

Safeguarding Policy

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children, at-risk adults and beneficiaries of assistance, from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with Plant-Based Health Professionals UK C.I.C. (PBHP UK). This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff, volunteers or personnel associated with PBHP UK
- The design and implementation of PBHP UK programmes and activities



The policy outlines PBHP UK's commitments and informs staff/volunteers and associated personnel of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

- Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by PBHP UK or associated personnel

What is safeguarding?

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

PBHP UK understands it to mean protecting people, including children and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our staff/volunteers or programmes.

Further definitions relating to safeguarding are provided in the glossary below.

Scope

- All staff and volunteers contracted by PBHP UK
- Associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to PBHP UK, including but not limited to the following: consultants; volunteers; contractors; programme visitors, including journalists, celebrities and politicians.

Policy Statement

PBHP UK believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin, has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. PBHP UK will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff/volunteers or associated personnel.

This policy will address the following areas of safeguarding: child safeguarding, adult safeguarding, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. The organisation will work within and adhere to all relevant statutory provisions. The Care Act 2014 introduced legislation regarding safeguarding for adults. The Act sets out a legal framework for how

local authorities and other organisations should react to suspicion of abuse or neglect. PBHP UK will undertake its responsibilities systematically in this regard, including all associated guidance and updates to this legislation. The organisation will adhere closely to the relevant Six Principles of:

- Empowerment – person-led decisions and informed consent
- Prevention – it is better to take action before harm occurs
- Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need
- Partnership – local solutions through services working with their communities.
Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
- Accountability – transparency in delivering safeguarding

Prevention

PBHP UK responsibilities

PBHP UK will:

- Ensure all staff/volunteers have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with PBHP UK. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying staff/volunteers and associated personnel
- Staff/volunteers and associated personnel who work with children and young people or who undertake any other regulated activity will be subject to the appropriate level of Disclosure and Barring Service check
- Ensure staff receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organisation
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process
- Protect staff/volunteers and associated personnel from false allegations

Staff responsibilities

Child safeguarding

PBHP UK staff/volunteers and associated personnel must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18
- Sexually abuse or exploit children
- Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children, including child labour or trafficking

Adult safeguarding

PBHP UK staff/volunteers and associated personnel must not:

- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

Additionally, PBHP UK staff /volunteers and associated personnel are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a PBHP UK staff member or associated personnel to the appropriate staff member

Enabling reports

PBHP UK will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to staff and the communities we work with.

PBHP UK will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

Staff/volunteers who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to the Executive Director.



Contact details

Shireen Kassam

29 Stonehill Road

Headley Down

Bordon GU35 8HF

info@pbhp.uk

If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk or is being abused, contact the children's social care team at their local council.

You'll be asked for your details, but you can choose not to share them.

Call 999 if the child is at immediate risk.

If it's not an emergency, you can report the crime online or call 101.

Get advice

Contact the NSPCC if you want to discuss your concerns and get advice.

NSPCC (for adults)

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

ChildLine (for children and young people)

Telephone: 0800 1111 (free)

Response

PBHP UK will follow up on safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations.

PBHP UK will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to staff/volunteers found in breach of policy.



PBHP UK will offer support to survivors of harm caused by staff or associated personnel, regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation). Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need-to-know basis only, and should be kept secure at all times.

Glossary of terms

Beneficiary of Assistance

Someone who directly receives goods or services from PBHP UK programmes. Note that misuse of power can also apply to the wider community that the NGO serves, and also can include exploitation by giving the perception of being in a position of power.

Child

A person below the age of 18

Harm

Psychological, physical and any other infringement of an individual's rights

Psychological harm

Emotional or psychological abuse, including (but not limited to) humiliating and degrading treatment such as bad name-calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The term used by the humanitarian and development community to refer to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of affected populations by staff or associated personnel. The term derives from the United Nations Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)



Safeguarding

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. In our sector, we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our staff or programmes. One donor definition is as follows:

Safeguarding means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, particularly sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur.

This definition draws from our values and principles and shapes our culture. It pays specific attention to preventing and responding to harm from any potential, actual or attempted abuse of power, trust, or vulnerability, especially for sexual purposes.

Safeguarding applies consistently and without exception across our programmes, partners and staff. It requires proactively identifying, preventing and guarding against all risks of harm, exploitation and abuse and having mature, accountable and transparent systems for response, reporting and learning when risks materialise. Those systems must be survivor-centred and also protect those accused until proven guilty. Safeguarding puts beneficiaries and affected persons at the centre of all we do.

Sexual abuse

The term 'sexual abuse' means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Sexual exploitation

The term 'sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. This definition includes human trafficking and modern slavery.

Survivor



The person who has been abused or exploited. The term 'survivor' is often used in preference to 'victim' as it implies strength, resilience and the capacity to survive; it is the individual's choice how they wish to identify themselves.

At-risk adult

Sometimes also referred to as a vulnerable adult. A person who is or may need care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.