

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Blood Cancer UK is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of everyone to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Blood Cancer UK is committed to safeguarding both adults and children in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

We will safeguard by ensuring our activities are delivered in a way which keeps everyone safe.

Blood Cancer UK is committed to creating a culture of zero tolerance of harm which necessitates: the recognition of people who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, online, in the person's own home or in any care setting.

Policy Statement

Blood Cancer UK believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

Blood Cancer UK is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Blood Cancer UK acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all involved.

Blood Cancer UK recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

Blood Cancer UK recognises that there is a legal framework within which charities need to work to safeguard people who have needs for care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect



themselves and will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Blood Cancer UK recognises that safeguarding responsibilities apply equally in online and digital environments as they do in face-to-face settings. We are committed to ensuring that all digital services, online communities and communications delivered by the organisation are safe for beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and the public.

Actions taken by Blood Cancer UK will be consistent with the principles of safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the individual concerned.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of Blood Cancer UK to safeguarding and to ensure that everyone involved in Blood Cancer UK is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of everyone within the organisation.

Scope

This safeguarding policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Blood Cancer UK including board members, staff, volunteers, people affected by blood cancer, fundraisers and anyone else involved in our work.

We expect our partner organisations, including for example, agencies, suppliers and sponsors to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice as set out in this Safeguarding Policy and associated procedures.

Commitments

In order to implement this policy Blood Cancer UK will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with Blood Cancer UK is aware of the safeguarding procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an individual.
- Any concern that an individual is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with Blood Cancer UK Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the individual actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported



unless there are overriding reasons not to (see the Safeguarding Procedures).

- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Data Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Blood Cancer UK will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities as appropriate in taking action to safeguard an individual.
- All Board members, staff, officials and volunteers understand their role and responsibility for safeguarding individuals and have completed and are up to date with safeguarding training and learning opportunities appropriate for their role.
- Blood Cancer UK uses safe recruitment practices and continually assesses the suitability of volunteers and staff to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals in this organisation.
- Blood Cancer UK shares information about anyone found to be a risk to individual with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services.
- When planning activities and events Blood Cancer UK includes an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all individuals from abuse and neglect and designates a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- Reasonable steps are taken to prevent online harm, abuse, exploitation, bullying, or inappropriate contact occurring through our services or platforms, in accordance with the Online Safety Act 2023.

Actions taken under this policy are reviewed by the Board and senior management team on an annual basis.

This policy, related policies (see below) and the Safeguarding Procedures are reviewed no less than on a two-yearly basis and whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Implementation

Blood Cancer UK is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures. In order to do so the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for the safety and welfare of all individuals.



- Regular reporting to the Board detailing how risks to safeguarding are being addressed and how any reports have been addressed.
- Safeguarding procedures that deal effectively with any concerns of abuse or neglect, including those caused through poor practice.
- A Safeguarding Lead and Team of Safeguarding officers in place
- Arrangements to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of people, including arrangements for sharing information for Board members, staff, volunteers and other relevant individuals that specify zero tolerance of abuse in any form.
- Risk assessments that specifically include safeguarding.

Policies and procedures that address the following areas and which are consistent with this Safeguarding Policy:

- Bullying and Harassment
- Social Media
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Safe activities risk assessments
- Code of Conducts and a process for breach of these
- Disciplinary
- Grievance
- Concerns, Complaints and Compliments
- Whistleblowing
- Safe recruitment and selection (staff and volunteers)
- Contract compliance
- Anti-fraud
- Modern Slavery
- Information Policy, Data Protection and Information Sharing
- Online safety

Policy Information

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Policy Owner: Lisa Freshwater

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