

Safeguarding Statement

Doorstep Library recognises that all individuals have the right to protection from harm and abuse, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief and sexual orientation or identity.

As a children's charity, our commitment to protect, promote and safeguard the welfare of children is at the heart of everything that we do and we expect all of our trustees, employees, volunteers and anyone associated with the charity to share this commitment and recognise our collective responsibility to safeguard others. The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for the review and implementation of Doorstep Library's Safeguarding policy as a key governance priority. It will be reviewed and approved by the Board annually.

We believe that all children should be treated with respect and equity; that their voices be recognised and heard; and that their right to privacy and confidentiality be respected as far as it can be where doing so does not place them at risk.

If we believe a child to be at immediate risk or in danger, we will call the police or notify child social services without delay, and report the matter subsequently to our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Safeguarding culture

Our safeguarding policies and processes reflect and comply with legislative and statutory requirements and guidelines in England, and the guidance of government and the Charity Commission. They are designed to embed best safeguarding practice in our organisational culture which includes:

- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involve children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies to promote children's welfare
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying or harassment that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place

- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

This statement is intended to be read in conjunction with our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents, as outlined in Doorstep Library [Safeguarding Policy](#).

Our [Safer Recruitment Policy](#) is designed to deter, identify or reject candidates who may harbour intent to abuse children or adults at risk.

Safeguarding training is a mandatory requirement for all trustees, employees and volunteers when joining the charity, regardless of whether they have direct contact with children as part of their role, to ensure that employees/appointees:

- recognise signs of abuse
- understand how to report concerns
- read and understand our policies and procedures and adhere to them at all times
- understand the responsibilities of their roles and the trust placed in them
- are able to create trusted relationships

Mandatory refresher training will be delivered annually.

Governance and Reporting

We have designated within our organisation, for the purposes of managing the governance of safeguarding and reporting concerns, the following groups/individuals:

- Designated Safeguarding Trustee with a safeguarding background
 - Elizabeth Dawson, safeguardingtrustee@doorsteplibrary.org.uk, 07775591282
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
 - [Katie Bareham](#), CEO, 07836 250134 or 07557 790925

This policy was last reviewed on:

.....15/11/22.....(date)

Signed:



[Safeguarding Trustee]

Date: 22 November 2022