



Child Protection Policy

1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people

Just42 Ltd recognises that, under the Children Act 2004, it has a duty and responsibility for making arrangements to ensure all its functions are discharged having regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people in their care - this includes all services directly provided and commissioned by the local authority.

“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people” means:

- protecting children/young people from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of their health or development;
- ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- enabling them to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

Just42 Ltd aims to ensure that children/young people in Suffolk achieve the five outcomes for children/young people that are identified in the Children/young people Act 2004 and has strategic priorities in the Suffolk Children and Young People’s Plan. These are:

- Be Healthy - physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- Stay Safe - prevention and protection from harm and neglect
- Enjoy and Achieve - education, training and recreation
- Make a positive contribution to society
- Achieve Economic and social Well-being.

2. Persons affected

All staff, paid and unpaid, this includes volunteers

All service users
All visitors and contractors

3. Child Protection Policy

Just42 Ltd will ensure that:

1. All staff, paid and unpaid, are committed to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children/young people's welfare, and that they demonstrate leadership and are informed about and take responsibility for the actions of staff that are providing services to children/young people and their families at all levels.

This includes taking responsibility for monitoring the actions of staff to safeguard and promote the welfare of children/young people, ensuring that children and young people are listened to appropriately, and taking appropriate action regarding any concerns expressed about their welfare.

2. All members of staff paid and unpaid who work for us, and who have contact with children/young people and/or families, have a clear understanding of our groups responsibilities for safeguarding. A statement of our responsibilities towards children/young people will be available to all staff, and this will include effective systems to ensure that complaints about non-compliance with safeguarding procedures and policies can be made by children/young people, staff and other people - and that they receive an appropriate response.
2. We have clear lines of accountability for work on safeguarding children/young people and young people and delegated decision-making. The Child Protection Officers have the duty and accountability to ensure satisfactory arrangements are in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children/young people and young people using our service.
3. We ensure that every member of staff knows how to seek advice and report any concern for a child. Individual responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people will be encompassed within relevant job descriptions and procedures.
4. All policies and services take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children/young people; and so far as possible will be informed by the views of children/young people and families. This includes ensuring that services to children/young people and families are provided safely and effectively, and are accessible.
5. The organisation provides children/young people and young people with a safe environment for children/young people to learn and grow up in when they are in public care.
6. The organisation in collaboration with its partners will provide a range of preventive and statutory services to safeguard and promote the welfare of

children/young people and young people and contribute to them achieving the five outcomes.

7. Staff who work or have contact with children/young people and families have appropriate safeguarding and safe practice training consistent with their role and function. The training will be by an approved Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board trainer.
8. Good interagency and multi-disciplinary working is promoted and maintained both within the organisation; and standards of practice in work with children/young people and families are as high as possible.
9. Information is shared efficiently and effectively in respect of issues that may affect the safety and welfare of children/young people.
10. This includes ensuring that concerns are shared early in order to prevent serious problems from developing, and that clear protocols are in place and understood by staff to ensure that information is shared effectively, appropriately and as the law prescribes.
11. In particular we will ensure that all staff in contact with children/young people know what to do and how best to share information in order to ensure a child and family receives necessary services - especially when they are concerned that a child may be suffering or at risk of suffering harm - and that all staff have access to support and appropriately expert advice in this context.
12. Robust recruitment and vetting procedures are in place to prevent unsuitable people from having contact with children/young people and young people.
13. Safe practice is promoted and poor and unsafe practice is challenged appropriately.
14. Allegations or concerns about staff are handled effectively and in accordance with agreed guidance, including that provided by Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board.
15. This includes that effective procedures are in place for sharing concerns about colleagues and other members of staff, and that there is a culture throughout the organisation that enables safeguarding issues to be addressed.
16. Just42 Ltd subscribes to the guidance and principles that are identified in the Children Act 2004 as underpinning “work with individual children/young people and their families” and “monitoring and inspection of arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare”.

