

## 40. Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

**Policy Statement:** Every child has the right to protection from abuse and exploitation. Safeguarding - and the protection of all children - is everyone's responsibility. MFC believes that it is always unacceptable for any child to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children by a commitment to practice which protects them. The safeguarding of all children will be made possible by adhering to our safeguarding policies, procedures and processes and by working in partnership across the organisation - as well as with external organisations and statutory bodies. **MFC recognises and is committed to the following principles:**

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm, abuse and/or exploitation
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues surrounding disabilities
- Working in partnership across MFC (including with our parent football club) - and with children, their parents, carers & other external agencies and statutory bodies - is essential in promoting children's welfare.

**Purpose & aim of policy:** MFC will always seek to provide protection for the children who receive the organisation's services. To this end, MFC will provide all staff with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm. MFC believes that a child should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

**Who this policy applies to:** This policy applies to everyone that comes into contact with MFC - including as applicable - Directors, the CEO and the Executive Team, Senior Managers, Management Team, Employees, Sessional Workers, Agency Staff, Contractors, Suppliers, Volunteers, Students on work experience, as well as anyone working on behalf of MFC. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!**

**MFC will seek to safeguard children effectively through taking a child-centred approach to its responsibilities and by doing the following:**

- Valuing children by listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures
- Recruiting staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, carers and staff
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know - and involving parents, carers and children appropriately
- Providing effective management for staff through supervision, support and training.

**Principles of a child-centred approach:** MFC will always seek to underpin its policy on safeguarding children by:

- Being **vigilant** and notice when things are troubling children
- **Understanding** what is happening - as well as hearing and understanding the child - and then **acting** upon that understanding
- Developing an on-going **stable** relationship of trust with children
- **Respecting** children and treating them with the expectation that they are competent, rather than assume they are not
- Providing **information** and **engagement** with children by keeping them informed about and involved in procedures, decisions, concerns and plans

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- **Explaining** to children the outcome of assessments and decisions - as well as the reasons if their views have not met with a positive response
- **Support** children in their own right and not just as a member of their family
- Providing access to **advocacy** to assist children in putting forward their views
- **Involving** children and their parents and carers in developing and shaping safeguarding policies and procedures.

**Reviewed & Updated: September 2018**

MFC will review this **Child Protection Safeguarding Policy Statement** and best practice at least annually. In addition, more frequent reviews will be undertaken following any major safeguarding incident, incident learning outcomes, organisational changes, as well as changes to legislation.



**Steve Kavanagh - Chief Executive Officer**