



Safeguarding Policy

Stockport City of Sanctuary

1. Organisation Details

Name: Stockport City of Sanctuary

Address: 9 Bamford Street, Stockport, SK1 3NZ

Telephone: 07764 770139

Email: info@stockport.cityofsanctuary.org

Website: <https://stockport.cityofsanctuary.org>

2. Mission Statement

Stockport City of Sanctuary recognises the importance of its work with children, young people, and adults who may be at risk, and its responsibility to safeguard their welfare.

As part of its work, Stockport City of Sanctuary is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting children, young people, and adults at risk
- Promoting wellbeing, dignity, and protection
- Safe recruitment, supervision, and training of trustees and volunteers

- Clear procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns
- Supporting those affected by abuse or harm
- Working collaboratively with statutory safeguarding agencies

3. Policy Overview

Stockport City of Sanctuary is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment. We recognise that children, young people, and adults may be vulnerable to abuse, harm, or neglect, and that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

This policy outlines how safeguarding concerns will be recognised, recorded, and responded to, and how the organisation works with statutory and voluntary safeguarding partners.

This policy will be:

- Reviewed **annually**
- Published on the organisation's website
- Supported by training and clear reporting processes

4. Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Safeguarding

Stockport City of Sanctuary recognises that refugees and people seeking sanctuary have the **same rights to safety and protection as anyone else**.

Citizenship or immigration status does not in itself make a person vulnerable or a safeguarding concern. However, we recognise that some individuals may face additional risks due to experiences such as:

- Trauma and displacement
- Unaccompanied or separated children
- Age disputes
- Unsuitable accommodation
- Exploitation, trafficking, or financial abuse
- Cultural or language barriers

Safeguarding responses will always respect autonomy, dignity, and consent, while ensuring safety.

5. Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities

Safeguarding Officer

Name: Sandy Broadhurst

Role: Chairperson

Telephone: 07594 596905

Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Name: David Mutai

Role: Secretary

Telephone: 07764 770139

The Safeguarding Officers are responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy and supporting trustees and volunteers to follow safeguarding procedures.

Responsibilities include:

- Being available to discuss safeguarding concerns
- Ensuring appropriate referrals to statutory agencies
- Maintaining secure records in line with GDPR
- Undertaking regular safeguarding training
- Supporting trustees and volunteers
- Overseeing safer recruitment processes
- Reviewing this policy annually

If an allegation involves either Safeguarding Officer, or someone closely connected to them, that officer will **recuse themselves**, and the concern will be escalated appropriately.

6. Abuse of Trust

Trustees and volunteers working with children, young people, or adults at risk are considered to be in a **position of trust**.

It is unacceptable for anyone in a position of trust to:

- Exploit power imbalances
- Engage in inappropriate relationships
- Act in ways that could compromise safeguarding

Breaches of trust will be treated seriously and managed through safeguarding and disciplinary procedures.

7. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

Safeguarding concerns may include:

- Allegations against trustees or volunteers
- Disclosures from children, young people, or adults
- Observations during activities
- Concerns raised by members of the public

Trustees and volunteers must not investigate concerns themselves.

Immediate Danger

If someone is at immediate risk:

- Call **999**
- Seek emergency medical help if needed

Reporting a Concern

- Record the concern promptly and accurately
- Report it to the Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible

Local Authority Contacts (Stockport):

- Social Services (9am–5pm): **0161 217 6028**

- Out of Hours Emergency: **0161 718 2118**
- Police (non-emergency): **101**
- Emergency: **999**

Absence of a Safeguarding Officer must **never delay** referral to statutory services.

8. Types of Abuse and Harm

Safeguarding concerns may include, but are not limited to:

- **Physical abuse:** hitting, misuse of medication, restraint
- **Emotional abuse:** intimidation, humiliation, coercive control
- **Sexual abuse:** contact or non-contact sexual exploitation
- **Financial abuse:** theft, fraud, misuse of funds
- **Spiritual abuse:** manipulation or coercion linked to belief systems
- **Neglect:** failure to meet basic needs

This also includes:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Criminal Exploitation / County Lines
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Modern Slavery and Trafficking
- Radicalisation

9. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information will be:

- Recorded accurately
- Stored securely
- Shared only on a **need-to-know basis**

Information may be shared without consent where there is a risk of serious harm, in line with statutory duties and GDPR.

10. Safer Recruitment, DBS and Training

Stockport City of Sanctuary is committed to safer recruitment.

- Roles are assessed to determine DBS requirements
- Enhanced DBS checks are required for roles involving children or adults at risk
- References are obtained
- Induction includes safeguarding training
- DBS Update Service checks are encouraged

DBS records will be handled in line with data protection legislation.

11. Training

- All trustees and volunteers receive safeguarding training **at least annually**
- Additional training is provided for those in regular contact with children or adults at risk
- Trustees and volunteers are informed who to report concerns to

12. Digital Communication and Online Safety

- Trustees and volunteers must not use personal social media accounts to contact children or adults at risk
- Communication should be professional, necessary, and transparent
- Records of communication should be retained where appropriate
- Electronic contact between **10pm and 8am** should be avoided unless there is risk

13. Use of Images and Digital Media

- Consent must be obtained before capturing images
- Parents/guardians must consent for children
- Images stored securely on organisation-approved devices
- No live broadcasting
- Images used only for agreed purposes
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time

Misuse of images will be treated as a safeguarding concern.

14. Lone Working

Where lone working is unavoidable:

- A risk assessment must be completed
- Lone working arrangements agreed in advance
- A buddy system must be in place
- Trustees and volunteers must carry a charged phone
- 1:1 work should avoid closed environments

Unplanned lone working must be reported to a Safeguarding Officer.

15. Support for Those Affected by Abuse

Stockport City of Sanctuary will:

- Offer appropriate pastoral support
- Work with statutory agencies
- Signpost to specialist support services

16. Review and Approval

This Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if required.

Last updated: February 2026

Approved by:

Name: David Mutai

Role: Secretary

Signature: _____  _____

Date: 19 February 2026