

The Health Creation Alliance Alliance

Safeguarding Policy Statement

January 2023

Introduction

The Health Creation Alliance's (THCA's) ambition and our Health Creation offer to organisations and systems supports workforces to adopt a proactive approach to creating a safer culture - preventing harm rather than one that simply reacts to instances where harm has already been done. We aim to apply our approach to THCA as well; to this end we have adopted the 6 features of health creating practices as our core values in our Code of Conduct and aim to apply them at all times.

Health Creation is about fostering positive relationships, being inclusive, creating the conditions for people to contribute well and to challenging inequality. It is vital, therefore, that people feel safe in all our activities to contribute their best to our purpose. This policy builds on our code of conduct to ensure that as well as proactively seeking to create conditions for people to belong and be well, we also have the mechanisms in place to react well in how we deal with incidents when they do occur.

Safeguarding and promoting welfare

THCA acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice

Our safeguarding policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and adults:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of events run by THCA, and that at our events we ensure a safe and inclusive environment
- are protected from abuse whilst in contact with the alliance
- can expect the organisation to be able to respond appropriately to any issues raised about the safeguarding of any individual

As part of our safeguarding policy the THCA will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and well-being of children and adults
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and adults at risk
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored. We will record in our annual report the number of safeguarding matters that we have dealt with in the year

Employment and safeguarding

As a responsible organisation we will ensure that people who work with us in a range of roles have been checked for their suitability:

- Our Directors will be subject to three yearly DBS checks and are required to disclose any activity which may compromise their suitability for office between DBS checks.
- We will undertake DBS checks on our lead staff and associates in any core activity which involves members of the public
- We will collect data through project evaluations and feedback references sought asking “How did our [staff/associate] make people feel?”

Monitoring

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in the work of THCA.

This safeguarding policy was agreed in January 2024 and will be reviewed every three years, or sooner in the following circumstances:


- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as a result of any other significant change or event

Concern Reporting Procedure

Where there is a safeguarding concern/disclosure:

- The individual who is told about, hears, or is made aware of the concern/disclosure is responsible for following the Safeguarding Concern Procedure. Unless someone is in immediate danger, they should work with the THCA Chief Executive who will be guided both by best practice and the procedures of the local authority where the person subject to the concern is resident. An alternative route e.g., another THCA Director will be put in place by the Chair should the concern/ disclosure include the THCA Chief Executive.
- THCA are responsible for reporting safeguarding concerns to the Local Authority Safeguarding Team.

Anyone who has concerns which relate to the safeguarding of another person should:

Respond	Listen carefully to what the person is telling you. Do not interrupt; keep questions to a minimum; do not promise to keep the information secret	
		
Refer	Is someone in immediate danger or the victim of a criminal offence ?	
	YES Call the police (999)	NO Talk to THCA’s Chief Executive and agree a course of action
	THEN	Consider whether the concern merits a referral to Local Authority Social Care Services.



Call the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) or Parent Line Scotland (0800 028 2233) if your concerns is about a child.

Hate crime can be reported through True Vision at www.report-it.org.uk



Record

Write an objective account of your concerns immediately. Send it to the Chief Executive within 48 hours of the concern/disclosure

THCA will also record all concerns over each year and report these in its annual report.

Date of last full review: January 2024.

We will undertake a light-tough review annually and a full review every 3 years.