

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.

In attempting to do this Baca will:

- Establish and maintaining an ethos where children and young people feel secure, their views, wishes and feelings are respected, and rights are promoted.
- Ensure young people know that there are staff who they can approach when they are worried or in difficulty. They are encouraged to talk. We will make sure that when they do, they will be carefully listened to.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers have a strong awareness of the duty of care responsibilities relating to children and young people.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to protect children and young people from harm.
- Teach young people to recognise when they are at risk and how to get help when they need it.
- Ensure the Support Team provide both planned and unplanned daily proactive support where a welfare concern is raised regarding a young person.
- Ensure someone from the Safeguarding Team is on duty 24/7 to always ensure availability, offering advice and guidance to young people and staff. All staff are trained to signpost young people to the Therapy service and Safeguarding Team as appropriate.
- Ensure every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with Social Services and colleagues from other agencies.
- Create a safe and healthy environment within all our services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Operate Safer Recruitment procedures and make 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.

- Recognise the importance of considering wider environmental factors in a young person's life that may be a threat to their safety and/or welfare. This is known as Contextual Safeguarding and is referred to in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023; and in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025. We will assess the risks and issues in the wider community when considering the wellbeing and safety of young people in our care.
- Ensure all staff are aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Whilst staff are not expected or trained to diagnose mental health conditions or issues, we will seek to help them notice behaviours that may indicate the need for support.
- Train, support and supervise staff and volunteers to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse and minimise risk to themselves.
- Respond 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.
- Require staff and volunteers to adopt and abide by the Baca Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.
- Review and evaluate this document on a regular basis using a Safeguarding Audit Checklist and in line with guidance and Ofsted Regulations.

This 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:

- [Guide to the Supported Accommodation Regulations including Quality Standards \(2023\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Strategy Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children \(2017\)](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#)
- [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 \(2025\)](#)
- [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](#)

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: 24 September 2025