



## **Safeguarding & promoting the welfare of children policy (England)**

**This is a mandatory policy which the scheme must adopt as it stands, unaltered. Adoption is a requirement of the Home-Start Agreement.**

This policy for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children has been adopted by Home-Start Bristol to signify its commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. It applies to all trustees, staff and volunteers. Home-Start recognises it has a responsibility, along with others, to promote the safety and welfare of children through its support for families, and as part of that responsibility, to ensure that children are protected from harm.

Where there are concerns about the safety or welfare of a child, Home Start's Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children policy and procedures will be followed, and information will be shared with the relevant agencies in order to protect the child(ren).

Home-Start recognises that ill-treatment to children can occur in all cultures, religions and all social classes. All children have the right to be protected. Children who have been abused deserve care, respect and sensitivity.

Home-Start is committed to working in partnership with children, young people, parents and carers in all circumstances, including where there are concerns or suspicions that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm.

Home-Start will take all possible steps to ensure that children with whom it works are kept safe through:

- safe recruitment processes for all trustees, staff and volunteers
- planned induction of all trustees, staff and volunteers, to include signed and dated confirmation of their understanding and acceptance of the safeguarding policy, code of conduct and procedures
- clear safeguarding procedures to inform trustees, staff and volunteers about the appropriate action to take in the event of concerns about a child
- procedures to structure the management of any allegations of abuse against trustees, staff or volunteers
- effective training and support for trustees to ensure that they are able to work within these procedures
- effective training, support and supervision for staff and volunteers to ensure that they are able to work within these procedures
- the implementation of the Standards and Methods of Practice and Code of Conduct for trustees, staff and volunteers
- identified personnel to hold the Strategic Lead and designated

safeguarding responsibilities within Home-Start.

Home-Start has clear expectations of all trustees, staff and volunteers for sharing information about families, parents, children and young people:

- all families supported are made aware of Home-Start's safeguarding and confidentiality policies
- a factual dated record of concerns about a child(ren) in families supported will be kept in line with Home-Start's Record Keeping procedures
- Home-Start recognises the importance of sharing information to protect children and normally the disclosure of the confidential information to any other person may only be undertaken with the expressed permission of the parents for the purpose of assisting the family. (see [confidentiality and sharing information](#))
- however, where it is considered necessary for the welfare and protection of a child, information will be shared with the appropriate authority ([Home-Start Standards and Methods of Practice 8](#)) and families will be kept informed of Home-Start's actions unless to do so would put the child at greater risk of harm.
- protecting children from significant harm is a shared responsibility. In order to fulfil its responsibilities in promoting the welfare and safety of children Home-Start will maintain effective partnerships with organisations working with children and their families within the community.

Home-Start is aware of, holds current information on and works within the requirements of the local procedures followed by statutory and voluntary agencies and takes part in local multi-disciplinary training as available and appropriate.

The following Home-Start standards, policies and procedures will be adopted and implemented and are fundamental to effective practice within Home-Start for carrying out responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children:

- Home Start Quality Assurance standards on:
  - o Promoting Children's Welfare
  - o Confidentiality and Information Sharing
  - o Monitoring and Evaluation
- Home-Start Policy and Practice guidance on:
  - o Governing Documents and Standards and Methods of Practice
  - o Support for Families, including looking after children in the absence of their parents
  - o Home-Start Volunteers
  - o Ethos, Values and Approach
  - o Confidentiality best practice guidance
  - o Recruitment Procedures
  - o Criminal Record Checks
  - o Whistleblowing Procedures
  - o Disciplinary Procedures
  - o Grievance Procedures

o Record Keeping, Monitoring and Evaluation

Signed: 

Chair of Home-Start ICA BOOTH

Date: 6.7.11

Date of Policy Review: June 2012

[Back](#)