



Child & Adult at Risk Protection Policy

Reviewed: August 2025
Next Review Due: August 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is central to all our work with children, young people, and adults at risk.

Dave & Ewe has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people, and to protect adults at risk from abuse or the risk of abuse.

This policy is underpinned by the following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 (where relevant)
- Care Act 2014
- Health and Social Care Act 2008
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty)

2. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all staff, trustees, and volunteers at Dave & Ewe who work directly or indirectly with children, young people, or adults at risk.

Children and young people are defined as anyone under the age of 18.

Adults at risk are defined under the Care Act (2014) as those aged 18 or over who:

- have needs for care and support,
- are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of their care and support needs, are unable to protect themselves.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if statutory guidance changes.

3. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

This policy sets out how Dave & Ewe safeguards children, young people, and adults at risk. It ensures:

- Everyone understands their safeguarding responsibilities.
- All staff and volunteers follow the same procedures.
- Concerns are reported promptly to the appropriate safeguarding authorities.
- A culture of safety, accountability, and transparency is maintained.
- Confidentiality is respected while ensuring safeguarding needs are met.

4. OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Safe Ethos

- Safeguarding is at the heart of all organisational practice.
- We listen to children, young people, and adults at risk and respect their views.
- We ensure fair access to services regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or any protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010).

Safe Environment

- Premises, activities, and resources are risk assessed.
- Children's rights, wishes, and feelings are respected.
- Discrimination, degrading treatment, or unsafe practice is not tolerated.

Safe Processes

- Allegations and concerns are taken seriously, responded to promptly, and referred appropriately.
- Roles and responsibilities are clear.
- Information is shared in line with data protection and safeguarding law.
- Safe Information
- Records are accurate, secure, and shared only with those who need to know.
- Service users are informed about how their information is used.

Safe Staff

- Safer recruitment is followed, including Enhanced DBS checks.
- Staff, and volunteers receive safeguarding induction and ongoing training.
- Safeguarding supervision and support are available.
- Everyone understands their role in safeguarding.

5. FORMS OF ABUSE

Children

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment, including:

- Physical abuse – hitting, burning, poisoning, fabricated illness.
- Emotional abuse – humiliation, threats, rejection, exposure to domestic abuse.
- Sexual abuse & exploitation – contact or non-contact, including online abuse.
- Neglect – failure to meet physical, medical, emotional, or supervisory needs.
- Child criminal exploitation (CCE) – including county lines.
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) – manipulation, coercion, or abuse for gain.
- Bullying & cyberbullying – repeated harmful behaviour including online.
- Self-harm – including eating disorders and substance misuse.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – a criminal offence.

- Forced marriage & so-called honour-based abuse.
- Trafficking and modern slavery.

Adults at Risk

Types of abuse include:

- Physical – hitting, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint.
- Sexual – rape, sexual assault, exploitation.
- Emotional/Psychological – intimidation, humiliation, controlling behaviour.
- Financial/Material – theft, fraud, exploitation.
- Neglect/Acts of Omission – failure to provide care, access to services, or medical treatment.
- Discriminatory – harassment or abuse based on race, gender, disability, sexuality, or beliefs.

6. PROCEDURE FOR MAKING A REFERRAL

Step 1: Receive a Disclosure or Concern

- Listen carefully, without judgment.
- Do not ask leading questions.
- Reassure the individual they did the right thing by speaking up.
- Explain what will happen next and who you will share the information with.

Step 2: Record

- Write a clear record in the person's own words where possible.
- Include: who raised the concern, details of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator, date/time, and how the information was received (conversation, text, email, etc.).
- Sign and date the record.

Step 3: Report

Immediately report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy.

The DSL will contact the appropriate authority within one working day:

- Children's Social Care / MASH/IFD (if child at risk).
- Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team (if adult at risk).
- Police if a crime is suspected.

Step 4: Do Not

- Confront or inform the alleged perpetrator.
- Promise confidentiality.
- Delay reporting to gather more evidence.

Step 5: Record Actions Taken

- Keep a secure record of all actions and decisions.
- Take part in any safeguarding review to improve practice.

Policy Reviewed: August 2025

Signed:Dave...Buscombe.....

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