

# West Kirby Arts Centre

## Safeguarding policy Statement

West Kirby Arts Centre is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and to ensuring their well-being.

- We believe that all children and adults should know that they are valued.
- We respect the personal dignity and rights of children and adults.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory abuse and neglect of adults at risk.
- We will report any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed, the police will be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- We recognise that Children's Services has responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child, and that Adult Services do so for adults at risk.
- We acknowledge that Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) have responsibility for dealing with all allegations and concerns about people working with children, whether paid or voluntary workers.
- We are committed to:
  - The establishment of a loving environment, which is safe and caring, and where there is an informed vigilance about the dangers of abuse.
  - Following the relevant legislation, statutory, denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk.
  - Ensuring that we keep up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
  - Building constructive links with the relevant Voluntary and Statutory Authorities.
  - Taking all responsible steps to ensure that everyone works within the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policies.
  - Supporting the safeguarding Coordinator in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults at risk.
  - Follow safer recruitment principles in the appointment and selection of all those who work with children and adults at risk, be they volunteer or paid staff.
  - Supporting, supervising, resourcing and training all those who undertake work with children and adults at risk.
  - Ensuring that the children and adults we have contact with know that they are valued and feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
  - Reporting any abuse of children or adults at risk that we discover or suspect.
  - Encouraging those who might pose a risk to children or adults at risk in seeking appropriate support and guidance, whilst bearing in mind the overarching principle that the welfare of the child or adult is paramount.