

Accessible Education Provision for Neurodivergent Children  
through graduated interventions and academic support.



*An organisation that aims to improve every child's life  
by being closer to nature,  
providing equality in learning  
and promoting well-being*

# SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY FOR RAW LEARNING

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## **1. Introduction**

As an organisation, Raw Learning works to meet the needs of the mainly neurodivergent children who attend our woodland setting because their school-based anxiety is preventing them from engaging with educational activities. This means we also encounter parents who may also have a neurodivergence.

Raw Learning is committed to supporting both children and their parents/carers by creating connections, identifying their needs and supporting their differences to help them gain confidence again to re-engage from their own starting point and thus learn to thrive again.

We are committed to safeguarding both children and vulnerable adults, within and outside our organisation.

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

Facilitators at Raw Learning have regular contact with the parents/carers of the children who attend our setting. We understand that we have a duty of care and a crucial role in the support, identification and reporting of adults who may be at risk of harm, both within and outside of our organisation under the Care Act 2014.

This Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy applies to all individuals involved in Raw Learning, including Facilitators, Volunteers and Parents/Carers and to all concerns about the safety of adults whilst they take part in our organisation and its activities.

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Raw Learning's commitment to safeguarding adults and to ensure that everyone involved in Raw Learning is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults.
- What to do and who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare of any adult associated with Raw Learning.

## **3. Policy Statement**

For the purposes of this policy, a '*Vulnerable Adult*' is defined as a person over the age of 18 who:

- Requires regular care and support for a disability or mental health need, even if they do not receive any statutory provision at the time.
- Is experiencing, or may be at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect.
- As a result of their care and support needs, the person may be vulnerable or unable to protect themselves from harm and may be at greater risk of abuse or neglect.

Raw Learning:

- Believes that everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of their age, sex, religion, ethnic origin, ability or disability, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

- Is committed to the six principles of safeguarding adults: empowerment, protection, prevention, proportionality, partnership and accountability.
- Is committed to keeping adults safe in line with national legislation and local guidelines by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a safe, positive environment with an open, listening culture where people feel able to share their concerns without fear of retribution.
- Recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience and that some people experience barriers, for example with communicating concerns or to seek help.
- Accepts that we have a duty of care to do everything that is possible to help safeguard and protect people from harm, and to act when we suspect that someone is being harmed, or is at risk of harm.
- Has a zero-tolerance approach to harm to adults which requires recognition of adults at risk, the circumstances that may increase risk and a willingness to report safeguarding concerns.

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

All adults who work on behalf of Raw Learning have a responsibility to be aware of abusive behaviours that may affect their colleagues or the parents/carers they encounter. These include, but are not limited to:

- Domestic abuse
- Physical abuse, such as hitting, spitting, slapping and rough handling
- Verbal abuse, such as hate speech, degrading language, personal insults and shouting
- Sexual activity to which the person has not consented to or does not have the capacity to consent to
- Exploitation
- Modern slavery
- Discrimination or harassment
- Denying a person access to health care and diagnostic assessments, medication or medical treatment or causing harm by giving medication incorrectly
- Depriving a person of access to food, clothing, sleep, money, social connections or any other fundamental human right

Raw Learning is committed to:

- A zero-tolerance approach to abuse or neglect.
- Stopping or preventing abuse and neglect wherever possible.
- Reducing the risk of a person experiencing abuse or neglect.
- Treating all safeguarding concerns seriously.
- Regularly providing up-to-date information about the types of abuse so that our facilitators can identify abuse and neglect when they experience or witness it.
- Signpost to relevant statutory or partner agencies who can work to gain safety or reduce the risk of harm.
- Raising awareness of the risk of abuse or neglect so that all adults can support us in identifying abuse and potential safeguarding risks.
- Upholding a person's right to autonomy and agency to make informed decisions about their life.

The following named adults have specific responsibilities for Safeguarding within Raw Learning:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Rachel King
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Nicola Wiltshire

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, that any safeguarding concerns are monitored and recorded and for ensuring that all concerns are shared with the appropriate authorities. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will provide help, support, guidance, and advice where needed.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will also ensure that facilitators are directed to safeguarding training opportunities.

## **5. Procedures for Responding to Suspicions of Abuse**

Raw Learning works with key local partners to promote the welfare of our vulnerable adults and protect them from harm or neglect.

All facilitators know and understand that they have a duty to identify and respond to suspected/actual abuse or disclosures of abuse. All concerns and allegations of abuse or neglect are taken seriously and responded to appropriately, following Raw Learning's procedures. This may require an immediate response and referral to Southend Safeguarding Partnership (formerly known as Safeguarding Adults Board [SAB]), and, in emergencies, the Police.

