

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - Revised January 2015**

CONTEXT: PHASCA's constitutional remit means the organisation works a great deal with children and young people, in particular through the SPACE Project.

Many of these children & young people are vulnerable with identifiable concerns and have been referred to PHASCA from Social Services or other statutory or non-statutory organisations.

PHASCA, as a Community Organisation, is clear about its legal and social responsibilities towards children & young people.

PHASCA & SPACE aim to create an atmosphere where children and young people feel valued and safe in a place where their welfare is promoted.

Any concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon appropriately with due attention being paid to what the children & young people say and feel.

PHASCA & SPACE will be rigorous and vigilant in protecting the children and young people using their facilities from abuse, bullying and intimidation.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT: the function of this policy for PHASCA is to minimise risk to children and young people:

1. from adults working in a paid or voluntary capacity for the organisation or SPACE
2. from other adults coming into contact with them during PHASCA or SPACE activities
3. from other children or young people during PHASCA or SPACE activities
4. from themselves during PHASCA or SPACE activities
5. from the environment (Health & Safety) during PHASCA or SPACE activities

LEAD RESPONSIBLE PERSON WITHIN PHASCA: Mrs. Lena Hartley (Vice Chair)

All publications and documents relating to Child Protection issues are kept accessible within the office and are updated or added to when appropriate.

All child protection issues are explained fully during the induction process and training sessions. All workers and volunteers involved in PHASCA activities with children will have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check made and any other legal requirement regarding contact with children and young people will be carried out.



## RESPONSIBILITY OF ADULTS COMING INTO CONTACT WITH CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COURSE OF PHASCA OR SPACE ACTIVITIES:

1. to be aware of their legal obligations, including changes in the law and the requirement to be checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
2. to be available for training, advice and support in Child Protection issues when appropriate
3. to act with due care and consideration in the performance of their duties for the needs of children and young people
4. to know, understand and be able to carry out the procedures to follow in the case of a problem arising
5. to report back, verbally and/or in writing to their appropriate line manager, any incidents or concerns around child protection issues
6. to be proactive in taking notice of concerns raised by a child or young person, treating each seriously and with respect

## LINKED POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

- Staff recruitment
- Health & Safety
- Equal Opportunities
- Environmental Policy
- Code of behaviour
- Reporting Procedures (Concerns)
- Accident book
- Training Programmes

LEGAL CONTEXT: Children Act 1989; Protection of Children Act 1999; Police Act 1997; Criminal Records Bureau (CRB); Human Rights Act 1998; Sexual Offences (Amendments) Act 2000; Criminal Justice & Court Service Act (2000, Part II).

SUPPORTING PUBLICATIONS: Safe From Harm (1993); Working Together to Safeguard Children (1999); Practical Guide to Protection of Children Act for all Organisations Working with Children (1999, Dept. of Health); Caring for the Young & Vulnerable (2000, Home Office); Haringey Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) Child Protection Procedures (2002); Developing a Child Protection Policy & Procedure for your Local Group – a guidance (2002, summarised by CIDA 2003). NSPCC/Local Network Fund: Basic Awareness of Child Protection, 2003.

