

# RE:HOPE

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**Registered office:**

Re:Hope Church  
37 Stewartville Street  
Glasgow  
G11 5PL  
*Charity Number: SC037327*

## **Under-18s Safeguarding Policy**

*Reviewed October 2024*

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### **Phone Numbers for Referral**

For all Glasgow City & Greater Glasgow council areas at any time of day, Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work: 0300 343 1505

Non-emergency contact number for emergency services: 101

Emergency contact number for emergency services: 999

During office hours you can contact Social Care directly:

Glasgow - 0141 287 0555

Renfrewshire - 0300 300 1199

East Renfrewshire - 0141 577 8300

West Dunbartonshire - 0141 562 8800

East Dunbartonshire - 0141 777 3000

Thirtyone:eight Helpline : 03030031111

Monday-Friday 9-5PM, 7am-midnight someone on duty to answer calls

# Section 1 – Introduction

As people of Re:Hope Next Generation Bible Church (hereafter Re:Hope Church) we are concerned with the wholeness and safety of every individual within God's purposes. We therefore seek to safeguard all who are part of our community, especially under-18s and those legally considered vulnerable.

Our church is committed to valuing, listening to and respecting vulnerable people, including children and young people as well as promoting their welfare and protection. This involves safe recruitment, supervision and training where necessary of all volunteers and staff workers in contact with vulnerable people within the church; the use of and adherence to correct procedure for dealing with suspected and confirmed abuse; supporting those affected by abuse in the church; following correct procedures to ensure information privacy for everyone in the church.

Safeguarding is concerned with ensuring a person is free from harm, risk and danger. It also involves positive, proactive actions of creating safe environments and signposting to support that can enable children to thrive.

This policy outlines the duty and responsibility of staff, volunteers and all those working on behalf of Re:Hope Church. It explains the responsibilities in respect of safeguarding, giving a general overview and easy access to our procedures to be implemented where safeguarding concerns arise.

## 1.1 Re:Hope Church will:

- Ensure that all staff and volunteers understand their obligations to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation and understand their responsibility to work to the standards and procedures detailed in this Safeguarding Policy.
- Develop best practice in relation to the recruitment of all staff and volunteers.
- Report incidents, concerns, disclosures or allegations of abuse to the appropriate authorities. It is not Re:Hope's responsibility to investigate them.
- Ensure that all parents/carers get access, when requested to guidelines and procedures.
- Support staff and volunteers during the process of any safeguarding investigation or inquiry as appropriate.
- Co-operate fully with any police and/or social work investigation or enquiries as appropriate.
- Endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to the care and protection of children and young people.

## 1.2 The Scope of Re:Hope Church's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

When children and young people are in contact with Re:Hope Church they should have the highest standard of care and protection given to them from adult staff and volunteers,

therefore this policy is applicable to all activities (group and individual) and events run in the name of Re:Hope Church.

When groups, individual work or activities are taking place at a school during the school day and with the knowledge of school staff, Re:Hope Church staff and volunteers will comply with the school's safeguarding policy and procedures.

When a group or event is registered with an external group (for example SU Scotland) and is being run in their name, Re:Hope Church staff and volunteers will comply with their safeguarding policy and procedures.

### 1.2.1 Responsibility

- In all situations it is the responsibility of Re:Hope Church to ensure that the practice and decisions of staff and volunteers are within Re:Hope Church's policies and procedures.
- Staff and volunteers must act in the best interest of the child.
- It is recognised that Re:Hope Church staff or volunteers may be called on to give evidence or to help support a child or young person during any safeguarding investigation or inquiry initiated. They may also be called to give evidence in subsequent court proceedings. Re:Hope Church will seek to support any member of staff or volunteer through any such proceeding.

## 1.3 Safeguarding roles and responsibilities

Re:Hope Church recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It is the duty of all persons working with children and young people to prevent abuse and report any suspected abuse. There are specific roles however that are responsible for safeguarding at Re:Hope Church.

