

# Clingan's Trust

## Child Safeguarding Policy

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, at least once a year. Clingan's Trust will amend this policy, following consultation, where appropriate.

**Date of last review: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Introduction:**

This policy is to make sure that Clingan's Trust has the right things in place to protect and safeguard children.

Clingan's Trust will strive to abide by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has 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
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### **Purpose:**

Clingan's Trust use its best endeavours to:

- Protect children and young people who apply for grants from harm. This includes the children of adults who apply for grants on behalf of children and young people.
- 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 Clingan's Trust, including employees, the board of trustees and volunteers. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

## **Definitions:**

**The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is:** anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

**Adult at Risk:** Please see our Adult Safeguarding Policy.

**Child Abuse:** Children may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child criminal exploitation
- Baby Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

**Safeguarding children:** Safeguarding children is defined in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#) as:

- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

## **Legal Framework:**

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 is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning).

Clingan's Trust should have in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults.

## **Training and Awareness:**

Clingan's Trust will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its Trustees, Employees, Volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors).

For all employees who are working or volunteering with children, this requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children.
- Recognise a child potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding concern
- Understand dignity and respect when working with children.
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Children Policy.

## **Confidentiality and Information Sharing:**

Clingan's Trust expects all employees, volunteers and trustees to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection. Further information and guidance at <https://pdscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/First-Response-Hub-v.1-May-2020.pdf> and [Reporting Concerns and Continuum of Need - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\)](https://pdscp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Reporting-Concerns-and-Continuum-of-Need-Pan-Dorset-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership.pdf)

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding see

## **Recording and Record Keeping:**

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an individual with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

## **Safe Recruitment & Selection:**

Clingan's Trust is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

Clingan's Trust has policies and procedures that cover the recruitment of all Trustees, employees and volunteers.

All employees, Trustees or Volunteers will be expected to provide a clear DBS check annually.

## **Social Media:**

All employees and volunteers should be aware of Clingan's Trust social media policy and procedures and the code of conduct for behaviour towards the children we support. Details contained in the Clingan's Trust Code of Conduct.

## **Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:**

All employees, trustees and volunteers should understand that it is unlawful to photograph, hold or share images of children and young people without the explicit consent of the person with parental responsibilities.

## **Whistleblowing:**

It is important that people within Clingan's Trust have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong- doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another trustee, employee or volunteer.

Clingan's Trust is committed to ensuring that employees and volunteers who in good faith whistle-blow in the public interest, will be protected from reprisals and victimisation.

Further information can be found on the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership website [Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership - Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership \(pdscp.co.uk\) https://pdscp.co.uk/](https://pdscp.co.uk/)

## **Important Contacts:**

### **Lead Trustee for Safeguarding**

Name: Paul Mills

Email address: [pauljean2@sky.com](mailto:pauljean2@sky.com)

Telephone number: 07784826682

### **Deputy Trustee for Safeguarding**

Name: Linda Mail

Email address [linda.mail@gmail.com](mailto:linda.mail@gmail.com)

Telephone number 07711389197

**BCP Children's Services First Response Hub:** Full details [First-Response-Hub-v.1-May-2020.pdf \(pdscp.co.uk\)](#)

T. 01202 735046 Monday to Thursday: 8.30am to 5.15pm, Friday: 8.30am-4.45pm

E. [childrensfirstresponse@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfirstresponse@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Out Of Hours - The Children's Social Care Out of Hours service is the emergency response service for any child who is in crisis, needs urgent help or is at serious risk of significant harm. Hours of operation are 5pm to 9am from Monday to Friday, all day Saturdays and Sundays and all bank holidays, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

T. 01202 738256

E. [ChildrensOOHS@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensOOHS@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Police**

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000