



The Access Project: Safeguarding Children Policy

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Last reviewed: September 2017

Date of next review : August 2018

The Access Project is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This policy is supported by Safeguarding Children Procedures and Systems which provide more detailed guidance about TAP implements the policy, and the Safeguarding Children training which every University Access Officer and Volunteer tutor receives.

All children have a right to protection from mistreatment, abuse, violence and 1 exploitation. The rights of children are enshrined in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which the UK ratified in 1991.

The Access Project (TAP) believes that the welfare of children within its care is paramount. Due to their physical and mental immaturity, children need special care over and above that required by adults. TAP understands that everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children.

TAP will protect all children within its care from abuse equally and without regard to their gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

There are four categories of abuse that children must be protected from:

- physical injury
- neglect
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse

TAP is committed to ensuring that all children who are involved with its activities are kept safe from harm and are cared for with the utmost professionalism and integrity. This includes activities held for children at the TAP premises at The Access Project The Dock Tobacco Quay Wapping Lane London E1W 2SF. It also includes activities for children run or supported by TAP staff, trustees, tutors or other volunteers anywhere in the UK or worldwide. This policy also applies to all written, electronic and verbal communication with children by TAP.

The Access Project

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TAP is committed to informing children involved in activities and their parents about this policy, and the associated procedures. This policy will be publicly available and circulated as appropriate.

This policy is applicable to all staff employed by TAP, and all trustees, tutors and other volunteers associated with TAP. TAP will also strongly encourage other partners that it works with on the implementation of projects to adopt their own child protection policies if they have not done so already.

All TAP staff, trustees and volunteers will take any concerns or allegations of abuse against children very seriously. TAP will deal with all concerns and allegations appropriately, with the understanding that it may be necessary to refer them to children's services or the police.

TAP maintains a high standard in recruiting staff and volunteers. For all staff and volunteers who work with children, DBS (previously CRB) or other police checks will be undertaken and detailed training given in Child Protection policies and procedures.

In the application of this policy TAP will adhere to the Children Act 2004 and Working together to safeguard children: a guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015.

Useful Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Name : Jennifer Guerin

Email : stayingsafe@theaccessproject.org.uk

Phone number: 07542 881 501/ 020 7601 1939

NSPCC helpline: 0800 800 5000

1 For the purpose of this policy, children are defined as people below the age of 18.

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