Children Safeguarding Strategy and Policy

1. Introduction

Although Live Well with Cancer (LWWC) doesn't provide specific services for children and young adults, many attend our events accompanied by their parents or guardians. This policy applies to all staff, including volunteers and trustees, at all levels within the organisation, and extends to sessional workers or anyone working on behalf of LWWC. It is to be read in conjunction with our Adult Safeguarding Policy.

The purpose of our strategy and policy is...

- To protect children and young people who come to Live Well with Cancer events, including the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide all staff with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

LWWC believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to acting in a way that protects them.

2. Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014

- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents, and carers; HM Government 2015.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of each child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal 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.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

3. Implementation

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through procedures and a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely, and sharing information about safeguarding.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, and training.

4. Role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Purpose of the role:

Strategic | *To take the lead role in ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place at Live Well with Cancer events to keep children and young people safe.*

Operational | *To promote the safety and welfare of children and young people using Live Well with Cancer services.*

Duties and responsibilities

1. Ensure that all issues concerning the safety and welfare of children and young people who attend Live Well with Cancer events are properly dealt with through policies, procedures, and administrative systems.

2. Make sure that all staff, volunteers, and trustees are made aware of the procedures and what they should do if they have concerns about a child or children.

3. Receive and record information from anyone who has concerns about a child who attends a Live Well with Cancer event.

4. Consult with, pass on information to, and receive information from statutory child protection agencies, such as the local authority children's social care department and the police. This includes making formal referrals to these agencies when necessary.

5. Offer support to staff and volunteers who have been involved in a safeguarding matter.

6. Consult with the NSPCC Helpline when such support is needed.

7. Be familiar with and work within local inter-agency child protection procedures developed by the local safeguarding children board.

8. Be familiar with issues relating to child protection and abuse, keeping up to date with new developments in this area.

9. Attend training in issues relevant to safeguarding from time to time and share knowledge from that training with workers and trustees.

Current Designated Safeguarding Officer

Name: **Maureen Elliott**
Email: info@livewellwithcancer.co.uk

5. Useful contacts

Local Police	**Emergency: 999** **Non-emergency: 101**
North Tyneside Council	**Office hours: 0345 2000 109**
Front Door service	**Evenings and weekends: (0191) 200 6800**
NSPCC Helpline	**0800 800 5000** **help@nspcc.org.uk**
Childline	**0800 1111** **www.childline.org.uk**
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)	**www.ceop.police.uk**

6. Document details

Organisation:	Live Well with Cancer
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Next review:	May 2027

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to updated regulations or guidance.