

Overview

Safeguarding young people is one of the values which youth workers are expected to know about and apply in their practice

This standard is about contributing to, implementing and creating policy and practices which protect young people. As part of this, you will make sure that you implement safe recruitment and supervision measures, follow procedures and confirm that colleagues also do this so that necessary action is taken to safeguard young people when required.

This standard is suitable for all youth workers, as the protection of children is everyone's responsibility.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. safeguard and protect young people following legal, regulatory, codes of practice and duty of care requirements
2. confirm that colleagues and young people are aware of the safeguarding policies and procedures, and the rationale for these
3. implement recruitment and employee checking procedures for employees and volunteers in accordance with current legislation and organisational requirements
4. use supervision as a means of safeguarding young people
5. provide induction and continuous professional development support for employees and volunteers on the application of good practice
6. offer assistance to young people when they are using new forms of media to ensure they are safe and free from bullying and harassment
7. agree with relevant colleagues the procedures and actions to be taken to deal with and report suspicions, allegations and incidents breaching good practice
8. agree procedures to be followed with respect to confidentiality, disclosure and consent
9. meet the values and principles underpinning youth work in relation to the requirements of this standard

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. current legal, regulatory and codes of practice requirements and duty of care regarding the protection and safeguarding of young people
2. your organisation's requirements, policy and practice regarding safe recruitment, safeguarding and including obtaining informed consent when necessary
3. the importance of establishing policy that recognises that the safety of the young person is paramount, and that all staff, including volunteers, have a responsibility to report any concerns to the relevant person
4. principles underpinning policies and procedures to protect and safeguard young people
5. the importance of involving young people in the development of policies and procedures, and methods of achieving this
6. effective methods of communicating the policies and procedures, and of supporting the way they are applied in your organisation
7. the monitoring and review criteria to use to check the effectiveness of policies and procedures to protect and safeguard young people
8. actions to be taken when there has been a breach of policy or procedure
9. the policies and procedures adopted by partner organisations towards protecting young people
10. agencies and stakeholders in your own and other sectors providing support and from whom information can be obtained and referrals can be made for safeguarding and protection
11. the importance of encouraging exemplary practice towards safeguarding and protecting staff from false allegations
12. the limits of confidentiality, when it is important to disclose and the procedures for doing so
13. good practice in recruitment, induction and continuous training support for the protection and safeguarding of young people and self
14. the procedures for the safeguarding and protection of young people and self, including digital safeguarding

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15. how to provide induction and continuous professional development support for employees and volunteers on the application of good practice
 16. the values and principles underpinning youth work in relation to the requirements of this standard

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