



# respond

building homes,  
improving lives

Making Our Communities Safe for Children and Families  
Respond Child Safeguarding Principles and Procedures

Respond believe that children and young people have a right to be brought up in a nurturing safe environment. Through our work, we endeavor to foster an organisational culture that views the rights and protection of children and young persons as paramount. Respond is fully committed to keeping children safe and implementing this policy across the whole organisation to promote the highest standards of child safeguarding in line with the **'Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children'** (2017) and **Children First Act (2015)**.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Respond Child Safeguarding Policy outlines our key principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people and ensure that the welfare and protection of children and young people is our first priority. It outlines clear procedures for all Respond staff and volunteers on how they are expected to respond to any child safeguarding concern or allegation that they may observe during the course of their work. Our guiding principles apply to all paid staff, volunteers, board members and students on work placement within our organisation. All board members, staff, volunteers and students are required to sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and safeguarding procedures. **A copy of our full policy is available for review in all our community building.**

### Our guiding principles are;

- Keep children safe from harm and ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
- All children and young people have an equal right to attend a service that respects them as individuals and encourages them to reach their potential, regardless of their background.
- We are committed to upholding the rights of every child and young person, who attends our service. Including the right to be safe, protected from harm, listened to and heard.
- Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy, legislation, and both will be reviewed every two years.
- Our guiding principles apply to everyone in our organisation.
- All staff /volunteers must conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of our organisation.

### Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)

## WORKING SAFELY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In keeping with our commitment to safeguard children and young people, Respond staff will adhere to a code of behaviour, which outlines good practices for working with children and young people on our estates and in our services. **It includes:**

- Staff and volunteers will respect and value children as individuals. Children will be listened to, praised, encouraged, and involved appropriately in decision-making.
- In cases of disclosures, never promise to keep secrets, the child/ young person needs to be aware that you will have to pass on any serious information regarding the protection and welfare of children.
- Avoid spending time alone, away from others with a child or young person.
- Always address children and young people in positive terms.
- Children/young people should not be left unattended or unsupervised.
- A safe environment will be provided for all activities/events for children/young people.
- An appropriate risk assessment will be completed for all outings, trips etc. organised for children/young people.
- The appropriate staff (volunteer) to child ratio for safe supervision will be adhered to at all times.

## NAMED KEY PERSON

Respond have appointed a Regional Designated Liaison Person that acts as support to any parent or tenant that may have a child protection and welfare concern.

### The Designated Liaison Person in your areas is:

Name -

**Contact Number: Respond Call Centre 01 8087700**

Respond welcomes any comments or suggestions on how we can make our estates and services a safe and positive environment for children and young people. Please contact your area DLP as outlined above with your feedback.