

## SASH Safeguarding Policy

*This version has been co-produced in April 2025 by the Supporting SASH group and designed to be a more accessible version of the full SASH Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Policy.*

### What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is all about making sure people are **safe**, especially **children, young people, and adults who need extra help**. It's about protecting you from abuse, neglect, or anything that might harm you, physically or emotionally.

### Who Does This Policy Apply To?

Everyone at SASH—**staff, volunteers, hosts, and trustees**—must follow this policy to help keep people safe.

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### Types of Abuse You Should Know About:

Abuse isn't always physical. It can take many forms:

- **Physical** – hurting someone (hitting, slapping, etc.)
  - **Sexual** – touching inappropriately or forcing someone into sexual activity
  - **Emotional** – bullying, threats, or constantly putting someone down
  - **Neglect** – not looking after someone properly (not giving food, warmth, or medical care)
  - **Financial** – stealing someone's money or belongings
  - **Online abuse** – grooming, threats, or sharing private pictures without consent
  - **Discrimination** – treating someone badly because of their race, gender, disability, or sexuality
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### What to Do if You're Worried About Yourself or Someone Else:

If something doesn't feel right or someone tells you something that worries you:

1. **Tell someone you trust**—a SASH worker, your host, or another trusted adult.
  2. You can also **call SASH's out-of-hours emergency number: 01904 659 610**
  3. You won't be in trouble for speaking up—and you will be taken seriously.
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### What Happens After You Report It?

- The **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** is the main person who takes action. Their job is to look into the issue and make sure everyone is safe.
  - If needed, they'll contact outside professionals like social workers or the police.
  - You might be moved to a new place to stay if your current placement isn't safe.
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### Your Rights:

- You have the right to **feel safe**.
  - You have the right to **speak up** if something feels wrong.
  - You have the right to **support** if you've experienced abuse.
  - If you're over 16, it's assumed you can make your own choices—unless there's a reason to think you can't. SASH will always support your independence while keeping you safe.
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### Extra Support:

- If you're feeling **low, self-harming, or having thoughts about suicide**, SASH will help you get support.

- If something happens **online**—like grooming or bullying—you'll be encouraged to report it to **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command)**.
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#### **A Note on SASH Hosts:**

- Hosts are the people who let young people stay in their homes through SASH.
  - They're **checked and trained** to keep you safe.
  - If anything ever makes you uncomfortable in a host home, let someone know **immediately**. You'll be moved somewhere safe if needed.
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#### **How SASH Trains Staff and Hosts:**

- Everyone who works or hosts for SASH must do **safeguarding training**.
  - They also go through background checks to make sure they're safe to work with young people.
  - Hosts get a handbook with all the rules and expectations.
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#### **What If an Adult Is Being Abused by a Young Person?**

If a young person is acting abusively toward a host or staff member, it's still taken seriously. Everyone has the right to feel safe—regardless of age.

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#### **Safeguarding Is Everyone's Responsibility**

If you're ever unsure about something, **ask**. If you're ever scared, **speak up**. If something bad happens, **you are not alone**—there are people who want to help.

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