

Rowans Hospice Children's Safeguarding Statement

Definition of children

The Children Act (2004) defines children as people under the age of 18 years. This legal definition applies to this document and to the terms, 'child', 'children', 'young person' and 'young people' used within it.

Key principles upon which this Safeguarding Children Policy is based are:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare, health and development of children
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.
- All allegations and suspicions of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.

Introduction

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Rowans Hospice Charity's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the Rowans Hospice organisation, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

Staff and volunteers within the Rowans Hospice Charity organisation involved in healthcare provision have a responsibility in safeguarding children:

“No matter where you work, you are likely to encounter children during the course of your normal working activities. You are in a unique position to be able to observe signs of abuse or neglect, or changes in behaviour which may indicate a child may be being abused or neglected.

*You should make sure that you are **alert** to the signs of abuse and neglect, that you **question the behaviour** of children and parents/carers and don’t necessarily take what you are told at face value. You should make sure you know where to turn to if you need to **ask for help**, and that you **refer** to children’s social care or to the police if you suspect that a child is at risk of harm or is immediate danger.”*

(What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused, 2015)

All employees of Rowans Hospice Charity have a duty to work within its organisational policy and the local statutory procedures for safeguarding children.

In the statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018, the term ‘safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children’ refers to:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.”

(Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018)

All staff and volunteers of Rowans Hospice, alongside any partner agency working with children, young people and their families, must take all reasonable measures to ensure the risks of harm to children’s welfare are minimised.

Clinicians working alongside children, parents and other adults in contact with children are expected to be able to identify indicators that a child’s welfare or safety might be at risk and to act appropriately in response to concerns. This includes the welfare of unborn children.

Our children’s safeguarding policy is available to read in full. If you are a staff member or volunteer at Rowans Hospice Charity, the policy can be viewed on PeopleZone. For anyone

external to our organisation, please speak to a member of the Hospice team or email: info@rowanshospice.co.uk.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Key Personnel

Rowans Hospice Deputy CEO and Director of Care: Jo Fricker

Rowans Hospice Medical Director: Dr. Katie Jerram

Rowans Hospice Lead for Safeguarding Children: Sophie de Bere, Social Worker and Meerkat Service Lead.

Children's Services telephone numbers

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, call the Police on 999.

Hampshire MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub):

During office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm): **0300 555 1384**

Out of office hours (evenings, weekends and bank holidays): **0300 555 1373**

Hampshire LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

Tel: **01962 876 364** Fax: **01962 876 229** (secure line)

E-mail: child.protection@hants.gcsx.gov.uk

Portsmouth MASH (Multi-Agency safeguarding Hub)

During office hours (Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-5pm, Friday 8:30am-4:30pm):

0845 671 0271/023 92 68 8793

Out of office hours (evenings, weekends and bank holidays): **0300 555 1373**

Portsmouth LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

Tel: **023 9288 2500**

Email: LADO@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Hampshire Constabulary:

101 (enquiries and non-urgent crimes)

NSPCC:

0808 800 5000

Childline:

0800 1111