

## Student Hubs Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

### Our vulnerable adults protection policy

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, interns, students or anyone working on behalf of Student Hubs.

A vulnerable adult is anyone 18 years or older who is or may be in need of community care services by reason disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care of unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. (Department of Health, 2000).

A young adult is anyone aged 18-24 and they will also be referenced in this policy and relevant procedures.

#### The purpose of this policy:

- To protect vulnerable adults who participate in Student Hubs activities.
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to vulnerable adults protection.

Student Hubs believes that a vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all vulnerable adults and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

### Legal framework

**This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect vulnerable adults, namely:**

- Mental Health Act 1983
- Registered Homes Act 1984 (the provisions of which will be extended by the Care Standards Bill)
- NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018

---

Student Hubs is a registered charity in England and Wales, number 1122328.

Strategic Partners:

**This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures on:**

- [Recruitment, induction and training](#), including [of ex-offenders](#)
- [Role of the designated safeguarding officer](#)
- [Dealing with disclosures and concerns about a vulnerable adult](#)
- [Recording and information sharing](#)
- [Code of conduct for staff and volunteers](#)
- [Safer recruitment](#)
- [Complaints against staff/volunteers](#)
- Complaints against other vulnerable adults
- [Whistleblowing](#)
- [Health & safety](#)
- Training, supervision and support
- Lone working policy and procedure
- Quality assurance
- [Managing complaints against staff/volunteers](#)

**We recognise that:**

- The welfare of the vulnerable adult is paramount
- All vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with vulnerable adults, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare

**In relation to young adults specifically, we also recognise that:**

- Young people don't stop needing safeguards when they reach their 18th birthday - their legal status might change but independence is a gradual process that starts at birth and goes on well into adulthood
- New challenges arise when a young person enters the adult world. This is an exciting time for anyone, but creates the potential for new risks and new areas of vulnerability. Many young people are moving away from home for the first time, or starting work or volunteer placements. Most are starting to take full control of their finances, and many are starting relationships with adult partners. Some are becoming parents.
- Service providers continue to have a duty of care to the young people that use their services, even after those young people are 18. However, young adults who may have previously received health or local authority services (e.g. those who have been 'in care' or 'looked after' by a local authority) may find that on attaining 18 years, these services are withdrawn and they are in danger of 'falling through the net' and of being denied services they require on an ongoing basis.

### **We will seek to keep vulnerable adults safe by:**

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for vulnerable adults, a deputy DSO and a lead board member for safeguarding
- Adopting vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff & volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with vulnerable adults, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one-to-one discussions
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving vulnerable adults, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our vulnerable adults, staff and volunteers, by applying health & safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

### **Contact details**

#### **Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)**

Tasha Unwin

07896002040

[tasha@worhwhile.org.uk](mailto:tasha@worhwhile.org.uk)

#### **Deputy DSO**

Catherine Mitchell

07763 665256

[catherine.mitchell@studenthubs.org](mailto:catherine.mitchell@studenthubs.org)

#### **Senior lead for safeguarding**

Charlie Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer Student Hubs

07776223033

[charlie.hamilton@studenthubs.org](mailto:charlie.hamilton@studenthubs.org)

#### **CEOP**

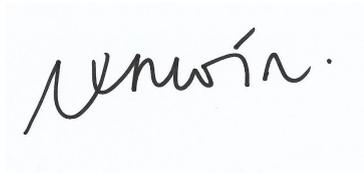
[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

#### **NSPCC Helpline**

0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.  
This policy was last reviewed on 30 October 2018.  
This policy should next be reviewed by 30 October 2019.

*Signed:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tasha Unwin", on a light blue background.

Tasha Unwin, Student Hubs Trustee  
Senior Lead for Safeguarding

Date: 30/10/18