



## **Children Safeguarding Policy for MEDyARTE Foundation**

Safeguarding relates to promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. It is a responsibility of all Foundation Trustees as well as Associated Members and volunteers which may wish to work with MEDyARTE foundation. Safeguarding is defined as follows:

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

### **Child protection policy**

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- no child or group of children will be treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs
- all children without exception will have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- this policy will be reviewed, approved and endorsed by the board of trustees annually or when legislation changes
- this policy applies to all trustees, staff and volunteers
- children and parents will be informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate
- all concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's social care services, the independent Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for allegations against staff, trustees and other volunteers, and in emergencies, the police. When Such concerns are raised during projects based abroad they will be reported to appropriate local services.
- The MEDyARTE Foundation is committed to safe recruitment, selection and vetting

- This policy is based on the recommendations included in the Safeguarding Children Government document  
<https://www.gov.uk/topic/schools-colleges-childrens-services/safeguarding-children>  
 and NSPCC recommendations  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/>

## **Child protection procedures**

- Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. Neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.
- A lead for the Child Protection issues in MEDyARTE Foundation will be a Founder Malgorzata Trubshaw. Her deputy will be Elizabeth Gunning. All concerns about child protections issues will need to be reported by other trustees, associated members, volunteers and all other staff to Malgorzata Trubshaw who then will review a problem and act according to the policy. If Malgorzata is not available all problems should be reported to Elizabeth Gunning who will have a full power to take decisions and recommend appropriate action.
- Although Malgorzata Trubshaw and Elizabeth Gunning are named responsible persons for the Child protection issues however any of the trustees can be approached if necessary. Trustees then in turn should report the problem to Malgorzata. Straight forward cases can be dealt with by Malgorzata alone however more complex ones may require discussion of all trustee. Foundation plans to operate in various countries abroad. Should child protection issues arise they will be reported by Malgorzata to the appropriate local authorities in the country of operation. Local procedures will be followed regarding escalation of information and data sharing to prevent ongoing abuse.
- All concerns will be noted on the Child Protection Register which will be stored together with other MEDyARTE documentation. Information required will include date of the incident reported, detailed description of concern, name of the person reporting the issue, who was involved in discussion and decision making, what action was taken and what was the final outcome. All reports will be stored for a period of 10 years.
- All information on the register will be confidential and shared only with required authorities or medical profession if required according to British law.
- All trustees, staff and volunteers will be supplied with and should familiarise themselves with Children Safeguarding Policy of MEDyARTE Foundation. They are expected to comply with the recommendations of the policy. Should it become apparent that the policy is not being followed by a member of the Charity their

membership can be withdrawn following a meeting and a vote of the trustees. Similarly, should such a situation arise concerning a volunteer they may be asked to stop further work for the Charity. A quorum of the trustees may take a decision to remand a person concerned and allow them to continue work providing they accept the importance and necessity to follow these guidelines in the future.

- All trustees should be DBS checked or equivalent (if they reside abroad). This is a requirement prior to becoming a trustee.

It is also recommended that all associated members who will come into contact with children during the course of projects run by the charity will require DBS check ( or equivalent ) prior to such duties.

Copies of DBS forms of all Charity members will be stored with other MEDyARTE documentation

There will be a complaints procedure which is an open and publicised on the MEDyARTE website in which adults and children can voice concerns about unacceptable and/or abusive behaviour towards children

- The Child Protection Lead and a deputy will complete Child Protection Course, including the emerging issues of eSafety, domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, children who live away from home or go missing, child sexual exploitation, race and racism and extremism on a yearly basis and update other member of the charity who come into contact with children on the relevant issues.

Where this will be impracticable eg for staff or volunteers who permanently reside in a country of operation, there will be a designated lead person locally who will complete Child Protection Course and will then update the rest of the staff on a yearly basis.

If you have any concerns that a child is being abused during projects run in UK please contact NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**