

BDCA Safeguarding Statement

Everyone who works or volunteers at BDCA in a role that brings them into contact with children or adults at risk needs to understand the role they have in keeping them and themselves safe. This includes:

- *being able to recognise the signs and indicators of abuse and*
- *knowing how to follow BDCA's safeguarding procedures.*

This statement will help you do that. Please read and sign it. If your role involves working closely with children or with adults at risk, please also indicate that you have read and will follow the full Safeguarding policy and procedures relevant to your role.

Definitions

Our Safeguarding Children policy relates to the safeguarding of persons under the age of 18 (as defined by the Children's Act 1989), referred to as "children" in the policy.

An adult at risk is a person over the age of 18 years who:

- has needs for care and support
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect
- as a result of their care needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Recognising signs of abuse

A disclosure may come from someone telling you they have or are being abused; they have concerns about someone else; or they are themselves abusing or likely to abuse someone else. Or you may witness abuse, or have concerns about possible abuse taking place.

The Children Act 1989 defines four types of abuse:

Physical: hitting or otherwise causing significant physical harm to a child.

Emotional: persistent emotional maltreatment of a child that will cause severe adverse effects on the child's emotional development e.g. making a child feel worthless or frightened.

Sexual: forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, physical or not, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Neglect: the persistent failure to meet a child's basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, safety, health care that may result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Staff and volunteers should also be aware of other factors which influence these forms of abuse, such as: Racial or homophobic abuse; Cyberbullying; Child sexual exploitation; Faith abuse; Female

genital mutilation (FGM); Sexting; Trafficking; Fabricated or induced illness; Forced marriage; Radicalisation.

What to do

If an adult at risk or a child discloses abuse to you, or you witness abuse or have concerns:

- **Do** tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy immediately.
- **Do not** delay.
- **Do not** investigate.
- **Do not** share information with any other staff. The decision on whether and how to share will be made by the Safeguarding Team.

The Safeguarding Team will give you an incident reporting form to complete, sign and date and they will store it securely.

Under “whistle-blowing”, anyone can refer directly to the police or Newham’s MASH Service if, in good faith, they are concerned BDCA is not managing safeguarding concerns properly.

BDCA Safeguarding leads

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. All responsible adults including volunteers are expected to share any concerns, without delay, with the relevant Lead for Safeguarding (or the Deputy, if the Lead is unavailable).

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead for Children is: Stacey Cordery, Stacey.cordery@bonnydowns.org 07522 553926

Our Deputy for Child Safeguarding is: Chrispin Phiri, Chrispin.phiri@bonnydowns.org 07861 905256

Our Adult Safeguarding Lead is: Kristy Young, kristy.young@bonnydowns.org 07449 105436

Our Deputy for Adult Safeguarding is: Morgan Martin, morgan.martin@bonnydowns.org 07522 553873

Reducing the Risk

BDCA practices Safer Recruitment. It provides appropriate Safeguarding training to all staff and to all volunteers working with children or adults at risk. It has detailed Safeguarding policies and procedures that are designed to prevent harm to children or adults at risk. All staff and volunteers are asked to follow these procedures and abide by the Code of Conduct:

Safeguarding Code of conduct

BDCA aims to provide a safe environment free from discrimination, upholding and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. We undertake to:

- treat all adults at risk and children with respect and dignity
- ensure that their welfare and safety is always paramount
- maintain professional boundaries both face to face and when using technology

- ensure any intimate touch required to carry out care, treatment or training is within relevant guidelines and is safe and appropriate. Intimate care will always be part of an agreed care plan.
- always listen to individuals and take account of their wishes and feeling
- always act in a professional way and not accept bullying, swearing or other disruptive behaviour
- liaise openly with carers and family members
- only use physical contact if absolutely necessary
- avoid being alone with children, young people and adults at risk whenever possible
- listen to, and act upon, any disclosures allegations, or concerns of abuse
- participate in approved safeguarding training at appropriate levels
- ensure restraint is only used as part of an agreed plan by staff trained in the use of the restraint or as an emergency action to protect from harm.
- Always follow our safeguarding policies and procedures
- make activities FUN and enjoyable

I have read and understood BDCA's Safeguarding Statement and will adhere to the Safeguarding procedures and the Code of Conduct.

Signed:

Date:

If relevant to role:

I have read and will follow BDCA's Safeguarding Adults Policy

I have read and will follow BDCA's Safeguarding Children Policy