

Ring20 Research and Support UK **Child Protection Policy and Procedures Statement**

Introduction

Ring20 Research and Support UK normally expects to deal with children or young people with their parent or guardian present. Contact with them is likely to be with the parent present at family seminars or in connection with fundraising events where volunteers may be present.

Medical information bulletins about Ring20 will not normally be handed or sent direct to them, or where they are, every effort will be made to ensure the parent is made aware of the information they receive.

Ring20 Research and Support UK is fully committed to promoting children's rights, notably their right to be protected from harm, abuse and exploitation and to be involved in any decisions that directly affect them. In order to achieve this we will ensure our Trustees and volunteers are carefully selected, screened where necessary, trained and organised.

Furthermore we will actively endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to the care and protection of children and young people.

Policy

Ring20 Research and Support UK will:

1. Ensure that all volunteers understand their obligations to protect children and young people from harm, abuse and exploitation.
2. Provide opportunities for all new volunteers through training to have an overview of the organisation's aims.
3. Ensure that all volunteers understand their responsibility to work to the standards and procedures detailed in its Child Protection procedures (see below).
4. Ensure that all volunteers understand their obligations to report protection concerns about a child/young person, to the organisation's designated person for child protection (see below).
5. Ensure that all procedures relating to the conduct of volunteers are implemented in a consistent and fair manner.
6. Ensure that the designated child protection officer understands his/her responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. social care agency/or police).
7. Ensure that the organisation meets all its responsibilities in adhering to the requirements of the Children Act 2004 & Childcare Act 2006, where applicable.
8. Ensure that children and young people where necessary will have access to the organisation's complaints procedures.

Child Protection Procedures

The Trustees of Ring20 Research and Support UK are responsible for ensuring:

1. Procedures are followed to ensure that all concerns about the care and protection of children/young people are effectively managed.
2. All volunteers are required to follow the child protection procedures.
3. Trustees shall be personally aware and notify volunteers of their Duty of Care, being those who work with children and young people as required by the legislative framework. ("it shall be the responsibility of a person who is over 18 or over and who has care and control of a child under 18, to do what is reasonable to safeguard the child's health, development and welfare").
4. Ring20 Research and Support UK has a commitment to children's rights, notably their right to be protected from harm and to be involved in any decisions which directly affect them.
5. The names of the individuals responsible for developing and reviewing the organisation's Child Protection policy statement are Allison Watson, Trustee and Chris Garn, Trustee.

Recruitment

Ring20 Research and Support UK will ensure that all volunteers that apply to work who may be involved with children will:

1. Complete an application form.
2. Complete a self declaration form.
3. Applicants will be asked to provide suitable references and attend for interview where appropriate.
4. Any applicant found to be listed on the Disqualified from Working with Children's List will not be appointed to work.

Training

Training will be provided to new volunteers who may be involved with children:

1. Details of the structure of the organisation will be provided to them and its aims and objectives.
2. Responsibilities of volunteers within the organisation will be clarified.
3. Volunteers must agree and sign up to the organisation's child protection policy and procedures, which will be provided to them.
4. The contact details and responsibilities of the organisation's Child Protection Officer, Allison Watson phone number 01277228322 will be provided.

Types of Abuse and a summary of signs and indicators

During our work we should not expect to encounter signs of child abuse but we should look out for::

1. Any signs of physical injury; neglect; sexual abuse; emotional abuse and neglect.
2. Other issues which can lead to the abuse and neglect of children (for example, domestic abuse; children and families affected by substance abuse; severe and on-going bullying and harassment).

Procedures for responding to concerns about abuse /neglect

1. A written report shall be made about any incident of child abuse, whether it be directly observed or reported by another volunteer and after due consideration reported if appropriate promptly by the Child Protection officer to the statutory child protection agencies (i.e. social care agency/or police).
2. The procedure at 1. above is to be followed where a concern is raised that a child/young person is being harmed or abused by a volunteer from within the organisation e.g if a parent/carer or other individual from outside the organisation alleges that their/a child has been harmed by a volunteer;

Summary of the referral process to child protection agencies

1. The referral process to the Child Protection Agency will be as short as possible and involves as few individuals as possible.
2. The organisation will never attempt to investigate any child protection concern itself (including allegations made against a volunteer).
3. The organisation will seek advice from the child protection agencies when they report a child protection concern to them as to if it is appropriate to discuss child protection concerns with a child/young person's parent/carer.

Protection of Volunteers who report care and protection concerns

Volunteers should note the law protects them from actions by those individuals who have been implicated in the abuse or neglect of a child or young person as long as the volunteer's report was not malicious or vexatious.

Data Protection and management of confidential information

1. The organisation is committed to manage confidential information securely
In particular that related to children and young people unless the organisation considers they could be at risk of abuse and/or harm.

Ring20 Research and Support UK

Trustee



Trustee



Trustee

Trustee

