



## Safeguarding and social media

This information sheet is for all voluntary organisations and community groups that have contact with children and young people up to the age of 18.

Every child and young person should be kept safe, and everyone is responsible for protecting children and young people from harm. When your club or organisation is working with or has contact with any children and young people up to the age of 18, your organisation should make sure it takes steps to keep them safe.

### The main areas to consider are:

- Child protection – know what to do if you are worried about a child
- Safer staff and volunteers – during recruitment, induction, supervision, training, responding to allegations
- Avoiding accidents and running safe activities and events
- Preventing and responding to bullying
- Safe use of social media

### If you are worried about a child or young person

**Newcastle Children's Social Care Initial Response Team** for advice and referrals during office hours.  
Call 0191 277 2500

Visit <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-social-care/initial-response-service>

**Newcastle Emergency Duty Team** outside of office hours.  
Call 0191 278 7878

Visit <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/contact-childrens-social-care#duty>

**Gateshead Children's Services** for advice about referrals during office hours.  
Call 0191 433 2653

Visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/1820/Children-s-social-care>

**Gateshead Emergency Duty Team** outside of office hours.  
Call 0191 477 0844

Visit <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/3948/Worried-about-a-child-in-Gateshead->

**NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)** 24 hour helpline, includes some Asian languages.  
Call 0808 800 5000

Visit [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**Northumbria Police Safeguarding Department** offers advice.  
Call 101 and ask for the Safeguarding Department.

## Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice

All organisations that work with, contact, or are visited by children and young people should have a policy statement about how the organisation intends to keep children and young people safe, usually written on one side of paper.

Written procedures should explain how the policy is put into practice. Good practice will protect the children and young people you have contact with, protect your staff, volunteers and management committee, and protect the good reputation of your organisation.

Taking up regular safeguarding training and carrying out appropriate criminal record checks are part of the safeguarding menu. Someone senior in the organisation must be the Designated Person for Safeguarding Children.

The way that your group uses social media should be included in your guidelines, so that children and young people, and your staff, volunteers, management committee and your organisation are all protected.

Sometimes guidance refers to safeguarding; sometimes to child protection:

- Child protection is about what staff and volunteers should do if they are worried a child has been abused or is at risk of significant harm, or what to do if there are allegations about a staff member or volunteer
- Safeguarding usually has a wider focus than child protection, such as preventing bullying and running safe activities

## Free support to safeguard children and young people

### NSPCC Learning

Free NSPCC resources for voluntary and community sector groups and practitioners.

Are they safe? is a guide for leaders especially of small groups; includes running safe events and a wall chart

safeguarding children in faith communities: guidance on safeguarding within the beliefs, teachings and cultural context of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and interfaith

- safeguarding children in BME communities
- safeguarding D/deaf and disabled children
- safeguarding for performing arts
- online safety and social media
- radicalisation
- writing a safeguarding policy

Visit <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/for-voluntary-and-community-groups/>

Local Safeguarding Children Boards offer training, local practice guidance, interagency procedures, and publications to support learning and safeguarding.

Visit Newcastle: [www.nscb.org.uk/](http://www.nscb.org.uk/)  
Gateshead: [www.gateshead.gov.uk/lscb/home.aspx](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/lscb/home.aspx)

## Free safeguarding training

Safeguarding training should be renewed at least every three years; Gateshead Council recommends every two years. There are face to face courses at levels 1, 2 and 3, specialist courses, and online e-learning courses.

Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) offers free training for Newcastle voluntary organisations' staff and volunteers including management committees. Visit [www.nscb.org.uk/](http://www.nscb.org.uk/)

Gateshead Safeguarding Children Board offers free training for Gateshead voluntary organisations' staff and volunteers. Visit <https://www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk/article/9209/Training->

Safeguarding children from abuse by sexual exploitation: e-learning  
The average age of children who become sexually exploited is 11 to 13. This e-learning course is recommended for all voluntary and community organisations that work face-to-face with children and young people in Newcastle and Gateshead.

## Action for your group

Write or update your safeguarding children policy and procedures  
Visit <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/writing-a-safeguarding-policy/>

Write or update your safe recruitment policy and procedures  
Some organisations have a separate recruitment policy and procedure. Your procedures should include pre- recruitment and ongoing DBS checks

Consider your staff, volunteer and management committee training needs  
Free safeguarding children training for organisations active in Newcastle. Visit [www.nscb.org.uk/training-courses](http://www.nscb.org.uk/training-courses)

Free safeguarding children training for organisations active in Gateshead. Visit <https://www.gatesheadsafeguarding.org.uk/article/9209/Training->

Keep yourself up to date with information and local resources.  
Connected Voice free newsletter includes safeguarding resources. Sign up on [www.connectedvoice.org.uk/](http://www.connectedvoice.org.uk/)

## Find out more

If you would like to find out more about how we can support your organisation, please visit our website or alternatively email or phone us for more information:

**Connected Voice Support and Development**  
Higham House,  
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NE1 8AF

**[sdteam@connectedvoice.org.uk](mailto:sdteam@connectedvoice.org.uk)**  
**0191 235 7013**



**[www.ConnectedVoice.org.uk](http://www.ConnectedVoice.org.uk)**

**Please ask us if you would like a large print copy of this leaflet**

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