

Children and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name: Flintshire Foodbank

Address: Former Library HQ, Raikes Lane, Mold, CH7 6NW

Tel No: 01352 757235 Email address: info@flintshire.foodbank.org.uk

MISSION STATEMENT

The Flintshire Foodbank Trustees recognises the importance of its mission to children, young people and vulnerable adults and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults entrusted to its care.

As part of its mission, Flintshire Foodbank is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people and vulnerable adults as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the staff and volunteers within the Foodbank
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers.
- Supporting those affected by abuse in the Foodbank.
- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations.

FOODBANK POLICY

The Foodbank recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It also acknowledges that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. The Foodbank has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy"). It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies. The policy and attached practice guidelines are based on a model published by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

The Foodbank is committed to on-going safe guarding training for all staff and volunteers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.

The Foodbank also undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should a Staff member or volunteer carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to Andrew Leake (07900 387736) (hereinafter called the Co-ordinator), who is nominated by the Trustees to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- If the Coordinator is not available, or the report concerns him, then the report should be made in the first instance to the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0845 120 4550 or alternatively contact Social Services. The local Social Services office telephone number between 9.00am and 5.00pm is 01352 701000. The out of hours emergency number is 01352 753403. The local Police Child Protection Team telephone number is 01352 753207.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made in accordance with Foodbank procedures and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Coordinator, the absence of the Coordinator should not delay referral to the Social Services Department.
- The Foodbank will support the Coordinator in his role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies or seek advice from CCPAS, although the Foodbank hope that staff and volunteers will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Co-coordinator has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Coordinator as to the appropriateness of a referral, they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Foodbank demonstrate the commitment of the organisation to effective child protection.

The role of the coordinator is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to the Social Services Department. It is Social Services task to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY OR NEGLECT

If a child or vulnerable adult has a physical injury or symptom of neglect, the Co-coordinator will:

- Contact Social Services (or CCPAS) for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's or vulnerable adult's safety or if a child or vulnerable adult is afraid to return home.
- Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Social Services.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.

- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Social Services direct for advice.
- Seek and follow advice given by CCPAS (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Social Services.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Co-ordinator will:

- Contact the Social Services Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team direct. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.
- Seek and follow the advice given by CCPAS if, for any reason, they are unsure whether or not to contact Social Services/Police. CCPAS will confirm its advice in writing for future reference.

APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF LEADERS & WORKERS

The Foodbank will ensure all staff and volunteers will be trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government guidelines "Safe from Harm" (HMSO 1993), the Criminal Records Bureau and CCPAS guidance. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE

The Foodbank is committed to offering pastoral support, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, to those attending the Foodbank, who have been affected by abuse.

WORKING WITH OFFENDERS

When someone attending the Foodbank is known to have abused children or vulnerable adults, the Trustees will supervise the individual concerned and offer support, but in its commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

Policy renewed and reviewed by Andrew Leake, Chair of Trustees. 31.01.2019

Next Renewal date; 31.01.2020

Reviewed 8/9/20 ALZ
 " 26/01/22 ALZ