

Ten actions trustee boards need to take to ensure good safeguarding governance

1. Make safeguarding a priority

Village halls and community buildings must, as a matter of good practice and risk management, make the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults a priority.

2. Conduct an honest assessment

Your organisation needs to conduct an honest assessment of where their practice currently sits. You need to identify any possible risks, including risks to your beneficiaries or to anyone else connected to your charity and any emerging risks on the horizon.

3. Ensure adequate safeguarding policies and procedures are in place

Regularly review and update the policies and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose. Everyone in the charity should know how to recognise, respond to, report and record a safeguarding concern.

4. Embed a culture of safeguarding

The goal for all charities or organisations should be a culture in which safeguarding issues are tackled proactively and where good safeguarding is embedded in the culture.

5. Engage professionals with safeguarding expertise

It is important to ensure that the person leading on safeguarding has sufficient training, skills and experience for the role. Regularly evaluate any safeguarding training provided, ensuring it is current and relevant.

6. Review which posts within the charity can and must have a DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service

Have a risk assessment in place for posts which do not qualify for a DBS check, but which still have contact with children or adults at risk.

7. Deal with cases as they arise

All safeguarding concerns must be dealt with promptly. For the purposes of safeguarding everyone, no matter how valuable, long-serving or favoured, should follow due process.

8. Learn from past cases

If and when safeguarding concerns are reported in your organisation, use them as a learning tool. Conduct a review of what happened, how the organisation responded, what was done well and what could be improved upon. Take the opportunity to review your procedures in light of the case in question to see whether any amendments are in order.

9. Learn from other sectors

Other sectors can be a huge source of learning when it comes to looking to improve your safeguarding practice. Sharing knowledge and ideas about how common challenges are most effectively tackled can be very valuable.

10. Make links

Making strong links to national sources of information and advice such as the local safeguarding children's boards is essential to achieving good safeguarding. Your county and local councils and community support organisations will have safeguarding policies and information on their websites for you to access.

Please contact Community First Yorkshire for any more information on this resource: info@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk. Please see our [Training and Resources](#) for further guidance around safeguarding in your setting.

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