

# Angels of Hope for Women-Safeguarding Policy Children

---



*Policy Owner: Leah Chikamba*

*Policy approved by: Musha Zingano, Esnat Bota, Letty Ngonda, Saki Chowdhury & Tapiwa Kachipande*

*Date Policy approved: 03/01/2023*

*Next review Date: 03/01/2024*

Angels of Hope for Women will work with parents and the volunteers to ensure the children are safe and to give them the very best start in life. Children have the right to be treated with respect and to be safe from any abuse in whatever form.

To this end we will:

- Create an environment to encourage both children and adults to develop a positive self-image
- Encourage children to develop a sense of independence and autonomy in a way that is appropriate to their age and stage of development
- Provide a safe and secure environment for all children and adults
- Always listen to children and adults

Our prime responsibility is the welfare and well-being of all children and adults we are working with. As such we believe we have a duty to the children, parents/carers/ members and volunteers to act quickly and responsibly in any instance that may come to our attention.

All members/volunteers will be familiar with their own responsibilities to act swiftly upon any suspicions or concerns they may have about any child. We will follow the procedures set out in the Working Together to Safeguard Children Document and as such will seek advice on all steps taken subsequently. Angeles of Hope for Women has a duty to report any suspicions around abuse to the local authority that have an obligation to investigate such matters.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Members/volunteers must not make comment either publicly or in private about a parent's supposed or actual behaviour. Members/volunteers must raise any concerns initially with the named person who will then take appropriate action. Members/volunteers responsibilities do not include investigating the suspected abuse. However, they will keep accurate records of their

# Angels of Hope for Women-Safeguarding Policy Children

---



*Policy Owner: Leah Chikamba*

*Policy approved by: Musha Zingano, Esnat Bota, Letty Ngonda, Saki Chowdhury & Tapiwa Kachipande*

*Date Policy approved: 03/01/2023*

*Next review Date: 03/01/2024*

observations, signed and dated, and of anything said to them by the child or others in connection with the suspected abuse. This information will be kept locked.

It is always important to listen to children. Strict confidentiality will be observed at all times. All our members/volunteers will receive training on protection of children from abuse

Angels of Hope for Women aims to:

- Ensure that children are never placed at risk
- Ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times
- Ensure that all staff are familiar with child protection issues and procedures
- Regularly review and update this policy.

Parents and families will be treated with respect in a non- judgmental manner whilst investigations are carried out in the best interests of the child.

## **Contact telephone numbers**

- Social Services: 0161 225 5001

## **Types of abuse**

### **Physical abuse**

Action will be taken under this heading if members/volunteers have reason to believe that there has been a physical injury to a child, including deliberate poisoning; where there is definite knowledge, or reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented. If there appear to be any queries regarding the injury, the Child Protection Unit in the local authority will be notified.

### **Sexual abuse**

# Angels of Hope for Women-Safeguarding Policy Children

---



*Policy Owner: Leah Chikamba*

*Policy approved by: Musha Zingano, Esnat Bota, Letty Ngonda, Saki Chowdhury & Tapiwa Kachipande*

*Date Policy approved: 03/01/2023*

*Next review Date: 03/01/2024*

Action will be taken under this heading if the members/volunteers have witnessed occasions where a child indicated sexual activity through words, play, drawing, had an excessive pre-occupation with sexual matters, or had an inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour. The matter will be referred to the local authority.

## **Emotional abuse**

Action will be taken under this heading if the members/volunteers have reason to believe that there is a severe, adverse effect on the behaviour and emotional development of a child, caused by persistent or severe ill treatment or rejection. If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances, the matter will be referred to the local authority.

## **Neglect**

Action will be taken under this heading if the members/volunteers have reason to believe that there has been persistent or severe neglect of a child (for example, by exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation) which results in serious impairment of the child's health or development, including failure to thrive. If there appear to be any queries regarding the circumstances the local authority will be notified.

All members/volunteers will hold a current clean DBS and attend Safeguarding training once they join the organisation

## **Signs of abuse**

### **Signs of physical abuse**

- bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, and rope marks
- broken bones
- open wounds, cuts, punctures, untreated injuries in various stages of healing

# Angels of Hope for Women-Safeguarding Policy Children

---



*Policy Owner: Leah Chikamba*

*Policy approved by: Musha Zingano, Esnat Bota, Letty Ngonda, Saki Chowdhury & Tapiwa Kachipande*

*Date Policy approved: 03/01/2023*

*Next review Date: 03/01/2024*

- broken eyeglasses/frames, or any physical signs of being punished or restrained
- individual's report being hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated
- vulnerable adult's sudden change in behaviour
- the caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see a vulnerable adult alone

## **Signs of sexual abuse**

- bruises around the breasts or genital area
- unexplained venereal disease or genital infections
- unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding
- torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- an individual's report of being sexually assaulted or raped

## **Signs of mental mistreatment/emotional abuse**

- being emotionally upset or agitated
- being extremely withdrawn and non-communicative or non-responsive
- unusual behaviour usually attributed to dementia (e.g., sucking, biting, rocking)
- nervousness around certain people
- an individual's report of being verbally or mentally mistreated

## **Signs of neglect**

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores and poor personal hygiene
- unattended or untreated health problems
- hazardous or unsafe living condition (e.g., improper wiring, no heat or running water)

# Angels of Hope for Women-Safeguarding Policy Children

---



*Policy Owner: Leah Chikamba*

*Policy approved by: Musha Zingano, Esnat Bota, Letty Ngonda, Saki Chowdhury & Tapiwa Kachipande*

*Date Policy approved: 03/01/2023*

*Next review Date: 03/01/2024*

- unsanitary and unclean living conditions (e.g., dirt, fleas, lice on person, soiled bedding, faecal/urine smell, inadequate clothing)
- an individual's report of being mistreated

## **Signs of self-neglect**

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene
- hazardous or unsafe living conditions
- unsanitary or unclean living quarters (e.g., animal/insect infestation, no functioning toilet, faecal or urine smell)
- inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids
- grossly inadequate housing or homelessness
- inadequate medical care, not taking prescribed medications properly

## **Staffing and volunteering**

We have a named person within the organisation that co-ordinates child protection issues. The designated person undertakes specific training and accesses regular updates to developments within this field.

The named Designated person regarding Child Protection/Safeguarding is **Leah Chikamba** and can be contacted on **07940411897**

## **Reporting Procedures**

## Angels of Hope for Women-Safeguarding Policy Children

---



*Policy Owner: Leah Chikamba*

*Policy approved by: Musha Zingano, Esnat Bota, Letty Ngonda, Saki Chowdhury & Tapiwa Kachipande*

*Date Policy approved: 03/01/2023*

*Next review Date: 03/01/2024*

If the allegation against a member of staff or a volunteer, the allegation must be reported immediately, at least within one working day, to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (**Leah Chikamba**). If the allegation is against the Designated Safeguarding Officer, then the allegation must be reported to the Trustees. The Designated Safeguarding Officer (or the Trustees) must then report the allegation to the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) on the same day. (See Appendix 1)

LADO's details

Email: [quality.assurance@manchester.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:quality.assurance@manchester.gcsx.gov.uk)

Telephone: **0161 234 1214**

### **Confidentiality**

All suspicions and investigations are kept confidential and shared only with those who need to know. Any information is shared under the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Board.

This policy works in line with the Adults Safeguarding Policy.