**1.3.1 Directors:** The directors of Re:Hope Church are the trustees and are required to take steps to protect everyone who comes into contact with their organisation from harm by ensuring safeguarding policies, procedures and measures are fit for purpose and up to date. The directors of Re:Hope Church have designated the practical outworkings of these responsibilities to the following mentioned roles.

**1.3.2 Designated Safeguarding Coordinator (DSC):** The DSC is responsible for the coordination of any concerns about a child or young person. They oversee the safeguarding policy and ensure it is reviewed and up to date. They also oversee all recruitment of volunteers and have an awareness of local child protection procedures, relevant legislation and guidance and help keep the safeguarding officers and under-18s leaders informed.

**1.3.3 Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs):** The DSO's role is to initiate the action required by the policy by referring to the statutory authorities or taking advice, for example from Thirtyone:eight. They are responsible for determining what/if any further steps need to be taken. They will ensure that the matter is dealt with effectively and in accordance with our policy and the associated procedures.

**1.3.4 Under 18s Ministry Leaders:** The role of the ministry leaders is to be the first point of contact for any safeguarding incidents, making sure the child is safe and that the incident is reported correctly then to pass on to the DSO.

**Re:Hope Church Directors:** Brian Ingraham, Anna Vardy, Jessica Noel-Smith, Cameron Herbert

**Designated Safeguarding Coordinator:** Abi Bull

**Designated Safeguarding Officers, Re:Hope West End:** Laura Campbell, Duncan Roseweir

**Designated Safeguarding Officer, Re:Hope Southside:** Martyn Crooks

**Designated Safeguarding Officer, Re:Hope Royston:** Alan Meldrum

**Designated Safeguarding Officer, Re:Hope Paisley:** Buchan Lennon

**Under 18s Ministry Leaders Re:Hope West End:** Sophie Kurtyka, Owen Ingraham, April Spiers, Chalcedony Williams, Louisa Murebwa

**Under 18s Ministry Leader Re:Hope Southside:** Meaghan Nelson-Hughes

**Under 18s Ministry Leader Re:Hope Royston:** Alison Meldrum

**Under 18s Ministry Leader Re:Hope Paisley:** Amelia Krugeur

## **Section 2 – Preventative Action**

Our desire is for the love of Jesus to be noticeable by the steps we take to protect against abuse (including neglect) towards the under-18s at Re:Hope Church. This section sets out the measures we have in place to reduce the risks of significant harm to our children and young people. This includes the expectations we have for our volunteers and the procedures we follow and the precautions we take.

### **2.1 Appointment of Leaders**

It is important to us that we know and trust those who we allow to work with our under-18s

**2.1.1 Application Process** - our application process for those working with under-18s is as follows:

1. Informal interview to establish previous history of working with children, motivation, suitability for the role, and to explain what the role involves.
2. Applicant fills out our application form and is directed to our safeguarding policy.
3. Applicant's references are applied for.
4. Applicant applies for PVG membership (if not scheme member) or a PVG scheme record update (if already a scheme member). This includes verifying the identity of the applicant. In line with The Disclosure (Scotland) Act, it is mandatory for those carrying out regulated roles with children to be a member of the PVG scheme.

5. Applicant's references, form and disclosure are checked - if satisfactory, the applicant is appointed to the role.
6. On successful appointment in the role of under-18s volunteer they will be sent the Safeguarding Training video to watch prior to serving on an under-18s team.

**2.1.2 Removal of workers** - If it emerges at any point that a volunteer or member of staff is inappropriate for the role they occupy, for whatever reason, they will be immediately removed from their position. If necessary, boundaries will be set in church attendance and contact with attendees to maintain safety and well-being.

