

# Child Protection Policy UK Space Design Competition

## 1. Policy Statement

This policy has been produced to safeguard children who have contact with SDC staff and volunteers from abuse but also to protect staff and volunteers who engage with children.

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

The SDC has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in activities at, or organised by the SDC from harm. The child's welfare is paramount and the SDC is committed to provide a safe place for children. Any concern that abuse has taken place will be investigated and will involve external organisations if such action is deemed necessary.

Abuse of a child is viewed by the SDC as one of the most serious offences and if such abuse is shown to have occurred offenders should expect serious consequences.

Any concern that abuse of a child in the care of the SDC has taken place should be reported to the Child Protection Officers (CPOs) or if they are not available or in some way involved in the allegation the Chair of trustees, the current Organising Chair or the Co-Chair.

## 2. Defining Abuse

There are four types of recognised abuse but it should not be assumed that these occur in isolation of each other or that any one type is more prevalent than another. Remember it is your duty to report any concern that abuse has taken place.

· Physical abuse – where a child is deliberately hurt and may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning and slapping.

· Emotional abuse – severe and persistent ill treatment of a child that may include humiliation, criticism, pressure to succeed, extreme control or exposure to distressing situations.

· Neglect – persistent failure to supply a child's basic needs of food, water, shelter and health.

· Sexual abuse – involves encouraging, persuading or forcing a child to take part in sexual activities or act in a sexual way.

## 3. Concerns of Abuse

It is not the responsibility of SDC staff or volunteers to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place, they are however obliged to report concerns they have. A guide to how you should go about this is to follow the three R's of *Receive, Record and Report*.

· Receive the information in a non judgemental way and if in conversation with a child never promise confidentiality or ask leading questions (e.g "Can you tell me any more?" rather than "Was it Joe Bloggs that did this?").

· Record the information as accurately as possible including quotes

## **Child Protection Policy** UK Space Design Competition

rather than supposition. Do this sooner rather than later!

Report the incident(s) to a CPO as soon as possible. If this is not possible consider external organisations such as the NSPCC.

Once reported you should not expect to hear the outcome of any investigations either internal or external to the SDC. You may however be asked to provide further details or gather further information if doing so would not place you at risk.

### **4. Good and poor practice**

It should be the objective of all SDC Staff and volunteers to demonstrate good practice with respect to children at all times as set out in the 'SDC Code of practice and procedures' document.

The main reason for this is that poor practice is not in itself abuse but creates an environment where abuse is more likely to happen.

### **5. Dealing with allegations and investigations**

Members of SDC staff or SDC volunteers who become the subject of an investigation of alleged child abuse will be immediately suspended from any duties that involve contact with children whilst the investigation takes place. This is as much to protect the member of staff or volunteer as to allow the investigation to take place without bias.

Current Child Protection Officers: Jenny Lyons & Helen Oliver

Current Chair of Trustees: Dr Randall S Perry

Current Organising Chair: Evan Meyrick

Current Co-Chair: Jian Heseri