

# Safeguarding Young People Statement

## Introduction to the Statement

Lifespace Trust is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people with whom it works and comes into contact.

**We believe... Every child and young person has the right to feel safe and be safe;** and each has the right to grow up and develop their full potential in a secure, safe environment, free from harm, abuse, neglect or exploitation and to be involved in any decision which may directly affect them. All children and young people have a right to be treated equally regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, culture, religious belief, language, disability or sexual identity.

**We believe... Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is everyone's responsibility.**

**We recognise that... Child abuse happens in Warwickshire.** The mentor may become an important link in identifying a case where a child/young person needs protection.

**We believe... Safeguarding is a process focused on preventing the impairment of children and young people's health (mentally, emotionally, socially, spiritually, relationally and physically), minimising the chances of abuse, including neglect.** This process exists to ensure children and young people grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables them to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

**We recognise and embrace... Our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and protect children and young people from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.** Lifespace Trust expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

**We adhere to... A Safeguarding policy which is annually reviewed, audited and updated to stay in line with recommended practice (from Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Board; the NSPCC; and CCPAS – Churches Child Protection Advisory Service).** It is also an explicit element of our national accreditation – the Approved Provider Standard, which is reviewed every three years.

**We are committed to... Providing safe and secure environments for children and young people, as well as those who work with young people, both staff and volunteers.**

**We are committed to... Promoting an emotional and physical climate where children, young people and adults feel confident about sharing any concerns that they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others.**

**We are committed to... Planning the work of the project so as to minimise situations where the abuse of children and young people may occur.** This will involve reducing to a minimum the number of occasions where a single member of personnel is in company with referred young persons and where there is little possibility of the activity being supervised or observed by others.

Lifespace Trust carries the Nationally Approved Provider Standard for Safe and Effective Mentoring Practice - awarded by MBF and backed by The Cabinet Office

**We are committed to...**Applying agreed procedures for protecting children and young people to all of our personnel.

**We are committed to...**Ensuring that we give all our personnel clear roles and responsibilities, both written and explained in person. This gives clear directions on action to be taken if abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected. E.g. Written guidelines, structured notes, contact details of a supervising mentor and Safeguarding Lead Officer; contact details of Warwickshire's Education Safeguarding Manager.

**We are committed to...**Providing proactive and regularly scheduled mentor supervision as a means of protecting young people as an explicit requirement for all our mentors. Every mentor is allocated a named supervising mentor and signs a Mentor Agreement at the start of each academic year laying out the expectations we have of them.

**We are committed to...** Ensuring appropriate recruitment and selection processes are employed for all of our personnel (including volunteers). Information we acquire includes:

- o permission to contact two referees who have experience of their previous work and contact with young people;
- o details of criminal offences (including spent convictions) outlined in an Enhanced Disclosure through the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly the Criminal Records Bureau, CRB) – this is renewed every three years;
- o details of work previously done with young people.

**We are committed to...** Ensuring that all appointments of personnel are conditional on the successful completion of a probationary three month period during which they are observed at work and supervised.

**We are committed to...** Ensuring that Lifespace has at least two points of contact with an external body or organisation for advice and support, such as CCPAS (Churches Child Protection Advisory Service) and The Safe Network (supported by NSPCC).

**We are committed to...**Ensuring that our Safeguarding policy is brought to the attention of all staff and volunteers, who are also offered guidelines and training to enable them to implement it.

**We are committed to...** Providing free training which aligns with the latest good practice provided by the Warwickshire Safeguarding Children's Board (WSCB) to all our staff and volunteers.

**We are committed to...** Operating within the pastoral systems of the referring schools and agencies that we support. To this end, the Lifespace Trust Safeguarding policy will work in conjunction with existing policies of referring agencies, and the guidelines and procedures of WSCB.

**We are committed to...** Learning from other organisations and implementing good practice as a continual process.