



Policy No. 4A

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

1. WHO DOES THE POLICY APPLY TO?

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of The MPS Society, including trustees, employees, volunteers, and students. The MPS Society recognises the importance of its support services to families, children, young people and adults and its responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of those who are vulnerable or at risk.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY IS TO:

- Protect children, young people and adults at risk who receive support or access events run by the MPS Society. This includes children of adults who use our services.
- Provide employees, trustees, volunteers and students as well as children, young people, adults at risk and their families with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding in line with current legislation.
- Set out the MPS Society's responsibilities towards the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has been drawn up using laws and guidance that seeks to protect children, young people and adults at risk in England. However, the MPS Society acknowledges Scotland and Northern Ireland's safeguarding laws are different to those of England & Wales and will abide by these when it is appropriate to do so.

Laws and guidance relating to children:

A summary of key legislation and guidance is available for all areas here;

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system>

Laws and guidance relating to vulnerable adults in England:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- General Data Protection Act 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2014 (chapter 14)
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

Laws and guidance relating to vulnerable adults in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

- Wales - Social Services and Well Being Act 2014
Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019

- Scotland - Adult Support and Protection Act 2007
Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 Code of Practice 2014
- Northern Ireland - Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership 2015

Further information on legislation and guidance across the UK and Ireland can also be found here;

<https://www.safecic.co.uk/safeguarding-resources/matching-legislation>

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents:

- Role description for designated safeguarding officer
- Online safety & social media
- Anti-bullying
- Responding and reporting disclosures & concerns
- Concerns over the behaviour or actions of staff, trustees and volunteers
- Reporting safeguarding concerns form
- Code of conduct for staff, trustees and volunteers
- How MPS protects children and young people
- Guidance for safer working practices at events
- Managing child safeguarding concerns which occur abroad
- Professional boundaries for employee's
- Professional boundaries when working with children, young people and adults at risk at an MPS event
- Confidentiality
- Health & Safety
- Managing complaints
- Whistleblowing
- Data Protection & Privacy
- Data retention and Disposal
- Wise up to the web, e safety leaflet
- Volunteer policy and procedure handbook
- Behaviour code for children and young people
- MPS Society consent form for the use of photographs and video
- Safer Recruitment
- Induction, training, supervision and support
- Mental capacity and decision making

4. DEFINITIONS

A 'child or young person' for the purpose of this statement refers to a person under the age of 18 years. This statement applies to all children and young people regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, social orientation or religion.

An 'adult at risk' is defined as someone over the age of 18 years who

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) AND;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, AND;
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

*Please see appendix 2 for further information and definitions for all devolved nations

*Please note that in the case of someone who is 18 years or older we do not have the right to report disclosures without their express permission unless that person is recognised as an adult at risk over 18 or there is a risk to someone under 18 years.

5. WE RECOGNISE THAT:

- The welfare of children, young people and adults at risk is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, adults at risk, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting individual welfare.
- All children, young people and adults at risk regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children, young people and adults at risk are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.
- Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children, young people and adults at risk, who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

More information related to different forms of abuse can be found in our definition guide (Appendix 1) and via the links below:

- Safeguarding children who come from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic communities
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/children-from-black-asian-minoritised-ethnic-communities>
- Safeguarding deaf and disabled children and young people
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/deaf-and-disabled-children>
- Safeguarding LGBTQ+ children and young people
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/lgbtq-children-young-people>
- Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection-schools/safeguarding-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send>

6. GOOD PRACTICE

The MPS Society has a 'duty of care' towards the people we work with to protect from harm. We will seek to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated safeguarding lead(s), a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures.
- Providing effective management for staff, volunteers and students through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently, recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice, where appropriate with children, young people and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions.
- Making sure that children, young people, adults at risk and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Ensuring any concern for the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk are reported immediately to one of the safeguarding leads.
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, adults at risk, parents, families, and carers appropriately.

- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff, trustees, volunteers and students appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, adults at risk, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

7. SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Nominated safeguarding lead(s)

Name: Bethanie Pentecost

Phone/email: 0345 3899901 / support@mpssociety.org.uk

Name: Alison Wilson (NI lead)

Phone/email: 0345 3899901 / support@mpssociety.org.uk

Deputy child protection lead(s)

Name: Sally Briody

Phone/email: 0345 3899901 / support@mpssociety.org.uk

Name: Sophie Thomas

Phone/email: 0345 3899901 / support@mpssociety.org.uk

Trustee/Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection

Name: Philip Pearson

Phone/email: 0345 3899901 / support@mpssociety.org.uk

Contact details

MPS Society - 0345 389 9901

NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000

Data Protection

The Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Our Data Protection and Privacy Policy can be found on our website at <https://www.mpssociety.org.uk/policies>

References

Appendix 1 – Understand and recognising abuse (definition guide)

We will regularly review this policy and its appendices to ensure they meet with current legislation.

The latest version of this policy document dated 14.05.2026 is available to all employees of the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases on the company server.

This policy document was approved by the Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases Board of Trustees Safeguarding Lead and is issued by the Group Chief Executive Officer (“GCEO”) on a version-controlled basis.

Name of GCEO: Bob Stevens

Date: 14.05.2026

Document History					
<i>Version</i>	<i>Author / Reviewer</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Changes</i>	<i>Next review due</i>
1.0	<i>Sophie Thomas</i>	<i>Senior Head of Patient Services & Clinical Liaisons</i>	<i>18.06.2019</i>	<i>First version</i>	
2.0	<i>Sophie Thomas</i> <i>Philip Pearson</i>	<i>Senior Head of Patient Services & Clinical Liaisons</i> <i>Trustee with safeguarding responsibilities</i>	<i>10.09.2021-21.11.2021</i>	<i>Reviewed. Additional wording around Scotland/NI and Data Protection</i>	
3.0	<i>Sophie Thomas</i> <i>Philip Pearson</i>	<i>Senior Head of Patient Services & Clinical Liaisons</i> <i>Trustee with safeguarding responsibilities</i>	<i>05.01.2023 – 12.03.2023</i>	<i>Reviewed and updated</i>	
4.0	<i>Sophie Thomas</i> <i>Philip Pearson</i>	<i>Senior Head of Patient Services & Clinical Liaisons</i> <i>Trustee with safeguarding responsibilities</i>	<i>March – May 2024</i>	<i>Reviewed and updated with additional wording relating to laws and guidance in Scotland, Wales & NI</i>	<i>May 2025</i>
	<i>Sophie Thomas</i>	<i>Senior Head of Patient Services & Clinical Liaisons</i>	<i>March – April 2025</i>	<i>Reviewed – no changes</i>	<i>May 2026</i>
5.0	<i>Bethanie Pentecost</i>	<i>Head of Support</i>	<i>March-April 2026</i>	<i>Reviewed and updated contact details</i>	<i>May 2027</i>

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