

PROGRAMME GUIDANCE

Safeguarding

This policy is for fundholders and steering groups, although it is fundholders who are responsible for ensuring it is followed. Fundholders must ensure that all organisations who receive Invest Local funding are aware of the guidance and have the capacity to follow it where appropriate (ie where their project involves young people or vulnerable adults).

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm. Those most in need of protection are:

- Children.
- Young people.
- Adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

Safeguarding policies

If, during the course of its work with Invest Local, a local fundholder has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults, or has access to information about them, it is responsible for safeguarding those people.

Each local fundholder has signed terms and conditions of funding with BCT, which state:

“If the activities you are planning involve working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults (such as elderly people or people with disabilities), you need to be sure that they will be safe. As a minimum, you must have a policy and explain how you will put this into practice. It is your responsibility to have acceptable protection policies and procedures for children, young people, and vulnerable adults in place. Any organisations that you pass Invest local funding onto must also accept these terms and conditions. BCT may ask to inspect these at any time for any organisation receiving funding from Invest Local.”

We do not expect Invest Local partnerships to run activities independent of their local Fundholder which involve working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. However, all people involved in Invest Local should be aware of and promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Warning signs:

- If a child or vulnerable adult tells you about something that has upset or harmed them.
- If someone else believes or tells you that a child or vulnerable adult has been/is being harmed.
- If a child or vulnerable adult show signs of physical injury for which there appears to be no explanation.
- If a child's or vulnerable adult's behaviour suggests he or she is being abused.
- If the behaviour or attitude of another adult towards a child or vulnerable adult worries you.
- If you witness worrying behaviour from one child to another.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) helps employers make safer recruitment decisions (including of volunteers) and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. It replaces the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). (Gov.uk).

Whether a volunteer involved in Invest Local or an Invest Local funded staff member needs a DBS check or not depends on the nature of their role. Organisations only need to carry out checks if a volunteer or staff member is in a position where they are working with children or vulnerable adults.

Members of an Invest Local partnership will not be required to have DBS checks unless they are working directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults. You can't ask for a DBS check unless there is an appropriate reason for doing so.

There are very specific rules on what types of roles require a DBS check. You can find out more here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-check-eligible-positions-guidance>

What to do if you are concerned

If it is an emergency, you should dial 999. If you are seeking medical attention, ask for the ambulance service. If the child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, ask for the police.

If you are worried about a child or vulnerable adult but it isn't an emergency, don't wait until you're certain. If you have any concerns about a child, contact the NSPCC's free

helpline service to speak to a counsellor (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) on 0808 800 5000 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

You can contact the NSPCC at any time to discuss concerns about a child, whether it's your own, a family member, a neighbour or a child in the community.

If you have concerns about a vulnerable adult, contact the Safeguarding Adults Board at your local authority. More details are available from your Invest Local Officer.

If you are concerned about how children, young people and vulnerable adults are protected during Invest Local activities, speak to your local Fundholder as they are the organisation with legal responsibility for ensuring the correct procedures are followed.