## 2.2 Code of Practice

In all contact with children and young people Re:Hope Church staff and volunteers are required to display the highest standards of practice putting the care, welfare and safety of children and young people first. This means that Re:Hope Church staff and volunteers will:

- Be a positive role model and Christian witness to children and young people.
- Play their part in developing an ethos where all children and young people matter, are treated equally and with respect and dignity.
- Respect a child or young person's right to be involved in making choices and decisions which directly affect them.
- Listen attentively to the ideas and opinions any child or young person wants to share with them.
- Respect a child or young person's culture, faith and religious beliefs.
- Respond sensitively to any anxieties a child or young person has.
- Speak to the DSO if they suspect a child or young person is experiencing bullying or harassment at a Re:Hope Church activity.
- Refer any concerns observed or communicated to them to the DSO.
- Be mindful of the safety of the children and young people at all times, and in all circumstances.
- Respect the boundaries, privacy and confidentiality of children and young people.

As a Re:Hope Church staff member or volunteer it is unacceptable on any occasion to:

- Exaggerate, trivialise or ignore safeguarding concerns, allegations or disclosures.
- Discuss personal issues about a child or young person or their family with anyone other than the DSO, the Elders or the person in charge of an activity or event where you have concerns about a child or young person.
- Allow a child or young person to be bullied or harmed by anyone in the organisation.
- Form inappropriate emotional or physical relationships with children and young people.
- Harass or intimidate a child or young person or Re:Hope Church volunteer because of their age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious beliefs, socio-economic class or disability.
- Allow a child to use foul, derogatory or sexualised language, unchallenged.
- Invite or allow a child or young person to stay with you at your home.

## 2.3 Practical Guidelines for appropriate conduct

- Re:Hope Church aims to follow government guidance on volunteer to child ratios when carrying out under-18's ministries. These ratios are as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Ratio (adult:children)</b>
0-2yrs old	1:3
2-3yrs old	1:4
4-8yrs old	1:6
9-12yrs old	1:8
13-18 yrs old	1:19

- Avoid being on your own with any child or young person. Have two or more leaders present with a group whenever possible, particularly when it is the only activity taking place on the premises.
- If a parent who is not a leader wishes to accompany their child, they may only help their own child or act as a supervised observer.
- Never take a child or young person home on your own, you should have another helper with you, or else ensure that the last two people are dropped off together. It is better to seat the child or young person in the back.
- Encourage children and young people to enforce their own personal boundaries, for example by saying 'no'.
- Children and young people should not be taken on trips or away from the premises without prior written permission of parents/guardians and the authorisation of church leadership.
- Where confidentiality is important (e.g. counselling a young person) ensure that others know when and where the interview is taking place, and that someone else is around in the building.
- Be wise in your physical contact with children and young people. Physical contact can be natural and healthy but must be kept appropriate at all times taking into consideration their age. It should also be initiated by the child or young person. Avoid physical contact in private.
- Do not show favouritism to some children or young people at the expense of others.
- Be wise with your words and actions around children or young people, especially those of the opposite gender.
- Never smack, hit or physically discipline a child or young person.
- If you feel that a child or young person may have a "crush" on you, inform the DSO and seek advice and guidance.
- Maintain a level of personal care (e.g. toileting) appropriate for the age and ability of the child or young person. If this is unclear, check with their parent or guardian.
- Monitor and restrict computer and internet access for children in your care as appropriate by age.

- Inform the DSO immediately if you see or discover an issue of concern, including suspected abuse or if you see another worker acting in a way which could be seen as inappropriate.

## 2.4 Talking with an independent person

Occasionally a child may seek independent counsel from a volunteer or member of staff. It is important that people can talk about their concerns in a safe place and the church is often an appropriate community for providing that. It is best practice to pass all such meetings on to the DSO or an appropriate member of staff (e.g. ministry lead). If speaking privately with someone under 18, the following guidelines are to be followed for your and their protection:

- If at all possible, have another leader with you.
- Ensure other people know you are speaking - preferably their parent/guardian. They do not need to know the topic.
- It is best practice to speak at the church where other people are present nearby.
- With some young people it may also be appropriate to meet in a public place such as a coffee shop. In this case the appropriate parental permission should be sought.
- Do not meet alone with a person of the opposite gender.
- Individual support must never take place at the home of a Re:Hope Church staff member or volunteer.
- Respect the boundaries, privacy and confidentiality of the person you are speaking with, bearing in mind that some difficult situations will require discussion with someone else on the team, such as your team leader.
- Avoid physical contact with the child or young person.
- If there are any concerns during an individual piece of support that falls within the remit of Re:Hope Church's Safeguarding Policy, the member of staff or volunteer must inform the DSO immediately or as soon as is practicably possible.
- Any other concerns that arise should be recorded and reported to the appropriate person at the earliest opportunity.

