

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

Baca recognises that all children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to live their lives to the fullest potential, to be protected, to have the opportunity to safely participate in and enjoy any activity. As such, Baca is committed to ensuring that all children, young people and vulnerable adults are treated with dignity and respect and kept safe from harm whilst engaged in services organised and provided by Baca.

Baca's approach is to create an open and accepting attitude towards all children, young people and vulnerable adults as part of its responsibility to ensure holistic care and support for all those in its care. All children and young people are encouraged to feel free to express their concerns and to see Baca settings as a safe environment. All concerns will be taken seriously and young people are encouraged to seek help when needed.

Baca, accepts the moral and legal responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for all young people in its care, safeguard their well-being, and protect them from abuse when they are engaged in services organised and provided by Baca.

Baca will attempt to ensure this by:

- Establishing and maintaining an ethos where children and young people feel secure, their views, wishes and feelings are respected and rights are promoted.
- Ensuring young people know that there are staff who they can approach and talk to if they are worried.
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers have a strong awareness of the duty of care responsibilities relating to children and young people.
- Promoting and implementing appropriate procedures to protect children and young people from harm.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within all our services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Operating Safer Recruitment procedures and making sure that all appropriate checks are carried out on new staff and volunteers who will work with young people, including identity, right to work, enhanced (Disclosure and Barring Service) DBS criminal record and barred list (and overseas where needed) and references are checked.
- Training, supporting and supervising staff and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse, and minimise risk to themselves.
- Responding to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children and young people in line with this Policy, the Local Area Safeguarding Board, and 'No Secrets' guidance, as well as implementing the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures where appropriate.
- Requiring staff and volunteers to adopt and abide by the Baca Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer reviewing and evaluating this document on a regular basis using a Safeguarding Audit Checklist.

Baca's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection and Safeguarding policy applies to all Baca staff, volunteers, trustees and visitors and is intended to cover all Baca activities and services. We recognise that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

This policy sets out the responsibility of all staff, volunteers and trustees to be aware of risks of harm and therefore also be aware of the correct procedures for responding to any suggested incidents of abuse. It is everyone's duty to refer all suspicions or allegations of abuse to the Designated Safeguarding Officer or their deputy.

This policy applies to all young people and vulnerable adults in Baca's care. This includes children under 18 years and vulnerable adults over 18 years. Over 18's in Baca's care are considered vulnerable adults as they continue to be under the care of social services. This policy applies to all Baca activities including any activities with those who have left Baca's supported accommodation and receive support through our care leavers' provision.

## Legal Framework

Baca's policy for safeguarding Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system>.

Examples of this are:

- [Safeguarding Strategy Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children \(2017\)](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)
- [The Children Act 1989 \(and 2004 amendment\)](#), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children
- [Department for Education's statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#)
- [Female Genital mutilation Act 2003/Updated guidance July 2020](#)
- [Statutory guidance on FGM](#), which sets out responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and supporting girls affected by FGM
- [The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974](#), which outlines when people with criminal convictions can work with children
- [Schedule 4 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#), which defines what 'regulated activity' is in relation to children
- [Statutory guidance on the Prevent duty](#), which explains duties under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 with respect to protecting people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)
- [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#)
- [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(Position of Trust offence\)](#)
- [Voyeurism \(Offences Act\) 2019](#)

## Principles

The policy is based on the following principles:

- Paramount – The child’s welfare is paramount and is the most important consideration.
- Parental Responsibility – The local authority and the providers used by them, in this case Baca, have a duty to care for the vulnerable people and must meet their needs irrespective of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual orientation.
- Partnership – Professionals are to work together for the welfare of vulnerable people.
- Participation – Vulnerable people’s wishes and feelings should be ascertained so that they can contribute appropriately.
- Prevention and Provision of Services – All efforts must be made to ensure that a vulnerable person at risk of harm has access to services and support to safeguard them.
- Protection – Vulnerable people must be protected from serious harm. It is the responsibility of all Baca staff to report any concerns about abuse and the responsibility of Social Services and the Police to conduct, where appropriate, a joint investigation. All incidents of alleged poor practice, misconduct and abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All personal data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation.

If you have any concerns, please contact us via the contact details on our website.

A full version of our Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be made available upon request.

Last reviewed: 18 May 2023.