



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS' POLICY

for

Cure Myotonic Dystrophy UK Charity (CDM)

CureDM is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the following trustees:
Emma-Jayne Ashley, Peter Ashley, Stephen Uncles, Alison Kay, Tamsyn Tait, and Liam Garwood.

CureDM registered address is:
Riverside View, Station Rd, Whitton, DN15 9LR
Registered CIO number 1191217

CureDM is managed by a management team (the Team). The management team has responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and concerns should be raised with either of the named safeguarding officers, or any one of the named trustees.

Named Safeguarding Officers:

Emma-Jayne Ashley (emma@cmmmd.uk)

Stephen Uncles (stephen.uncles@sky.com)

The Team has adopted this safeguarding children and vulnerable adult's policy and expects every adult working or helping at CureDM to support it and comply with it. Consequently, this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students, or anyone working on behalf of CureDM, both in person and online.

Purpose of the Policy

- This policy is intended to protect children and young people who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us. This includes online and in person.
- As an organisation we believe that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

Risks to children and vulnerable adults

Most children grow up in a safe and happy environment and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children and vulnerable adults need protection including:

- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools and campuses
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime
- Exploitation



Recognising risks

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent
- The child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her
- Someone else—a child or adult, expresses concern about the welfare of another child
- Unexplained changes in behaviour—e.g. becoming very quiet, withdrawn, or displaying sudden outbursts of temper
- Inappropriate sexual awareness
- Engages in sexually explicit behaviour in games
- Is distrustful of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship will normally be expected
- Has difficulty in making friends
- Is prevented from socialising with other children
- Displays variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite
- Loses weight for no apparent reason
- Becomes increasingly dirty or unkempt.

We recognise that the above list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is actually taking place. It is not the responsibility of those working or volunteering for CureDM to decide that abuse is occurring, but it is their responsibility to act on any concerns.

Identifying and reporting concerns

- The Team will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of CureDM. A member of CureDM who discovers anything amiss should immediately report it to the trustees
- Any and all concerns raised must be accurately recorded, along with details on outcome.
- The trustees will review the allegation and the likely risk and, if appropriate, will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of CureDM.

If a person does not feel comfortable raising a safeguarding concern with either the named safeguarding officer or any of the other Charity Trustees, the following organisations can be contacted:

NSPCC help@nspcc.org.uk, 0808 800 5000

Mencap: helpline@mencap.org.uk, 0808 808 1111

Immediate concerns of a child or vulnerable person in immediate danger MUST be reported to the Police: 999

Universality of Protection

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- everyone regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.



- some children or young adults are more vulnerable to harm because of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.
- working with children, young people, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults at events / activities

There are four kinds of events/activities:

1. Those open to adults and children of all ages,
2. Those for children accompanied by a 'parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies',
3. Those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.
4. Those which are held virtually/online.

At events and activities open to all ages:

- children under 16 must be accompanied throughout by an adult of 18 or over who not only brings the child but also takes the child home again afterwards.
- In some situations, young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents and/or guardians. This won't apply to any persons considered vulnerable.

At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parents and/or guardians, or carer':

- children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards.
- If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them.
- In some situations, young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents and/or guardians. This won't apply to any persons considered vulnerable.

CureDM will not have any events where children can be left unattended.

Vulnerable Adult means a person over the age of 16 who has a disability or cognitive impairment and needs support from another person. CureDM cannot be responsible for vulnerable adults at their events and require a suitable and responsible parent/carer to be present.

Both event and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where CureDM will be providing a service.

Online/Virtual risks

- CureDM accepts there is an element of risk when holding online community groups, chats or events.
- Pages will be moderated to identify inappropriateness/bullying or harmful interactions and will be dealt with by the moderator.
- All aspects of this policy are relevant to online interactions.



Disclosure and barring

CureDM offers the following activities for children and vulnerable adults:

- Social get-togethers and family meet ups
- Online Peer Support pages
- Online/Virtual meetings
- Conferences / Training

Some of our activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo DBS and/or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking (if any) will broadly reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.

Trustee and Volunteer Training

All necessary CPD certified training will be provided by CureDM as deemed appropriate to the activity/service being provided:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/safeguarding-training-package-voluntary-groups>

Health and safety aspects of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

- Before starting any event, the Team will carry out a risk assessment and then take steps to minimise all risks to health and safety.
- Parents and/or guardians, or carers and children will be made aware in writing of any risks and of the steps to be taken to minimise those risks.
- The Team will keep a record of all risk assessments.

Policy on the prevention of bullying

We will not tolerate bullying either by adults or children. If any incident of child-on-child bullying should arise at a CureDM event, those involved will be separated immediately and the parents and/or guardians, or carer of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Team will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk. If appropriate, the Team will consider removing a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of CureDM. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with swiftly and relevant authorities will be notified where appropriate.

Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint

- Adults supervising children at CureDM events must never use any form of corporal punishment.
- If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used — but for that purpose only.
- Unacceptable behaviour at CureDM events will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. Those involved will be suitably supervised and will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents.
- CureDM may apply a further disciplinary sanction, e.g. banning of the child for a time appropriate to the behaviour. Any such sanction would be determined and applied by the trustees.
- A parent and/or guardian, or carer who is aggrieved by any sanctions may appeal to CureDM who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of CureDM is then final. Any such appeals should be made to, and will be determined by, the trustees.



Photographing children

No photos will be taken or published of any child attending an event or activity unless prior written permission is sought from a person with parental responsibility. If any person has any concerns regarding any person taking photos at an event or activity, that person should contact CureDM immediately.

Prevent Duty (2015)

There is due regard to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (The Counter Terrorism and Security Act). We must be alert to any reason for concern raised at any CureDM events or online platforms, including awareness of the expression of extremist views.

Free online training can be accessed here:

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

- 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
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice - Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services
- Working together to safeguard children (2017)

NOTE: This Policy is due for review every 1 year.