



How Volunteer Centre Sutton keeps children and young people safe

Safeguarding Children and Young People is paramount and at the centre of all youth work at Volunteer Centre Sutton (VCS). This leaflet explains the processes we follow to keep children safe.

How do we appoint people who work with young people?

Both paid staff and volunteers are subject to a thorough interview following safe recruitment protocols. They provide a minimum of two references and have an enhanced DBS (police check) if the role requires it. Full role-related induction and training is then provided to ensure everyone knows how to play their part in keeping children and young people safe.

What training do volunteers receive?

All volunteers receive training to enable them to fulfil their roles safely. For example, MAPS Mentors and Advocates receive comprehensive training that includes boundaries and expectations, confidentiality and child safeguarding.



Confidentiality and information sharing:

The intended uses for children's information will be explained to children and young people (and their parents or carers) and agreed at the outset of any VCS youth project. Confidentiality agreements will be always upheld by staff and volunteers **unless a child advises that they have, or someone else has, been harmed or are at risk of being harmed, or that they have deliberately harmed themselves, or that the law has been broken or may be broken.**



Confidentiality and information sharing (continued):

If a child tells a volunteer any of the above, they will share this information with their allocated VCS team member/MAPS Practitioner who will follow VCS safeguarding protocols. Staff members will share the information with their designated safeguarding lead and may share it with other organisations or professionals in the best interests of the child. The purpose of sharing information is to prevent harm and to ensure appropriate support is put in place.

How are parents and carers involved in safeguarding?

Parents' and carers' input is vital in keeping children and young people safe. VCS asks that if parents or carers have any concerns, questions or information to share about their child, that they contact their VCS team member/MAPS Practitioner.

If a safeguarding concern is raised by a staff member or volunteer, or a disclosure is made by a child, VCS will follow safeguarding protocols including sharing the information with parents and carers where appropriate, for awareness input and support. Safeguarding is a partnership between parents and carers, VCS staff members and volunteers, and other professionals.

If you have any queries, or wish to report a concern please contact Anita Maullin Volunteer Centre Sutton CEO and Safeguarding Lead on 020 8661 5900 or email on safeguarding@vcsutton.org.uk

Other useful contacts:

LBS Social Services 020 8770 6770 or Out of Hours 020 8770 5000

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 020 8770 4776

lado@sutton.gov.uk (secure email)

In the case of an immediate emergency call the Police 999