



Libraries Unlimited - Safeguarding policy statement

It is the policy of Libraries Unlimited to provide a safe and secure environment in which children and vulnerable adults can thrive. Libraries Unlimited recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults using the library.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and their agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the Safeguarding Policy:

- To provide protection for the children, young people and vulnerable adults who use the services delivered by Libraries Unlimited.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt if they suspect a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

The Safeguarding Policy applies to all staff, including senior managers, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Libraries Unlimited.

We will seek to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- following recruitment guidelines and standards to ensure safe recruitment of staff and volunteers, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- naming a designated Safeguarding Officer to keep up-to date on best practice in safeguarding, establish relationships with external organisations and regularly review the safeguarding policy and procedures. The safeguarding Officer will also be responsible for receiving any concerns, making decisions on how to proceed and ensuring the procedure is followed on such matters as making a referral, confidentiality and recording.

(Revised March 2019)