

Gay Surrey Charity Child Protection Policy

Policy Statement

The Trustees and Volunteers that run the Gay Surrey Charity are dedicated to those practices that protect children from harm or abuse, and in accordance with the Protection of Children Act 1999. We recognise and accept our responsibilities to promote child welfare when dealing with any child that comes within a Gay Surrey group or meeting.

General Principles

There are five main elements to our policy:

- Ensuring we practice safe 'recruitment' of volunteers by checking their suitability to work with children and by performing Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks where appropriate.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping Trustees and Volunteers with the skills and information needed to keep children within our groups safe.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse to the designated Child Protection Officer.
- Supporting children who have been abused in accordance with an agreed child protection plan.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can develop self awareness under the Gay Surrey umbrella.

Role of the designated Child Protection Officer

The role of the designated Child Protection Officer is to:

- Ensure that **Gay Surrey Charity's** Child Protection Policy is implemented throughout the organisation's work.
- Ensure that all necessary child protection-related enquiries, procedures and investigations are carried out and to report the results of such enquiries to the Trustees Committee.
- Ensure secure and confidential record-keeping on child protection matters, that a "need to know" confidentiality policy is preserved on such matters and that all Trustees and Volunteers apply themselves fully to the Data Protection Act, 1998.
- Liaise with Social Services and Surrey Police where appropriate on child protection matters, both formally and informally.
- Report on the implementation of the Child Protection policy at all Trustees Committee meetings where deemed appropriate.
- Ensure that there is adequate and appropriate training for all Trustees and Volunteers on child protection matters.
- Ensure that all activities carried out by **Gay Surrey** satisfy child protection requirements with regard to Trustees, Volunteers, practises and premises.
- Check and countersign all incident reports made by Trustees and Volunteers, making such reference to outside agencies as is appropriate after consultation with the Chief Executive (Mike Meriano) and the Charity's Chair (Gino Meriano).

The designated Child Protection Officer for Gay Surrey Charity is:
Mrs Nicola Ward

Policy agreed by the trustees on 2nd April 2007