



**RICHARD RIAKPORHE FOUNDATION CIC**  
**Safeguarding Policy Statement**

## **Richard Riakporhe Foundation Safeguarding Policy Statement**

### **Purpose and Scope of this Policy Statement**

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive Richard Riakporhe Foundation's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as children, young people, and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Richard Riakporhe Foundation, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, and students.

This policy also applies to young people referred through probation services, youth offending teams, or diversionary programmes, ensuring that safeguarding principles are consistently applied to all participants, regardless of referral pathway.

### **Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, including:

- **Children Act 1989 & 2004** – Establishes the duty of local authorities to safeguard children and promote their welfare.
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991** – Recognizes children's rights, including protection from abuse and exploitation.
- **Human Rights Act 1998** – Ensures protection of fundamental rights, including the right to safety and security.
- **Sexual Offences Act 2003** – Defines sexual offenses against children and provides legal frameworks for prosecution.
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006** – Establishes the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to prevent unsuitable individuals from working with children.
- **Protection of Freedoms Act 2012** – Strengthens safeguarding measures, including criminal records checks.
- **Children and Families Act 2014** – Focuses on supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018** – Governs how personal data, including child protection records, is handled securely.

Throughout this document, the term **young people** include vulnerable adults and individuals aged up to 18 who are still in education (sixth form or equivalent).

The Richard Riakporhe Foundation is committed to the welfare of all young people who use its facilities and protecting them from physical, sexual, and emotional harm. We strive to ensure that:

- Young people meet in a safe environment with trusted adults.
- Risks encountered by young people are carefully assessed and necessary measures taken to minimise them.
- We actively promote a culture where children feel empowered to report concerns and are supported by a clear safeguarding framework.

### **Supporting Documents**

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance, and other related documents:

- Role description for the designated safeguarding officer
- Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Recording concerns and information sharing
- Child protection records retention and storage
- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Behaviour codes for children and young people
- Photography and sharing images guidance
- Safer recruitment
- Online safety
- Anti-bullying
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Health and safety
- Induction, training, supervision, and support
- Adult to child supervision ratios.

### **Definitions of Abuse and Recognising Concerns**

Abuse is any form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. The main types of abuse are:

- **Physical Abuse:** Deliberately hurting a child, such as hitting, shaking, burning, or poisoning.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent emotional maltreatment of a child, such as belittling, isolating, or making them feel worthless.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware of what is happening.
- **Neglect:** Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs, likely to result in serious harm.

## Reporting Procedures

All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately.

1. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call **999**.
2. If you have concerns about a child's welfare, report them to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**:
  - a. **Name:** Tunmishe Ibidun
  - b. **Phone:** 07769332782 or 0207 856 0318
  - c. **Email:** [tunmisheibidun@riakporhe-foundation.org.uk](mailto:tunmisheibidun@riakporhe-foundation.org.uk)
3. Allegations against staff or volunteers must be referred to the **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)**.
4. Serious concerns should also be reported to the **NSPCC Helpline:** 0808 800 5000.

## Responding to Disclosures

If a child discloses abuse to you:

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure the child they are not to blame and that they have done the right thing by telling you.
- Do not ask leading questions.
- Do not promise to keep secrets – explain that you must report the information.
- Record the details accurately and report them to the DSL as soon as possible.

## Whistleblowing

All staff and volunteers have a duty to report concerns, including about the conduct of colleagues. The **Whistleblowing Policy** provides guidance on how to do this safely and confidentially.

## Creating a Safer Environment

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them.
- Ensuring a rigorous safeguarding culture embedded across all aspects of our work.
- Adopt child protection and safeguard best practices through our policies, procedures, and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Safer recruitment processes should be used to ensure that staff and volunteers are vetted and suitable for working with children.
- Recording, storing, and using information professionally and securely.
- Developing effective procedures for managing complaints and responding to allegations.
- Providing ongoing safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers.
- Ensuring a safe physical environment through appropriate risk assessments and health and safety measures.

### **Review and Approval**

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

**Reviewed on:** February 2025

**Signed:** Tunmishe Ibidun