

Summary of our Child Protection Policy and Procedures

BCM International NI aims to provide the highest possible quality of care for children and to safeguard the welfare of children by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm by recruiting suitable volunteers and observing relevant policies and procedures. Children's welfare and safety are paramount.

We require the following from all our volunteers:

- Acceptance by all involved with young people that abuse, whether physical, emotional or sexual is wrong, severely damages young people, and must be confronted
- Awareness of the behavioural and physical indicators of various forms of abuse
- Knowledge of the appropriate response and action to be taken where abuse is revealed or suspected
- Vigilance and avoidance of situations conducive to risk
- Open, trusting and co-operative relationships within BCM and with parents/guardians and others concerned with young people's progress or welfare.
- Willingness to co-operate with the Statutory Authorities (e.g. police, social services), in relation to sharing information about child protection concerns at any time

All our staff and volunteers will be given Child Protection training, including training on the warning signs connected to various types of abuse. Volunteers are also trained in the procedures to follow if:

- a child or young person makes a disclosure,
- a volunteer notices signs of abuse,
- pastoral concerns are raised about a child or young person,
- accidents occur,
- other serious incidents occur such as extreme misbehaviour, children or young people becoming a danger to themselves or others etc

BCM International NI will ensure that all children are adequately supervised at all times.

We will endeavour to be inclusive in our activities, welcoming children from all backgrounds, regardless of ethnicity, disability or religion. In the event that we cannot accommodate a child's particular needs in a safe manner at a BCM activity, we may need to refuse access, or require that a parent/guardian attend with the child.