



JustUs Child Safeguarding Policy

1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1. JustUs recognises that during its work it is possible for JustUs personnel to become aware of situations where there are legitimate questions about the safety of a child (anyone under the age of 18). JustUs aims to operate in a way that always responds to child safeguarding concerns and recognises its responsibility to pass on information pertaining to any concerns to the local authority. In cases where there is a risk of significant harm to the child, JustUs does not require consent to share personal data.
- 1.2. This policy applies to all contractors, trustees and volunteers or anyone working on behalf of JustUs.
- 1.3. JustUs supports single adults and families who are at risk of homelessness. It does not support people under the age of 18 directly, although families may include children within the household. Situations will arise where JustUs supports the parents / relatives / carers of children and so could foreseeably have some knowledge of the situations of children and may therefore have a duty to pass concerns on to relevant third parties on a need-to-know basis.
- 1.4. JustUs recognises that:
 - 1.4.1. The welfare of the child / young person is paramount (see Appendix 2 of JustUs Confidentiality Policy for more detail)
 - 1.4.2. 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 or abuse.
 - 1.4.3. Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

2. In line with the Children Act 2004 JustUs will:

- 2.1. Take protective measures for the children at potential risk of harm who are known about through the work of JustUs.
- 2.2. Provide caseworkers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm. In cases where further clarification is required, JustUs caseworkers must obtain guidance from the appropriate body, e.g. Children's Social Services.
- 2.3. Seek to safeguard children by:
 - 2.3.1. Adopting child protection guidelines through local authority arrangements and national guidance.
 - 2.3.2. Recruiting personnel safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made through the Disclosure and Barring Service

- 2.3.3. Sharing information about child protection protocols with clients where relevant, including when initially discussing the service with new clients.
- 2.3.4. Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children appropriately.
- 2.3.5. Providing effective management for personnel through supervision, support, and training.

3. Definition

3.1 Abuse can include:

- 3.1.1 physical
- 3.1.2 psychological or emotional
- 3.1.3 financial or material
- 3.1.4 sexual
- 3.1.5 organisational or institutional
- 3.1.6 discriminatory
- 3.1.7 domestic abuse including coercion.
- 3.1.8 neglect or act of omissions.
- 3.1.9 self-neglect
- 3.1.10 modern slavery
- 3.1.11 honour based abuse.
- 3.1.12 female genital mutilation
- 3.1.13 cuckooing (the taking over of someone's home to use it for illegal purposes)
- 3.1.14 county lines drug trafficking
- 3.1.15 grooming
- 3.1.16 bullying and cyberbullying

3.2 Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetrated by anyone.

JustUs Safeguarding Lead: Samantha Price (Trustee)

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Local Safeguarding Board: Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board

Bedford Borough Council

Borough Hall

138 Cauldwell Street

Bedford MK42 9AP

Contact phone: 01234 718700 (Integrated Front Door – previously MASH)

This policy will be reviewed by trustees annually.

Adopted: June 2015

Last Reviewed March 2024
Next Review date: March 2025