

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Healthwatch Bedford Borough believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief.
- Sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance on procedures to be adopted in the event that a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.

This policy applies to the Directors, staff, volunteers and anyone working on behalf of Healthwatch Bedford Borough.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Chairman's Signature: 

Adopted on: 11 July 2013

Reviewed on: May 2017