

Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures

Pecan

DECEMBER 2023

Pecan exists to see an end to poverty in all its forms, we do this through tackling the root causes as well as the symptoms, through:

1. Southwark Foodbank
2. Peckham Pantry
3. Pathfinder and Southwark Voice
4. Employment Support
5. Women's Service
6. Together (community and life-skills activities)

These programmes are aimed at adults, and we do not work directly with children. However, we may work with clients from 16 years of age and families, vulnerable women and men who have children. Children also enter our premises accompanied by adults.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Pecan's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Pecan, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Our Commitment

PECAN is committed to making and keeping a safe and positive environment. This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk/childprotection.

PECAN's safeguarding children policy and procedures apply to all individuals involved in PECAN.

PECAN will encourage and support partner organisations, to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this safeguarding children's policy and procedures.

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

Do you have concerns about a child?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All children have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice.

If you have concerns about a child's safety and/or wellbeing, you **must** act on these.

It is not your responsibility to decide whether a child or young person has been abused. It is, however, your responsibility to act on any concerns.

Role	Name	Contact Details
Safeguarding Officer	Deborah Hayman-Nkhoma	deborah.hayman-nkhoma@pecan.org.uk
Deputy Safeguarding Officer	Gbemisola Oguntuyo-Oloyede	Gbemisola.Oguntuyo-Oloyede@pecan.org.uk
Chief Executive Officer	Peter Edwards	Peter/edwards@pecan.org.uk
Safeguarding Lead Trustee	Jennifer Brown	gateway2education@yahoo.co.uk
Referrals		
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 020 7525 1921• 020 7525 5000 (out of hours)• email mash@southwark.gov.uk	
Review date: Every year or sooner in the event of legislative changes or revised policies and best practice. {December 2024}		

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures, and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/>]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns

Find out more about:

Southwark Council

<https://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk/policies-procedures-guidance/policies-children/>

<https://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk/southwark-safeguarding-board/sscp/>

Community Southwark

<https://communitysouthwark.org/vcs-support/safeguarding/>

NSPCC

[safeguarding children who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities](#)

[safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children and young people](#)

[safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people](#)

[safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\).](#)