This means that work with children/young people and families will:

- Be child centred

- Be rooted in child development
- Support the achievement of best possible outcomes for children/young people and improving their well-being
- Be holistic in approach
- Ensure equality of opportunity
- Actively involve children/young people and families
- Build on strengths as well as identifying and addressing difficulties
- Be multi/inter-agency in approach
- Be a continuing process rather than an event
- Be designed to identify and provide the service required, and to monitor the impact their provision has on a child's developmental progress
- Be informed by evidence.

4. Revision history

This policy and related guidance will be monitored by the Just42 Ltd Charity Manager on a regular basis for compliance and will be reviewed at least annually.

Date approved	Date Amended

Just42 Ltd Child Protection Summary Policy Statement

Just42 is committed to the welfare of everyone involved with the project.

In particular we are mindful of our responsibility for all those children and young people under our care and committed to adopt the best practice in order to protect them from any kind of abuse.

We are committed to following the guidelines in the Home Office Code of Practice: *Safe from Harm* and to ensuring all staff are equipped to create a safe environment and respond appropriately, should abuse be reported or suspected. This policy is also in line with the Children Act 1989.

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that this policy, procedures and guidelines are updated regularly, implemented fully and that all staff and project users are appropriately trained and supported in their use.

It is the responsibility of staff, including volunteers, to follow best practice in order to prevent abuse, and to report any abuse disclosed or suspected.

It is the responsibility of all adults working with children and young people to support and encourage each other in the implementation of this policy.

If staff are unsure as to how they should handle a situation then it is their responsibility to always look to put the care and safety of the young people they are working with first.

- We are committed to supporting our parents and families
- All leaders of the project are committed to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable
- We recognise that child protection is everybody's responsibility
- We are committed to following the agreed procedures and following statutory and professional guidelines
- We review this policy, annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or in relation to any child protection matter then speak to one of the following who have been approved as child protection officers for this project:

Caroline Rutherford Jo Quigley

As a child or young person, you can also talk directly to Bill Herbert.

A copy of the full policy can be seen in the Just42 office. Tel 01394 380992.

Just42 has a comprehensive Child Protection Policy which is regularly updated. It has been submitted for approval to Young Suffolk. (*By a child we mean someone less than 11 years and by a young person 11-18 years old. In certain circumstances these*

definitions will vary, for example those who are stated as special needs. This policy applies to any children or young people known to Just42.)

All our leaders are carefully vetted to make sure they are suitable to work with young people and as far as we are aware, pose no risk. We have a policy of not allowing any known sex offenders to work in our project. An experienced worker will always supervise parent helpers and new volunteers.

All work follows high standards of good practice for professional youth work, to make sure anyone involved in the project and the general project are as safe as possible. If we discover that a child is at risk, due to abuse, we have a responsibility to act to protect that child. We practise extended confidentiality where some information may **have** to be shared with carefully restricted others (who are also bound by confidentiality).

Abuse of a young person may be physical, emotional, sexual or neglect and normally involves an abuse of power. It usually comes to attention in one of four ways:
a disclosure made by the child
a report received by a friend or relative
the child shows significant behaviour changes
the child has previous injuries for which no reasonable explanation is offered.

We do not undertake investigations of any kind and we have a duty to inform other agencies (usually Customer first). Children and young people who do approach us normally do so as they want an adult to share the responsibility for action, and for the situation to change.

We listen, **without question**, in a supportive atmosphere. Information and any disclosed injuries are recorded using the child/young person's words where possible. According to Just42 policy, our staff will normally share this information with a specially trained staff member appointed as child protection co-ordinator. It may be proper to notify either the Police Child Protection Team or Customer first by telephone. Any confidential record of events is kept in secure storage.

Once a referral has been made we continue to support the child/young person as sensitively and unobtrusively as possible. The matter is not a subject for general discussion and the majority of staff will not be aware of the matter. If a case conference is called an appropriate member of Just42 staff will attend.

There is no hard and fast rule about informing parents. We act on the advice given to us by the agents who take responsibility for the referral.

Child Protection is about your child and our staff. It is also about the welfare of all involved. It is not a weapon and the issues raised are not taken lightly. Just42 considers it right for a child to be safe and think all those involved with their work agree.

Just42 December 2010