

Fight Against Blindness

FAB

Registered Charity No. 1124806

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

1. Statutory Legislation

The Children Act 1989 provides the legislative framework for child protection

The Children Act 2004, which encourages partnerships between agencies and creates more accountability

The Children and Social Work Act 2017

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, which gave the definition of a 'vulnerable adult'.

2. Who are we safeguarding?

2.1 We have a legal duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults

2.2 A 'child' is anyone under the age of 18

3. Code of conduct

3.1. The charity will make every effort to safeguard children and young people, protecting them from:

- significant harm
- exploitation
- abuse

3.2. We will always fulfil our statutory duties with regards to safeguarding children and young people by:

- following appropriate recruitment procedures for trustees, volunteers and staff
- taking appropriate action if we suspect a child or young person is at risk

3.3. Safeguarding children and young people is the action we take to promote their welfare and to protect them from harm. All who are working on behalf of FAB coming into contact with children, young people and their families have a role to play in taking responsibility to ensure they are safe from harm.

3.4. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

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

4. Safeguarding structure and responsibilities

4.1 FAB's trustees are responsible for the charity's safeguarding of children and young people. An appointed trustee will be its Safeguarding Lead, the point of contact for any safeguarding issues to take action in accordance with this document and report to the trustees.

4.2 Only FAB's professional qualified psychologists shall be in contact with children and young people (our beneficiaries) on behalf of FAB. This contact is carried out by them in person and by digital media in accordance with the policies of this document, their professional body and the eye clinic where they provide FAB's service. Safeguarding issues will be reported to the Safeguarding Lead.

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- 4.3 Any trustee or volunteer having need to be in contact with children or young people on behalf of the charity whether in person or by digital/social media, must have formal written permission from the Safeguarding Lead, formal minuted agreement by resolution at a trustees' meeting, appropriate safeguards DBS/PVG in place checked by Safeguarding Lead and FAB Chair before contact is made.
- 4.4 All trustees, staff members, volunteers and those working for FAB are responsible for identifying issues. If anyone has a safeguarding issue brought to their attention it must be treated as a priority and reported to the Safeguarding Lead for immediate action.
- 4.5 Training
 - Permission for any FAB trustee, staff member or volunteer to be in contact with children on behalf of the charity must be agreed with the Safeguarding Lead (4.3). If agreed then the appropriate safeguarding training and repeat training, disclosure and barring service checks will be made as required to the standard of the National Safeguarding Team
 - FAB's professional clinical psychologists safeguarding training and disclosure and barring service checks are carried out as part of the safeguarding procedure for all professionals and others working with children and young people in the eye clinic and as required by their professional body

5. Process to be invoked when harm/abuse is suspected

- 5.1. If anyone internally or externally comes across signs of harm and/or abuse of children or young person they should:
 - Report any concerns for the wellbeing of a child or young person to the Safeguarding Lead
 - Where appropriate the Safeguarding Lead may involve the police or some other relevant specialist service
- 5.2. If anyone internally or externally considers that a child or young person is in immediate danger or at risk of harm they should:
 - Contact the police immediately
- 5.3. Where an allegation of abuse or inappropriate behaviour is made against a member of FAB and it is possible that they may have:
 - behaved in a way that has or may have harmed a child or vulnerable adult
 - committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or vulnerable adult
 - behaved in a manner that indicates s/he may pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults.

A thorough investigation should be undertaken to establish that the allegation is either:

 - substantiated
 - malicious
 - false
 - unsubstantiated.

Statutory and other relevant guidance should be used as necessary to support any investigation.

- 5.4. The Safeguarding Lead will decide any action to be taken. It is the duty of others to inform only, not to investigate – this is the role of the relevant external services.
- 5.5. The Safeguarding Lead will ensure that an incident record is made, actions taken and that any external reports are appropriately made.
- 5.6. For new trustees, staff and volunteers:

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- Verification of the appointed person's identity, preferably from current photographic ID and proof of address
- 5.7. Any trustee or volunteer working with under 18s must disclose to the Safeguarding Lead if they are knowingly living with or in the same household of a person who has been disqualified from working with children.

6. Harm and abuse

6.1 Examples of harm and abuse

- **Physical abuse**, which includes hitting, pinching or physically restraining someone in an inappropriate way - for example, being locked in or force-fed
- **Financial abuse**, which includes taking another person's money or possessions - for example, having money or property stolen, being pressured into giving people money or changing a will, misuse of benefits, not being allowed access to money
- **Sexual abuse**, which includes any sexual act to which a child or vulnerable adult has not consented and may not understand. For example, being touched or kissed when it is not wanted, being made to touch or kiss someone else, being raped, being made to listen to sexual comments or forced to look at sexual acts or materials
- **Neglect**, the persistent failure to meet a person's physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of a person's health or development
- **Psychological abuse**, for example if someone is isolated, verbally abused or threatened, e.g. with violence
- **Discrimination**. Discriminating abuse includes any type of abuse aimed at a child or vulnerable adult because of their colour, religion, appearance or sexuality. For example, ignoring spiritual or religious beliefs, comments or jokes about a person's disability, age, race, sexual orientation, or gender / gender identity, ignoring cultural needs, for example diet or clothing

6.2 Trustees, volunteers and staff should also be alert to the potential need for help for anyone who:

- is disabled and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs
- is a carer
- is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence
- is showing signs of abuse and/or neglect

7. Contact

To report a concern please email the Safeguarding Lead:

safeguarding@fightagainstblindness.org

Signed:

Carol Eastell

Date: 09/01/2026

Carol Eastell
Trustee, Safeguarding Lead FAB

Next document review date January 2027

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Issue status

Issue 1 reviewed and agreed in minutes board of trustees meeting date 28/10/2022.

Signed and dated 17/12/2022 by Carol Eastell, Safeguarding Lead, Trustee

Issue 2 reviewed and agreed in minutes board of trustees meeting 3/2/23

Signed and dated 10/2/2023 by Carol Eastell, Safeguarding Lead, Trustee

Issue 3 reviewed and agreed in minutes board of trustees meeting 26/1/24

Signed and dated 26/1/2024 by Carol Eastell, Safeguarding Lead, Trustee

Issue 4 signed and dated 04/01/2025 by Carol Eastell, Safeguarding Lead, Trustee

Issue 4 signed and dated 09/01/2026 by Carol Eastell, Safeguarding Lead, Trustee