

ACROSS Safeguarding Policy

ACROSS believes that the welfare and well-being of children, young people and adults in our care is of paramount importance. We believe that it is always unacceptable for any persons to experience abuse or harm of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and adults who travel with us, by demonstrating our commitment to practices that protect them from harm and promote their rights and freedoms.

We recognise that

- The welfare of all children, young people and adults who travel with us is paramount
- All children, young people and adults regardless of age, disability, gender, heritage, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or identity have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

The purpose of this Policy

- To provide protection for children, young people and adults (VIPs) who receive services and assistance while in our care
- To provide staff, nurses, doctors, helpers and priests with guidelines on procedures they should adopt if they have a concern that someone on the group may be experiencing or be at risk of experiencing harm or abuse
- To provide a code of conduct and training for all who work in support of ACROSS, identifying guidelines for maintaining professional boundaries, and safeguards for individuals where these may be breached, or perceived to be breached.
- This policy and procedures apply to the Board of Trustees, senior managers, paid staff, nurses, doctors, helpers, priests or anyone working on behalf of ACROSS

We will seek to safeguard children, young people and adults (VIPs) by

- Valuing VIPs, listening to and respecting them
- Ensuring that our Board of Trustees, senior managers, staff, nurses, doctors, helpers and priests understand and abide by this Policy and all associated safeguarding guidelines and codes of practice
- The safe recruitment of staff and helpers following a robust procedure, ensuring all necessary checks are conducted and satisfactory
- Sharing relevant information about protection and good practice regarding children, young people and adults with relevant people, such as the Board of Trustees, senior managers, staff, nurses, doctors, helpers and priests
- Sharing relevant information regarding concerns, in a timely manner, with the appropriate agencies and authorities
- Providing effective management and guidance for Trustees, staff and helpers through supervised support and training
Being committed to reviewing and revising our policy and good practice regularly
- Providing an example of good conduct, which we wish others to follow

- Ensuring that the VIP's rights of privacy and confidentiality are respected and upheld
- Being available as a listening ear and then seek consent to refer for more appropriate and specific help when necessary
- Remembering that our actions may be interpreted differently from our intentions, and therefore being responsible for how others may view our actions.
- Showing understanding when dealing with personal and sensitive issues
- Seeking advice in any situation where we feel unsure