Wiltshire Portage Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

At Wiltshire Portage we work with children, parents, external agencies, and the community to ensure the welfare and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect, be helped to thrive, and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of all children that use our service and to protect them from maltreatment. We have a duty to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention and have robust procedures in place to prevent the impairment of children's health and development. We strive to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and promote acceptance and tolerance of other beliefs and cultures (please refer to our inclusion and equality policy for further information). Safeguarding is a much wider subject than the elements covered within this single policy, therefore this document should be used in conjunction with our other policies and procedures.

Legal framework and definition of safeguarding

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2025
- Working together to safeguard children 2023
- Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping children safe in education 2019
- Data Protection Act 2018
- What to do if you're worried about a child is being abused - September 2025 https://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/Pages/Download/998e236a-cb52-4729-82de-378408db79d3/PageSectionDocuments

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, in relation to this policy is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing the impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Policy Intention:

To safeguard children and promote their welfare we will:

- Ensure that children are never placed at risk during home visits.
- Create an environment to encourage children to develop a positive self-image.
- Provide positive role models and develop a safe culture where staff are confident to raise concerns about professional conduct.
- Support staff to notice the softer signs of abuse and know what action to take.

- Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development.
- Promote tolerance and acceptance of different beliefs, cultures, and communities.
- Always listen to children.

Wiltshire Portage

- Provide an environment where practitioners are confident to identify where children and families may need intervention and seek the help they need.
- Share information with other agencies as appropriate.
- All staff who work with the families and children undergo an enhanced DBS check to ensure their suitability.
- All staff will receive regular supervision meetings where opportunities will be made available to discuss any issues relating to individual children, child protection training and any needs for further support.

Wiltshire Portage aims to:

- Keep the child at the centre of all we do.
- Ensure staff are trained right from induction to understand the child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Are alert to identify possible signs of abuse
- Be aware of the different ways in which children can be harmed, including by other children through bullying or discriminatory behaviour.
- Be aware of the increased vulnerability of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other vulnerable or isolated families and Children.
- A member of the Management Committee will be a designated Safeguarding Officer.
- The Service will undertake an annual Safeguarding Audit, either provided by Wiltshire Council or one provided in house on a yearly basis when the policy is renewed or undated.
- Regularly review and update this policy.

The service has a duty to report any suspicion of abuse to the Local Authority, who in turn has a duty to investigate such matters. The service will follow the procedures set out in the (**WSVPP) Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership** https://www.wiltshiresvpp.org.uk and as such will seek advice on all steps taken subsequently from the IFD (Integrated Front Door).

IFD Tel: 0300 456 0108
Emergency Duty Service Tel: 0300 456 0100

Kim Hannay-Young, our Service Manager, is the named person responsible as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for managing and coordinating safeguarding matters within Wiltshire Portage and liaising with other agencies when required.
Shelley P, and Kate C, Senior Portage Home Visitor is responsible as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) for safeguarding matters if the Service Manager is unavailable.

Wiltshire Portage will endeavor to update staff DBSs after 3 years on a rolling basis.

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