



## **The Access Project Safeguarding Children Policy**

**Last reviewed:** August 2018

**Date of next review:** August 2019

*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 procedures and systems for safeguarding children, which provide more detailed guidance about The Access Project and the Safeguarding Children training which every member of staff/ volunteer receives.

All children<sup>1</sup> have a right to protection from mistreatment, abuse, violence and exploitation.

The Access Project (TAP) believes that the welfare of children within its care is paramount and that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. 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.

### **Legal Framework**

In the application of this policy TAP will adhere to:

- Children Act 1989
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protecting of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- General Data Protection Regulations 2018

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



- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2018.

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 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.

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 social care services, the independent Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for allegations against staff, trustees and other volunteers, and in emergencies, 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.



## **Useful Contacts**

### **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)**

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