

Safeguarding: guidance for the voluntary sector during the coronavirus pandemic

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yorkcvs

Introduction:

York CVS is a social action organisation; supporting and championing York's voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to make positive change, challenge issues and grow new ideas for the future in order to strengthen communities.

We do this by supporting new and existing VCSE groups and organisations with guidance about legal structures, governance issues, policies and procedures and by identifying potential funding sources and developing funding bids. We also bring organisations together to discuss and challenge local issues through our events and voluntary sector forums.

The following guidance and information is designed to support voluntary sector groups and organisations during the coronavirus pandemic.

1. Safeguarding

Everyone has a role to play in safeguarding.

Safeguarding is about creating a safe and welcoming environment, where everyone is respected and valued. It's about preventing harm, harassment, bullying, abuse and neglect. Every organisation that delivers charitable activities has a duty to safeguard volunteers, staff members, participants and donors.

Having robust safeguarding policies in place is more important than ever as groups and organisations are involved in new activities and are delivering new services in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Having the right policies in place enables organisations to respond safely if a problem arises.

2. Developing a safeguarding policy

If your organisation needs support to develop a safeguarding policy or, you need specific advice at this time please contact our Funding and Development Officer, Jane Granville on: jane.granville@yorkcvs.org.uk

3. Safeguarding training

Free e-learning training courses are available via the City of York Council. Training should be updated every three years if you continue to work or volunteer with vulnerable people.

Links to training courses:

- [City of York Safeguarding Children Awareness E-learning](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults: E-Learning for those not in the Adults Social Care Workforce](#)

Please note: to access the above training sessions, individuals will need to create an account with City of York Council's *My Learning Organiser*.

4. Information and resources

The following links provide more detailed information about safeguarding.

General guidance on safeguarding:

- [Guidance on safeguarding from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations \(NCVO\)](#)

Guidance for registered charities:

- [Charity Commission safeguarding advice for charities](#)
- [What to do if you have an allegation relating to safeguarding](#)

Local information for York:

- [City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- [City of York Safeguarding Adults](#)