

# **North East Sling Library**

## **Our child protection policy**

This policy applies to anyone working for or on behalf of North East Sling Library (from here on in called the Sling Library) be they paid staff, trained consultants or volunteers. This policy applies to all business of the Sling Library including but not limited to consultations, sling meets and online activity.

The purpose of this policy is to protect children and young people and to provide staff, volunteers and Sling Library users with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection. The Sling Library believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. Somebody may abuse a child by inflicting, or failing to prevent, significant harm to a child or young person. Abuse may be perpetrated in a family, institutional or social setting, online, by those known to them, or more rarely, by a stranger.

We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to ensuring that the work on the Sling Library is carried out in a safe way.

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount (as enshrined in the Children Act 1989).
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection practices through procedures (including e-safety) and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

This document was drawn up using guidance from the NSPCC and the Safe Network. We are committed to reviewing our policy, procedures and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 and will be reviewed in 12 months.

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