

## Child Protection Policy Statement

The Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) is committed to practice that ensures the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people with whom we come into contact. In all aspects of our work the welfare of the child and young person is considered paramount and this policy takes precedence over all other policies. This principle is enshrined in both the Children Order (Northern Ireland) 1995, and underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. VOYPIC is committed to ensuring the full realisation of the rights of all children across Northern Ireland.

While confidentiality is a key principle that underpins the work of staff and volunteers, we recognise that where there are concerns regarding the safety or welfare of a child or young person then this will be set aside and child protection procedures will be followed. We will always endeavour to inform, consult and keep young people updated regarding child protection concerns/actions unless there is a risk to their immediate safety if we do so.

We are committed to fostering a culture of openness within the organisation so that staff, volunteers and young people can share concerns about the conduct of people within the organisation in the assurance that these will be received and dealt with in a sensitive manner.

VOYPIC will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by ensuring that all staff/volunteers have an understanding of the categories of abuse as defined in the 'Cooperating to Safeguard Children in NI' (SBNI 2016). VOYPIC will ensure that staff and volunteers know how to act on concerns of risk or harm, by ensuring that the Child Protection Policy is fully implemented within the organisation.

For all matters relating to our child protection policy and procedures, please contact the Practice Manager or the Chief Executive.