

	Policy Date: Sept 2013	Next Review Date: Sept 2015	Policy Owner: Director of Child Safeguarding
Policy Title	Child Safeguarding Policy		
Policy Area	Child Safeguarding		
Related Documents	1. Child Safeguarding Local Procedures 2. Child Safeguarding – Reporting Suspected Abuse and Safe Child Participation Policies 3. Contracts with Implementing Partners Policy 4. Whistleblowing Policy		
Policy Statement	<p>How we act determines how many children's lives we save.</p> <p>Keeping the children we work with safe is our top priority. All children have a right to protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. We take child safeguarding extremely seriously and have a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and exploitation of children by any of our representatives.</p> <p>All of us at Save the Children must demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour towards children in both our professional and personal lives, and must not abuse the position of trust that comes with being part of our organisation. We must do all we can to prevent, report and respond appropriately to child abuse, and seek advice whenever action is needed.</p> <p>We all have a duty to respond where action is requested or required, whether the child is known or unknown to Save the Children, or if it relates to incidents of historic abuse.</p> <p>By minimising danger to children we can save more children's lives, fight for their rights, and help them fulfil their potential now and in the long-term.</p> <p>Please see our Child Safeguarding Guidelines for further information.</p>		
Rule	<p>1. Save the Children defines anyone under the age of 18 as a child.</p> <p>2. All Save the Children staff and representatives must act in accordance with this policy in both their professional and their personal lives. There are no exceptions to the Child Safeguarding Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all Save the Children UK staff, including those on contracts such as consultants and researchers ('staff'); b) Trustees, volunteers, interns, and trainees ('representatives'); c) staff and representatives of partner agencies, or any other individuals, groups or organisations with a formal/contractual relationship to Save the Children bringing them into contact with young people ('partners'); d) Donors, supporters, journalists, celebrity ambassadors, politicians and others who may come into contact with children through their involvement with Save the Children or its partners must act in accordance this policy whilst visiting programmes or offices, or engaging in campaigns or events <p>3. Where there are visits and events that involve joint planning of activities with Save the Children International (SCI) or a Member organisation, the SCI Child Safeguarding Policy and Local Procedures of the organisation receiving the visitors must also be adhered to.</p>		

3. All staff and representatives must:

- a) report concerns that a child is a victim of child abuse or sexual exploitation immediately in accordance with their Local Procedures;
- b) respond to a child who may have been abused/exploited in accordance with the Local Procedures and in accordance with the child's best interest and safety;
- c) cooperate fully and confidentially in any investigation of concerns and/or allegations;
- d) identify, minimise, and wherever possible avoid potential situations of risk for children;
- e) identify and avoid potential situations that may lead to staff behaviour being misinterpreted;
- f) ensure, when making images of children such as photographs and videos, that they are respectful, that the children are adequately clothed, and that sexually suggestive poses are avoided;
- g) ensure that any image or recorded case history of a child does not place him/her at risk or render him/her vulnerable to any form of abuse;
- h) ensure that the Child Safeguarding – Safe Child Participation policy is complied with if any child, beneficiary or otherwise, is to participate in any activity – for example, a campaign event, awards ceremony, internet social networking activity, or any other event;
- i) report situations where people residing in a staff or representative's home may pose a risk to children (for example, he or she is listed on the Sex Offender's Register), in order that a full risk assessment can be carried out;
- j) undertake induction and training on this policy relevant and appropriate to their position.

4. Save the Children staff and representatives must never:

- a) hit or otherwise physically assault or physically abuse children;
- b) have sexual intercourse, or engage in any sexual activity with anyone under 18 years of age, regardless of the age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of the child is not a defence;
- c) develop relationships with children that could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive;
- d) act in ways that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse;
- e) use language, make suggestions or offer advice which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive;
- f) behave physically in a way that is inappropriate or sexually provocative;
- g) have a child/children with whom they are working to stay overnight at their home (unless necessary and previously agreed with managers that this is for the safety of the child);
- h) sleep in the same bed as a child with whom they are working;
- i) sleep in the same room as a child with whom they are working (unless necessary and previously agreed with managers that this is for the safety of the child);
- j) do things for children of an intimate, personal nature that they can do for themselves, such as toileting, bathing and dressing;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) condone, or participate in, behaviour of children which is illegal, unsafe or abusive; l) act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children, or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse; m) discriminate against, show unfair differential treatment to, or favour particular children to the exclusion of others; n) act as negotiator in or assist the process of financial settlement between the family of a child victim of sexual abuse or exploitation and the perpetrator; o) spend excessive time alone with children away from others (including in vehicles) or spend time in a child's home unless exceptional circumstances apply and they have the prior approval of their line manager.
	<p>5. All staff and representatives must be aware that any allegation of the abuse or exploitation of children made against them will be investigated under these Child Safeguarding policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by consideration of referral to statutory authorities for criminal investigation and prosecution under the law of the country in which they are based, or are working at the time of the allegation or alleged incident (this also applies to any representative or staff of any partner agency with whom Save the Children has agreed child protection protocols); and/or b) by Save the Children in accordance with the Global Procedures for dealing with Suspected Abuse and Exploitation Policy and under disciplinary procedures, which may result in dismissal.
	<p>6. All formal/contractual relationships between Save the Children and partners, individuals, groups or organisations bringing the latter into contact with children must include agreement on the rules contained within this Child Safeguarding Policy (see Contracts with Implementing Partners Policy for more details).</p> <p>Partners must adopt this policy or have developed their own policy of a similar standard. Partnership agreements must clearly outline agreed procedures for reporting and investigating concerns involving breaches of the policy. These agreements must be in place prior to the commencement of the work with children.</p>
	<p>7. All Save the Children staff and representatives must sign the Child Safeguarding Declaration of Acceptance, prior to or at the time of issuing of any employment contract, to demonstrate awareness of and willingness to act in accordance with this policy, the Child Safeguarding Joint Statement and their Summary Local Procedures Policy.</p>
	<p>8. All Save the Children staff will undertake Child Safeguarding training within 3 months of joining the organisation, with a refresher session after 2 years.</p>
Directorate	All divisions
Reporting	Director of Child Safeguarding reporting to COO and Trustee Board