

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

An introduction

CHILD SAFEGUARDING DEFINITION

- It is the **responsibility** organisations have to make sure their staff, operations and programs do no harm to children
- **To not expose children** to the risk of harm and abuse
- **To report concerns** to the appropriate authorities.

AN ORGANISATION NEEDS TO KNOW

- Where, when and how your organisation affects children
- What policies and procedures are needed
- Who is the appropriate designated child safeguarding person/s
- What safeguarding induction and training is needed
- It's code of conduct.



Abuse may still take place from within your organisation. At that point, it is how your organisation responds that is crucial for the child and for the organisation.

WHY HAVE STANDARDS?

- To **promote** good practice for organisations that ensure their programmes, operations, staff and partners do not put children at risk of harm
- To **protect** children and enable organisations to **respond appropriately** when concerns and incidents arise
- To **provide** a comprehensive **benchmark** for preventing harm to children.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Do no harm

- All children have **equal rights** to protection from harm
- Everybody has a **responsibility** to support the protection of children
- Organisations have a **duty of care** to children with whom they work, are in contact with, or who are affected by their work and operations.
- All actions on child safeguarding are taken in the **best interests** of the child, which are paramount.

ADVANTAGES

The advantages of implementing child safeguarding standards are that it will ensure:

- Children are **protected**
- Organisation staff and associates are **protected**
- The organisation and its reputation is **protected.**

THE STANDARDS

There are **four key principles** involved in the **Child Safeguarding Standards**

- 1) Policy
- 2) People
- 3) Procedure
- 4) Accountability

1. POLICY

Your organisation develops a policy that describes how it is committed to preventing and responding appropriately to, harm to children



STANDARD 1 POLICY

All organisations whose work impacts on children need to develop a clear policy that prevents harm to children and outlines what measures are in place to respond when safeguarding concerns arise.



STANDARD 1 POLICY

Why should organisations meet this standard?

Developing a child safeguarding policy makes it clear to everyone that children must be safeguarded and not put at risk of harm because of the organisation's contact with, or impact on, children.



STANDARD 1 **POLICY**

- The policy reflects the rights of children to protection from abuse and exploitation as outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- The policy is approved by the organisation's management body and applies to all the organisation's staff and associates.

DO'S AND DON'TS

- **Do** use other organisations' child safeguarding policies to inform yours, don't just replicate it!
- **Do** work with a group of relevant staff to develop and disseminate the policy
- **Do** make a child friendly version for children you work with
- **Don't** develop a policy document that just sits in the office.

2. PEOPLE

Your organisation places clear responsibilities and expectations on its staff and associates and supports them to understand and act in line with these



STANDARD 2 **PEOPLE**

The organisation places clear responsibilities and expectations on its staff and associates and supports them to understand and act in line with these.



STANDARD 2 PEOPLE

Why should organisations meet this Standard?

- Everyone has a role to play in their safeguarding
- Organisations need to ensure that all those associated with the organisation understand safeguarding.



STANDARD 2 PEOPLE

- Key staff are designated (including director level) as ‘focal points’ with clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Recruitment processes have strong child safeguarding measures in place
- There are written guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour of adults towards children, and of children towards other children
- There are guidelines for engaging partners, communities and children on child safeguarding.

3. PROCEDURE

Your organisation creates a child-safe environment through implementing child safeguarding procedures that are applied across the organisation



STANDARD 3 PROCEDURES

- Safeguarding policy commitments are integrated into existing organisational processes and systems and, where necessary, new procedures introduced
- A procedure details the steps that need to be carried out to fulfil the policy.



STANDARD 3 PROCEDURES

Why should organisations meet this standard?

- Child safeguarding measures need to be integrated throughout an organisation
- Organisations carry out local mapping exercises which provide information on the legal, social welfare and child protection arrangements.



STANDARD 3 PROCEDURES

- Child safeguarding risk assessments and mitigation strategies are incorporated into existing risk assessment processes at all levels
- Child safeguarding measures are integrated with existing processes and systems (strategic planning, budgeting, recruitment, programme cycle management, performance management, procurement, partner agreements and management systems and so on).

4. ACCOUNTABILITY

Your organisation monitors and reviews its safeguarding measures



STANDARD 4 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The organisation has in place measures and mechanisms for monitoring and review of safeguarding measures and to ensure both upward and downward accountability in relation to child safeguarding.



STANDARD 4 ACCOUNTABILITY

- Measure child safeguarding performance
- Active monitoring, before things go wrong
- Reactive monitoring, after near misses or when things go wrong.



STANDARD 4 **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Implementation of child safeguarding policies and procedures is regularly monitored
- Progress, performance and lessons learnt are reported to key stakeholders (management forums and external or independent bodies where relevant) and included in organisations' annual reports.

THANK YOU