext.84343) 07985 590505 jane.parr@croydon.gov.uk</p> |
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- Inform the accused individual of the concerns or allegations and likely course of action as soon as possible after speaking to the designated officer (and the police or children’s social care services, where necessary).
- Where appropriate (in the circumstances described above), carefully consider whether suspension of the individual from contact with children at the work is justified or whether alternative arrangements such as those outlined above can be put in place.
- **If immediate suspension is considered necessary**, agree and record the rationale for this with the designated officer. The record will include information about the alternatives to suspension that have been considered, and why they were rejected. Written confirmation of the suspension will be provided to the individual facing the allegation or concern within ONE working day along with a main RH contact.
- **If it is decided that no further action is to be taken** regarding the subject of the allegation or concern, record this decision and the justification for it and agree with the designated officer what information should be put in writing to the individual and by whom, as well as what action should follow.
- **If it is decided that further action is needed**, take steps as agreed with the designated officer in school or community and/or liaise with the police and/or children’s social care services as appropriate.
- Provide effective support for the individual facing the allegation, including appointing a named representative to keep them informed of the progress and consider what other support is appropriate.
- Inform the parents or carers of the child/children involved about the allegation as soon as possible if they do not already know (following agreement with children’s social care services and/or the police, if applicable). The Safeguarding Leads will also inform the parents or carers of the requirement to maintain confidentiality about any allegations made against staff (where this applies) while investigations are on-going.
- Keep the parents or carers of the child/children involved informed of the progress of the case and the outcome, where there is not a criminal prosecution, including the outcome of any disciplinary process (in confidence)
- Make a referral to the DBS where it is thought that the individual facing the allegation or concern has engaged in conduct that harmed or is likely to harm a child, or if the individual otherwise poses a risk of harm to a child

11. Support to those affected by abuse

The Reaching Higher leadership is committed to offering pastoral care, working with faith-based and statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to those attending activities that have been affected by abuse.

12. Media consent (Photo, video, audio etc)

Reaching Higher relies heavily on photography (and videos) to use as promotion and used as ways of communicating to other children and young people, parents/carers and funders. We always ask for parent/guardian informed and written consent to take and use photographs/video on our consent forms and letters for each new activity or event involving children and young people. Where a young person is over the age of 18, we will obtain their informed and written consent on our consent form. All consent forms are stored within our online database.

- **Informed consent** means that a child or other person is made aware of how their image or information (e.g. as part of a case study) could be used by Reaching Higher, that they are not obliged to agree and that if they decline there will be no negative repercussions for them.
- **Written consent** means that there is written evidence of the consent. This can be on the basis of a verbal consent where the person is not literate, but there must still be written evidence that informed consent has been given.

13. Overnight trips away

- Residential trips or camps away are organised by staff members of Reaching Higher. We follow best safeguarding practices to protect children and young people involved in the residential.
- A risk assessment will be done prior to staff/volunteers and young people attending the residential, and there is always a team which arrives beforehand.
- Boys and girls have separate dorms.
- Reaching Higher staff and volunteers are not to share a room with a young person unless agreed prior to the residential in the case of a young person needing assistance from a carer.
- There should be an adequate amount of staff and volunteers to a dorm.

14. APPENDIX A

Safeguarding Form

All concerns should be recorded as soon as possible after the concern was raised in accordance with Reaching Higher’s Safeguarding Children and Young People’s Policy.

Information should be provided on this form in a factual manner. Any concerns expressed by young people should be a reflection of what was actually said; do not try and interpret any of the information. Any views, opinions or observations should be recorded clearly identifying this.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Karlys Thompson (DSL) 07492761645 Karlys@reachinghigher.org.uk | Warren Andrews (Schools) 07365428198 Warren@reachinghigher.org.uk | Alecia Blackford (Community) 07832283151 Alecia@reachinghigher.org.uk |
|---|--|--|

BASIC INFORMATION

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Date: | | Time: | |
| Location: | | | |
| Your full name: | | | |
| Your role: | | | |
| Name of child/young person: | | | |
| Age of child/young person: | | | |

DETAILS OF CONCERN

Details of concerns/incident (do not interpret information – use the same language that was used by the child / young person). Are you reporting your own concerns or those reported from a third party?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Continue on a separate page if needed.

Who else has the child/young person told? E.g. who else knows of these concerns?

.....

.....

.....

Please tick to confirm that you have reinforced Reaching Higher’s Safeguarding Children and Young people policy and procedures

ACTIONS TAKEN

| | |
|---|--|
| What actions have you taken, if any? | |
| To who in Reaching Higher have you reported your concerns? | |
| Who and when was this information shared? | Date: Time: Staff or Volunteer? |
| Staff or Volunteer? | |

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY A REACHING HIGHER SAFEGUARDING LEAD

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| RH Safeguarding Lead name: | | Signature: | |
| Date: | | Time: | |
| Outcome: | No further action report to be filed | | |
| | Internal monitoring until... | | |
| | External action and escalation to... | | |
| | Urgent and immediate action to be taken | | |
| Referred or Signposted to: | | | |

This form should be shredded once all relevant information is stored on to Reaching Highers online safeguarding reporting systems. Please make sure you follow Reaching Highers Data Protection Policy, Confidentiality Policy and Safeguarding Policy.