**YWAM England Summary Safeguarding Policy Statement**

YWAM England is committed to ensuring a safe environment for children, young people and adults at risk of harm. We believe that it is always unacceptable for a child, young person or adult at risk to experience abuse of any kind. \*

YWAM England takes seriously our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all vulnerable people by a commitment to recommend best practise which protects them throughout their association with us.

The YWAM England safeguarding policy applies to all workers. \*\*

Nothing in this summary, however, absolves or detracts from a parent’s responsibility for the care and protection of their children, young people and where appropriate, adults at risk. This includes but is not limited to private arrangements made with workers, for example; babysitting, childminding, private outings and other privately arranged activities.

**YWAM England recognises that:**

* The welfare of the vulnerable person is paramount;
* All vulnerable people have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. This is regardless of their age, ability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.

**The purpose of this summary is:**

* To provide protection for vulnerable people who participate in our activities, programs (in the UK or when a team in on outreach) and who live in our communities, including those of our associates.
* To provide workers with guidance on procedures and best practise that they should adopt in the event that they suspect a vulnerable person may be experiencing or be at risk of harm or abuse.

**YWAM England will seek to safeguard vulnerable people by:**

* listening to, respecting and valuing them;
* adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse, and reviewing and revising this procedure regularly as needed;
* encouraging and supporting parents/carers;
* safe recruitment, supervision and training for all YWAM workers appropriate to their level of involvement;
* maintaining good and constructive links with the statutory authorities and agencies;
* supporting the Safeguarding Team in their work and in any action they may need to take;
* supporting those affected by abuse in YWAM;

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\* From this point forward the group known as children, young people and adults at risk of harm will be referred to as ‘Vulnerable People’

\*\*For the purpose of this summary policy ‘worker’ includes all staff, trainees, volunteers, mission builders and associates.

**Definitions of abuse:**

**Children and Young People (Minors under the age of 18 years):**

***Physical Abuse***

The infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care, which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or otherwise physically harming a child in your care.

***Sexual Abuse***

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, with or without physical contact. This includes producing or watching sexual activities and “grooming”

***Psychological or Emotional Abuse***

The persistent emotional ill treatment, including rejection, bullying and witnessing the ill-treatment of another (e.g. domestic violence), causing severe and persistent adverse effects on a child’s emotional development.

***Neglect***

The persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development; failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, protect from physical and emotional harm/danger; ensure adequate supervision; or ensure access to appropriate medical care.

**Adults at Risk :**

***Physical Abuse***

The infliction of pain or physical injury, which is either caused deliberately, or through lack of care by themselves or others.

***Sexual Abuse***

The involvement in sexual activities to which the person has not consented or does not truly comprehend and so cannot give informed consent, or where the other party is in a position of trust, power or authority to override or overcome lack of consent.

***Psychological or Emotional Abuse***

Acts or behaviour, which cause mental distress or anguish or negates the wishes of the adult at risk. It is also behaviour that has a harmful effect on the adult at risks emotional health and development or any other form of mental cruelty or inflicted coercive behaviour.

***Neglect or Act of Omission***

The repeated deprivation of assistance that the adult at risk needs for important activities of daily living, including the failure to intervene in behaviour which is dangerous to the adult at risk or to others. A vulnerable person may be suffering from neglect when their general well-being or development is impaired

***Financial or Material Abuse***

The inappropriate use, misappropriation, theft or embezzlement of money, property or possessions

***Discriminatory Abuse***

The inappropriate treatment of an adult at risk because of their age, gender, race, religion, cultural background, sexuality, disability etc. Discriminatory abuse exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals. Discriminatory abuse links to all other forms of abuse.

**Code of safer working practice**

This code is provided for all workers. It will assist all workers to establish behaviours which constitute safe and responsible practices, and which will enable each to monitor their own standards of integrity and good practise.

You should:

* Treat all Vulnerable People with respect, dignity, keeping your own language, attitude and body language respectful;
* Actively communicate with Vulnerable people and involve them in planning and running activities where appropriate;
* Avoid being alone with vulnerable people, there should always be two properly recruited adults with each group of vulnerable people;
* Develop a culture where workers and vulnerable people feel comfortable to point out inappropriate attitudes and behaviours to each other;
* Make it plain who someone can speak to about personal concerns, and be proactive in addressing concerns and allegations;
* Never use illicit drugs, abuse prescription medication or use alcohol when responsible for vulnerable people;
* Keep physical contact specific to the needs of the activity and always seek permission from the person first;
* Obtain consent from parents or carers for any photography/videos to be taken, shown or displayed including uploaded to any social media or to devise;
* Never use rough play, sexually provocative words or games of any forms of physical punishment;
* Never scapegoat, ridicule or reject a child, group or adult or allow others to do so;
* Avoid showing favouritism to any one child, group or adult or do anything to reinforce their possible unhealthy feelings towards you;
* Never give lifts to vulnerable people on their own or on your own (unless approved by parents or carers) or allow unknown adults access to them;
* Never share sleeping accommodation with children and young people or invite them to your room or home without first consulting their parent or carer;
* Always operate within these principles, procedures and guidelines clarifying these when unsure;

The above guidelines set clear expectations of behaviour and codes of practise which serve to reduce the possibilities of positions of trust being abused or misused, or false accusations being made.

**Safeguarding procedures for YWAM England**

Concerns about vulnerable people or a worker’s conduct should be reported immediately to ....

[insert locations Designated Lead name and contact details]

Concerns will be dealt with diligently and promptly and responded to according to YWAM England’s full policy procedures, recognising the sensitivity it may hold for those involved.

If you are concerned there is a risk of immediate danger call 999. If you are unsure what to do and want to seek further independent advice, please contact 318 (formally CCPAS) on 0303-003-1111 or NSPCC Child Protection Helpline on 0808-800-5000.

**Declaration of Commitment to YWAM England’s Safeguarding Policy and procedures**

I declare that I have read and understood the YWAM England’s Summary Safeguarding Policy Statement and will work within the procedures as laid out.



 I have watched the YWAM England Introduction to Safeguarding video.

(please tick boxes)

**Name**:.........................................................................................**Date**:........................................

**Signature**:....................................................................................................................................

**Your Role (eg Staff, trainee etc)**

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