## 2.5 Media guidance

- Children and young people must have parent/guardian consent in written form before being photographed or videoed.
- Photographs or videos of children and young people should only be taken in group settings by designated photographers. If the designated photographer takes photos on a personal device they must be uploaded to the Re:Hope Church Flickr account and deleted.

## 2.6 Communication

Safe and appropriate communication with children and young people is a safeguarding priority in all work with under-18s. In the first instance communication will be done via parents/guardians. However if there does need to be direct communication online with

under-18s, consider accountability and ensure there are at least two safely-recruited workers in the conversation for accountability and follow these general guidelines:

- Do not follow or befriend children or young people on any social media platforms (eg Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, BeReal). Social media interaction between workers (staff or voluntary) and under-18s must be limited to groups that are monitored and administered by at least two safely recruited workers eg. the Render instagram account.
- If an instance where a child or young person has reached out to you individually, let your ministry lead know and ensure you maintain good and open relationships with parents/guardians regarding communication with them. Explain when and why and how you might want to contact under-18s and get parental consent to do so.
- Over 16 year olds may be added into the church Slack channels if they are part of wider church serving teams with the consent of their parent/guardian.
- If you have public social media accounts (e.g. Instagram) be mindful of keeping your online presence consistent with Christian standards for behaviour and living.

## 2.7 Online Ministry

Some events may be held via an online platform. In this case, the following guidelines are to be followed:

- Age limits for social media platforms will be respected.
- All contact with young people online will take place via Re:Hope Church staff and approved volunteers.
- Staff and volunteers will ensure that they have appropriate physical presentation in all pre-recorded and live videos.
- Video conferencing will take place via a Re:Hope Church account video communications platform e.g. Zoom. There must be parental permission for under-18s to take part in video conferencing events.
- For all video conferencing events, there must be at least two safely-recruited staff members or volunteers. If the 'breakout room' feature is used, there must still be two safely-recruited staff members or volunteers present per 'breakout room'.
- Video calls will always be password protected, meaning only those who have been sent the information can access.
- Video calls will always be set up by Re:Hope Church staff or volunteers who will have the ability to mute/block a participant if they are displaying/sharing anything inappropriate or illegal. This will be recorded and reported as per Safeguarding Policy.
- Video calls will always be scheduled using a Re:Hope Church account, and not staff or volunteer's personal accounts.
- Video calls will not be recorded.
- Any Safeguarding concerns may be recorded in writing and followed as per Re:Hope Church Safeguarding Policy.

## Section 3 – Responsive measures

It is our responsibility to respond effectively and efficiently to any cause for concern reported to us and always in a fair and loving manner. No one will ever be reprimanded for



reporting a valid concern even if it turns out to be unfounded. However, reports with malicious intent will be taken seriously and will result in disciplinary action. In responding to a safeguarding concern, this policy and procedures address four separate issues:

- **An incident:** an event that happens which endangers the safety or welfare of a child or young person, or puts them at risk of harm.
- **An Disclosure:** by a child or young person of alleged abuse which has occurred/is occurring out with Re:Hope Church.
- **A Concern:** by a Re:Hope Church staff member or volunteer that a child or young person may be being, has been or is at risk of being abused. This could include:
  - Observations and changes in a child or young person's behaviour and/or presentation.
  - Witnessing an incident involving the parent/carer and/or child.
  - Concerns expressed by a third party (e.g. another child or young person).
  - Evidence of physical abuse. This may only be visible for a limited time therefore concerns about a child or young person need to be addressed without time delay.
- **An Allegation:** by a child, young person or other staff member or volunteer about a member of Re:Hope Church staff member or volunteer.

