

Safeguarding Children Policy

Knutsford Community First Responder Trust (KCFRT) recognises the valuable contribution that young volunteers can make and the ideas, enthusiasm and commitment they bring to the role. The welfare of children and young people is paramount and those under 18 years of age are defined as “children” for the purposes of child protection legislation and classified as “vulnerable” in law. Children have equal rights of protection from abuse, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.

As a charity we have a duty of care when children are volunteering with KCFRT. The Trust has in place the following Safeguarding Children Policy, that has been approved and endorsed by the Board of Trustees and will be reviewed annually, applies to all trustees, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of the charity.

1. The policy:

- 1.1. Requires each child who wishes to volunteer for KCFRT to first read and sign a Volunteer Policy and Agreement and for the Parent or Guardian of the child to sign the document where indicated, in so doing giving consent for the child named to carry out volunteer duties for the Trust
- 1.2. Requires children under 16 to be accompanied and under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian at all times when volunteering for KCFRT
- 1.3. Permits children over 16 but under 18 years of age to volunteer at a public event (any event open for the general public, e.g. Heartstart training or a fundraising event) without being accompanied or supervised.
- 1.4. Requires KCFRT and all its staff and volunteers to treat all children and young people with respect, to use appropriate language and demonstrate appropriate behaviour in their presence and to celebrate their achievements.
- 1.5. Requires KCFRT to respond to concerns and allegations appropriately. DBS checks (Disclosure & Barring Service) are not routinely carried out for Trust volunteers but anyone who is a qualified Community First Responder within the Trust will have had DBS clearance through the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). There is no legal obligation for all KCFRT volunteers to undergo a DBS check.

2. Dealing with concerns:

- 2.1. When there are concerns about the welfare of any child, all adults in the charity are expected to share those concerns with the Chairman of KCFRT who is the Lead Person for Safeguarding.

- 2.2. The Lead Person for Safeguarding is responsible for:
- Monitoring and recording concerns
 - Making referrals to children’s social care services without delay
 - Liaison with other agencies
- 2.3. Concerns about the behaviour of adult/s in the organisation must be referred without delay to the Lead Person for Safeguarding who will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at Children’s Social Care Services, or the Police in an emergency.
- 2.4. In the event that the concerns are about the Lead Person or if the Lead Person is unavailable, it is important to refer to an alternative Executive member. Should this not be appropriate, any member of the charity may personally refer the concerns directly to the LADO.

3. Insurance:

- 3.1. All registered volunteers, regardless of age, are covered by the Trust’s public and products liability insurance. This indemnifies volunteers against legal liability to pay damages arising out of accidental injury to any person and/or accidental damage to property.

If you have any questions or require further information about this policy, please contact the Chairman of KCFRT, details can be found in the contact section of our website.

4. Revision History

Version number	Reason for change	Valid from
1	New version	12-Mar-2018