



Children and Young People Protection Policy

Introduction

The Rock Trust believes that the abuse of young people and children is common in our society, therefore it is inevitable that staff and others will in some way encounter issues of abuse. Research and experience indicate that being homeless increases a young person vulnerability and risk of abuse.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Raise awareness of the issue
- Provide a framework within which guidance and procedures will be developed on safeguarding young people and children
- Clarify the statutory responsibilities and requirements within the context of the well being of Children and Young People.
- Ensure the organisational responsibilities and requirements are clear, appropriate and robust.

Definition of abuse:

Abuse is an emotive term and can be subject to wide interpretation. The Rock Trust recognises that the starting point for the definition is the following statement:

“Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons”

Policy Statement

It is the responsibility of each individual within the Rock Trust, staff and volunteers, to protect the physical, sexual or emotional wellbeing of children and young people who access our services.

The Rock Trust will meet its commitment to safeguard children and young people by;

- Recognising that The Rock Trust has no authority to investigate any allegation of abuse but will assist the statutory authorities appropriately and effectively to process any investigation
- Ensuring that all staff and volunteers are aware of the issue of child abuse,

and the risks to children and young people through induction, on-going training and practice review.

- Recognising that the Rock Trust has a duty of care to protect children and young people using our services from any form of abuse i.e. physical, emotional, sexual and neglect.
- Having clear communication, recording and reporting systems which places the welfare of the child or young person at the centre of the decision making process.

Children and Young People Protection Procedures and Guidelines

Statutory authorities have collaborated to produce good practice inter-agency guidelines. The most relevant documents are

- Edinburgh and Lothians Child Protection Committee have issued inter-agency child protection guidelines.
- City of Edinburgh Council, Mid, East and West Lothian, Scottish Borders Council, Lothian and Borders Police, NHS Borders and NHS Lothian have issued good practice guidelines regarding the Protection of Vulnerable Adults. Copies of these documents are available in the offices.

The Rock Trust procedures address such issues as:

- Induction
- On-going training
- Support and supervision requirements
- Communication issues
- Recording and reporting mechanisms
- Confidentiality

The guidelines cover the following broad areas:

- What to do in the event of witnessing, suspecting or receiving information about abuse. Including how and when to gain consent to take action.
- What to do when the person does not give consent for action.
- How and when to contact emergency and/or statutory services.
- Guidance on recording mechanisms.
- A clear framework re: consultation with line manager, levels of responsibility and action planning.

Staff Responsibility

The Rock Trust recognises that dealing with issues of child and young person protection can be stressful for all staff involved. The procedures and guidelines supporting this policy are intended to provide a good practice framework and to support staff and staff are expected to comply with them. Additionally staff should follow any agreed procedures and protocols which

relate to particular service users and apply their experience and training to ensure good practice at all times.