### 3.1 Responding to an Incident, Disclosure or Concern of Abuse

For either an incident, disclosure or concern it is important to respond appropriately and record the details and pass it onto the ministry lead or DSO immediately or as soon as possible.

1. Assess the child or young person's physical condition: if injury has occurred medical assistance must be sought immediately.
2. All conversations with the child or young person and between staff and volunteers should be accurately recorded on the appropriate safeguarding incident form on the same day. If you have noted anything down on paper, ensure this is given to the ministry lead or DSO.
3. If/when speaking to the child or young person say as little as possible, do not ask closed or searching questions or put words into the child or young person's mouth. It is good practice to ask; "have you told this to anyone else?" and "do you know what they are doing about it?"
4. Where a member of staff or volunteer informs the DSO that a child or young person has made a disclosure it is important to take time to allow that person to relate exactly what has been said and in what context. Consider what has been said, find out the context of the disclosure, how the staff member or volunteer concerned handled the situation and what they said if anything. Check that the child or young person has been told that the information was being passed on.
5. In the eventuality that the DSO is not available/on holiday contact the DSC. If they are not available/ on holiday then any safeguarding concerns should be reported as above and assistance can be sought via the Thirtyone:eight helpline.
6. Where information is passed to the DSO and where there are grounds for concern, a referral will be made to the relevant external authorities (local social work department and/or police).
7. The DSO can seek advice and guidance from the DSC or via the Thirtyone:eight helpline.

8. The DSO should keep the child or young person as informed as possible of the action being taken.
9. Arrangements will be made to ensure the child or young person is appropriately cared for and supported and where appropriate to continue their involvement with any current Re:Hope Church activity.
10. Any discussion with parents will be considered by the DSO and if appropriate in discussion with external agencies.

### 3.2 An Allegation (made about Re:Hope Church staff or volunteer)

An safeguarding allegation may be made by a child, young person or other staff member or volunteer about a member of Re:Hope Church staff member or volunteer. If so, it is important to respond appropriately and record the details and pass it onto the ministry lead or DSO immediately or as soon as possible.

- Assess the child or young person's physical condition: if injury has occurred medical assistance must be sought immediately. The medical practitioner or A&E staff must be advised of any allegation PRIOR to their treating the child or young person.
- As a general principle Re:Hope staff and volunteers must err on the side of providing a safe environment for children and young people and decisions must be taken from this perspective.
- The staff member or volunteer concerned must be immediately removed from contact with this child or young person and any others present.
- The staff member or volunteer should be accompanied by another adult at all times until they leave the situation/event.
- The DSO should be informed immediately or as soon as the situation allows.
- The DSO will discuss the incident with the responsible person at the time and where appropriate interview the staff member or volunteer involved, the child or young person involved and any witnesses. In all cases two adults should be present so there is a witness to the interview and notes can be taken.
- Should it appear at any stage that an offence might have been committed and the police should be involved, no further questions should be asked.
- When interviewing anyone involved in the situation do not ask searching questions or put words in their mouth.
- Under no circumstances should a member of staff or volunteer collude in keeping the matter "a secret" between them and the child or young person. You must explain that you have a responsibility to protect them and others and that you must, where appropriate, take the matter further. At the same time reassure the child or young person that the matter will be treated confidentially and only shared with those who need to know.
- If it is alleged that sexual behaviour has occurred, the young person must not wash, shower or swim as this may affect the gathering of evidence during any possible medical examination.
- Suggest to the child or young person that he/she should not talk to others about what they have shared.
- The child or young person must not be allowed to talk to the alleged perpetrator, even if he/she requests this.

