

*Including: Safeguarding (children, young people, vulnerable adults); Prevent Duty; Radicalisation; Extremism; Confidentiality and Information sharing; Social media; Technology use; Whistleblowing*

Prudhoe Community Partnership abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults being committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- Everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation has an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with those concerned is essential in promoting everyone's welfare

**Purpose:**

Prudhoe Community Partnership will:

- Protect children, young people and adults who receive who take part in any of the projects or services relating to their activities from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- Provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working or volunteering on behalf of PCP including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

**Definitions:**

**The Children Act 2004 definition of a child is:** anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

**Adults at Risk:** An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

**Child and Adult Abuse:** Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

**Safeguarding children:** Safeguarding children is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as:

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

Children's Act 2004: [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents)

Working together to safeguard children – Government legislation:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children)

**Safeguarding vulnerable adults:** Safeguarding adults is defined in CQC Safeguarding Statement as:

- Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.
- Providers' safeguarding arrangements should always promote the adult's wellbeing.

### **Legal Framework:**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation is available from [nspcc.org.uk/learning](http://nspcc.org.uk/learning).

Prudhoe Community Partnership has in place arrangements that reflect the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults.

## **The Prevent duty**

Prudhoe Community Partnership recognises that some organisations in England, Scotland and Wales have a duty, as a specified authority under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, to identify vulnerable children and young people and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty. These organisations include:

- Schools
- Registered childcare providers
- Local authorities
- Police
- Prisons and probation services
- NHS trusts and foundations.
- Other organisations may also have Prevent duties if they perform delegated local authority functions.

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme.

**Radicalisation** is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is a form of harm.

**Extremism** is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Prudhoe Community Partnership is aware of these issues and will follow the procedures set out by Northumberland County Council. For further information see: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Partners/Safer-Northumberland.aspx#counterterrorismlocalstrategy>

Similarly, employees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an adult at risk of abuse. For more information about adults safeguarding, refer to Northumberland County Council Adults Safeguarding Policy.

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Health-and-social-care/Care%20support%20for%20adults/safeguarding%20adults/Northumberland-and-North-Tyneside-Safeguarding-Adults-Information-Sharing-Agreement.pdf](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Health-and-social-care/Care%20support%20for%20adults/safeguarding%20adults/Northumberland-and-North-Tyneside-Safeguarding-Adults-Information-Sharing-Agreement.pdf)

## **Confidentiality and Information Sharing:**

Prudhoe Community Partnership expects all employees, volunteers and trustees to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or **contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed**. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding see.

**Recording and Record Keeping:**

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

**Safe Recruitment & Selection:**

Prudhoe Community Partnership is committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices, that reduce the risk of harm to children and vulnerable adults from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them.

Prudhoe Community Partnership has policies and procedures that cover the recruitment of all Trustees, employees and volunteers.

**Social Media:**

All employees and volunteers should be aware of Prudhoe Community Partnership's social media policy and procedures and the code of conduct for behaviour towards any children and vulnerable adults we support.

**Use of Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:**

All employees, trustees and volunteers should be aware of Prudhoe Community Partnership's policy and procedures regarding the use of mobile phones and any digital technology and understand that it is unlawful to photograph children, young people and vulnerable adults without the explicit consent of the person with parental/carer responsibilities.

**Whistleblowing:**

It is important that people within Prudhoe Community Partnership have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle-blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong-doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another employee or volunteer. There is also a requirement by Prudhoe Community Partnership to protect whistle-blowers.

For further information: [www.gov.uk/whistleblowing](http://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing)

**Police**

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

**NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

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