



SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR FRIENDS OF POTTER'S VILLAGE (FoPV)

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Friends of Potter's Village (FoPV) raises funds for Potter's Village Ministries (PVM) in Uganda, which works with children and their families.

FoPV does not work with children, nor does it canvass children to raise funds, but because of its association with PVM it takes the issue of safeguarding children seriously. To that end FoPV has an up to date data protection policy and it works with PVM to ensure high standards of safeguarding.

PVM offers a children's crisis centre, a medical centre treating children up to the age of 12 years and an antenatal service.

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children and young people who receive PVM's services. This includes the children of adults who use the services.
- To provide parents, staff and volunteers of PVM with overarching principles that guide our (FoPV) approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of FoPV, including paid staff and the Board of trustees. FoPV endeavours to work with PVM to ensure that its Board takes safeguarding seriously and applies it to all staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students working at PVM.

Legal framework

We are conscious of the fact that we are working with two jurisdictions, namely UK and Ugandan. This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children in the UK and Uganda.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, racial heritage, religious belief, sex or gender, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents or carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

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

- Valuing, listening and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead at Potter's Village and on the Ugandan Board.
- Developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice.
- Using safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that they have a policy and procedure to help deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.
- Providing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Using their procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Ensuring that they have effective complaints and whistle-blowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that they provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.

Related Policies and Procedures

This policy should be read alongside the policies and procedures implemented at PVM, including:

- Ugandan Employment Act 2006
- Recruitment and Appointment Policy for Senior Staff members
- Recruitment and Appointment Policy for Non-Senior Staff members
- Staff Induction and Code of Conduct
- Data Protection and Child Protection records and storage
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Anti-bullying
- Sexual harassment
- The Children Act (CAP.59) Order 2018 Uganda

- The Children (approved homes) rules 2013
- The UN Convention of the rights of the child
- Responding to concerns about a child or young person's well-being
- Dealing with allegations of abuse against a child or young person
- Managing allegations against staff and volunteers

Contact details

Nominated child protection lead in UK

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Deputy child protection lead at Potter's Village in Uganda

Name: Idah Kyarimpa

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Senior lead for child protection (trustee/board member) in Uganda

Name: Rev Stephen Ruzaza

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

This policy was last reviewed on: 05/01/2024

Signed: *Trish Smith*

Date: 05/01/2024