- It is important to ascertain if and who the child or young person has already spoken to. Appropriate action will be taken to reduce any unnecessary anxiety and/or speculation at an event or activity.
- The staff member or volunteer involved will be kept informed of the situation at the discretion of the DSO. However confidential information received from others must not be passed on.
- Re:Hope Church acknowledges that this will be a traumatic time for the staff member or volunteer concerned (and they may be entirely innocent of any blame) so appropriate support will be provided. It is also important that the DSO remains objective at all times.
- Where further investigation is required the concerned member of staff or volunteer should not have direct contact with children or young people until the matter is fully resolved.
- The decision to contact external agencies will be made by the DSO/Business Lead (if relating to a Re:Hope Church staff member) who will keep the church leadership informed of the situation.
- All conversations with the child or young person and between staff and volunteers must be accurately recorded on the appropriate form on the same day.
- Any discussion with parents will be considered by the DSO and if appropriate in discussion with external agencies. Parents/carers will be contacted immediately in all situations where the matter is to be taken further.
- If a member of Re:Hope Church staff or volunteer observes actions or behaviour in another member of staff or volunteer which gives cause for concern or a sense of unease, they should discuss these with the DSO.

## Section 4 - Definitions

### 4.1 Definition of a Child

Re:Hope Church accepts the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) where a child is defined as someone under the age of 18.

### 4.2 Definitions of Abuse

Re:Hope Church accepts the definition and categories of abuse detailed with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021)

*“Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to act to prevent, significant harm to the child. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or more rarely, a stranger. Assessments will need to consider whether abuse has occurred or is likely to occur.”*

The categories of abuse in legislation related to children and young people are: physical, emotional, neglect, sexual. We have also included spiritual abuse for our context being a church as this is something we need to be aware of.

### **4.2.1 Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

### **4.2.2 Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of age - or developmentally - inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger or exploiting or corrupting children. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

### **4.2.3 Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of indecent images or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

### **4.2.4 Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect may also result in the child being diagnosed as suffering from "non-organic failure to thrive", where they have significantly failed to reach normal weight and growth or development milestones and where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated. In its extreme form children can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation. This can lead to serious long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young children in particular, the consequences may be life threatening within a relatively short period of time.

### **4.2.5 Spiritual**

Spiritual abuse is a form of emotional and psychological abuse. It is characterised by a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour in a religious context. Key elements of this experience are censorship of decision-making and enforced accountability. Spiritual abuse can have a deeply damaging impact on those who experience it.

#### **4.2.6 Major contemporary concerns:**

The following categories of abuse won't be expounded upon but they are mentioned in light of growing concerns about their prevalence.

- Grooming, radicalisation, child on child abuse, child sexual or criminal exploitation, child abuse linked to faith or belief e.g. female genital mutilation (FGM).

For more information on these specific categories of abuse please visit

<https://thirtyoneeight.org>

## **Section 5 – Policy Commitments**

### **5.1 Training and supervision**

- Staff and Volunteers will be provided with appropriate levels of training and supervision for the tasks they need to undertake, specifically including ensuring they are aware of child safety issues.
- All staff and volunteers are to follow the practical guidelines for appropriate conduct
- It is best practice to always work alongside another leader, and for no leader to be left unsupervised.
- All staff and volunteers will undergo annual safeguarding training.
- All staff and volunteers will be given a copy of the Safeguarding Policy and will understand how this translates into practice.

### **5.2 Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually. If inadequacies in the policy emerge, these may be adjusted as they are found.

### **5.3 Legislative foundations and framework**

This policy has been written in accordance with the following legislation:

- Children (Scotland) Act 1995
- Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) (Scotland) Act 2007
- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Data protection Act 2018
- Children (Scotland) Act 2020
- National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021)

**5.3.1** In all matters relating to decisions regarding children and young people who may or may not have been abused, the child or young person's welfare will be the paramount consideration in line with the Children (Scotland) Acts 1995 and 2014.

**5.3.2** In reaching any decision regarding a child or young person due regard will be given to the child or young person's view, considering their age and maturity in line with the Children (Scotland) Acts 1995 and 2014.