The DSL will support facilitators to undertake their safeguarding duty adequately and offer advice, guidance, supervision and support. Facilitators **must** immediately report a disclosure or allegation of abuse or neglect to the DSL. New facilitators, volunteers or regular visitors to our Provision are informed of the safeguarding arrangements in place, the name of the DSL and how to share their concerns.

### **Raising and Managing a Concern:**

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Rachel King.

Any concerns that an adult is not safe must be taken seriously, responded to promptly and followed up.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will speak to the adult about the concern wherever possible, noting the views the adult may have regarding how they wish the matter to be dealt with and keeping them informed throughout the process.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead may seek advice from external sources, such as Southend Safeguarding Partnership, the police or Ann Craft Trust.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will only share information with people who need to know, such as the Southend Safeguarding Partnership or the police. Any referrals or passing on of information will be done with the consent of the adult wherever possible, but where consent is not given but information is still passed on, this will be clearly documented with the reasons why. The adult will also be informed of this action wherever possible. If the adult does not give consent, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may still seek advice from relevant partner agencies as to what they should whilst keeping the person anonymous.

### **Disclosures:**

If someone disclosed abuse or neglect to you, you should listen attentively without asking too many questions, but you *should never*:

- Promise to keep the information secret.
- Probe, ask any leading questions or otherwise attempt to investigate.
- Make any judgemental comments
- Throw away anything which could be used as evidence.
- Confront the abuser or place yourself at risk of harm in any way.
- Make any procedural decisions without first talking to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

If you notice an event happening, physical indicators or a change in someone's behaviour which caused concern, or a disclosure of abuse or neglect is made to you, you should:

- Call the emergency services if you believe that someone is at immediate risk of harm.
- Stay calm and remain objective.
- Empathise with their situation and assure them that you are treating the information seriously.
- If necessary, offer initial support to keep them safe.
- As soon as possible, create a written record of what happened and preserve evidence. The written record should include the time and date of when it was created.
- It will help the Designated Safeguarding Lead if you can answer the following questions:
  - Is there any immediate or near future risk?
  - Do you have the person's consent to share this information?
  - Where did the incident take place?
  - Who was involved in the incident?
  - When did the incident take place:
  - Did you witness the incident?
- As soon as possible, report your concerns to the Designate Safeguarding Lead who will escalate the safeguarding concerns to Southend Safeguarding Partnership..

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should:

- Speak with the adult concerned
- Determine the wishes of the adult concerned to ensure the process is person led and outcome focused.
- Seek external guidance and advice as appropriate.
- Offer support and information for the adult concerned to make informed choices.
- Put measures in place to keep the adult safe during the activity (if appropriate)
- Ask for consent to report the concern to statutory agencies if appropriate.
- Keep the adult informed and involved throughout the process.

### **Records and Information sharing:**

It is essential for good safeguarding practice to keep good records. All facilitators are clear about the need to record any concern (using the disclosure process above) about an adult at risk of harm or neglect within or outside our Provision, and when these records should be shared with other agencies.

The sharing of information between organisations in a timely, effective manner can reduce the risk of harm where there are concerns about a child's safety. The Data Protection Act 2018 and human rights concerns are **not** a barrier to the sharing of information where the **failure to do so would result in a child or vulnerable adult being placed at risk of harm.** and cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Our online privacy notice accurately reflects our use of data for adult protection purposes.

Any records related to adult protection are kept on an individual adult protection file for that person and is stored securely and confidentially.

## APPENDIX : Key Contacts

<b>DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD:</b>	Rachel King 07950 455607 <a href="mailto:rachel@rawlearning.co.uk">rachel@rawlearning.co.uk</a>
<b>DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD:</b>	Nicola Wiltshire 07506 853613
<b>SOUTHEND SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP (SSP)</b>	01702 534706 <a href="mailto:SSPA@southend.gov.uk">SSPA@southend.gov.uk</a>
<b>ANN CRAFT TRUST (ACT)</b> A national organisation providing information and advice about adult safeguarding.	0115 951 5400 <a href="mailto:Ann-Craft-Trust@nottingham.ac.uk">Ann-Craft-Trust@nottingham.ac.uk</a> <a href="http://www.annrafttrust.org">www.annrafttrust.org</a>

This policy was adopted by	Raw Learning
On	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Date to be reviewed	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Signed on behalf of the provider	<i>Rachel King</i>
Name of signatory	Rachel King
Role of signatory	Director