
4. Child Protection and Young Volunteers Policy



1. Action 21 recognises it has a duty of care to safeguard from harm all children and young people volunteering for Action 21. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable will be taken into account.
2. Action 21 will strive to ensure the safety and protection of all children and young people involved in the charity's volunteering activities. Action 21 will respond immediately to any aspect of concern relating to a child or young person's safeguarding during volunteering activities for Action 21.
3. Action 21 will ensure that:
 - the welfare of the child or young person is paramount;
 - all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity) have the right to protection from abuse;
 - all suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
 - all staff and volunteers have a responsibility to report concerns to the General Manager or a Trustee who will investigate and take appropriate action including seeking professional advice if necessary.
4. Staff and volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred. However staff are checked by the police and made aware of the potential dangers to young people when they are appointed. Volunteers are encouraged to report any incidents of concern relating to children and young people in the organisation.
5. The aim of Action 21's Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice by:
 - Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst volunteering for Action 21;
 - Allowing all staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.
6. The advice and procedures outlined in this document apply to all Action 21 staff members and adult volunteers whose volunteering brings them into contact with young and/or child volunteers.
7. The minimum age for volunteering with Action 21 is 16 years due to the Health and Safety implications for the majority of volunteering roles.
8. Every effort will be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information will be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only.