



# East Sussex Community Voice

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

### Policy Schedule

Version	Date of next review by ESCV Board	Date of adoption by ESCV Board
1	n/a	March 2021
2	March 2023	July 2023
3	July 2024	
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### 1 Purpose and scope of this Policy Statement

- 1.1 East Sussex Community Voice (ESCV) takes the welfare of adults, children and the vulnerable very seriously.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy statement is:
- to protect adults, children and the vulnerable who receive or participate in East Sussex Community Voice’s services from harm.
  - to provide staff and volunteers, as well as adults, children and the vulnerable, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.
- 1.3 This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of East Sussex Community Voice, including managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency/temporary staff, sub-contractors and students.
- 1.4 This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:
- recording safeguarding concerns and information sharing
  - equal opportunities
  - code of conduct for staff and volunteers
  - photography consent and sharing images guidance
  - managing complaints
  - whistleblowing
  - health and safety
  - induction, training, supervision and support

## 2 Our Safeguarding principles

### 2.1 We believe that:

- Adults, children and the vulnerable should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

### 2.2 We recognise that:

- all people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have 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.
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

## 3 Safeguarding at East Sussex Community Voice

- 3.1 ESCV is signed up to and complies with the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and pan-Sussex policies and procedures on [Safeguarding Adults](#) and [Safeguarding Children](#) and these apply to all staff, Board members, volunteers and partner organisations.
- 3.2 All ESCV staff, Board members and volunteers are subject to rigorous checks for their suitability to undertake their chosen role within ESCV. This includes during the interview process and the obtaining of satisfactory references prior to employment.
- 3.3 Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are undertaken if they are working directly with adults at risk, children and young people.
- 3.4 All staff, Board members and volunteers undergo training in safeguarding as part of their induction programme and on a rolling annual refresher basis.

#### **4 Raising a safeguarding concern**

- 4.1 If any ESCV member of staff, Board member, volunteer, or member of a partner organisation has any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of a child, adult or vulnerable individual, then they should discuss their concerns with Veronica Kirwan, ESCV Executive Director and Safeguarding lead for ESCV (contact number 07794 100 291).
- 4.2 If the Safeguarding Lead is not available then contact should be made with Vanessa Taylor, Non-Executive Director and Safeguarding Adviser on the ESCV Board of Directors, via the ESCV Administrator (contact number 07794 097713).
- 4.3 It is then the responsibility of the Safeguarding lead to ensure the concern raised is dealt with according to the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures and to escalate this concern if an immediate risk of significant harm is identified.

#### **5 Monitoring of this Policy Statement**

- 5.1 This policy statement will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the East Sussex Community Voice HR Sub-Committee and Board.
- 5.2 This policy may be revised sooner if there is a change in working premises, conditions or laws directly affecting safeguarding or any other aspect embedded in the document.

#### **6 Further information on Safeguarding**

East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board  
<https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/>

Guidance on Raising on Concern About Abuse and Neglect  
<https://www.eastsussexsab.org.uk/what-is-safeguarding/raise-a-concern/>