**Warrington Youth Cabinet- Safeguarding Policy**

The purpose of this policy is:

* To protect children and young people who take part in what the Youth Cabinet has to offer from harm. This includes children of adults who use our services.
* To provide overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Warrington Youth Cabinet.

The Chief Officers and Chair of the Advisory and Support Committee have overall and final responsibility of any safeguarding issues.

Senior Corporate Affairs officers and Senior Management Team (SMT) have day-to-day and operational responsibility for ensuring this policy is put in place.

We believe that:

* Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
* We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

* The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
* All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
* Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
* Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

* Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
* Adopting child protection and safeguarding guidelines through our procedures and our code of conduct
* Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made (DBS)
* Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
* Using our safeguarding policies to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involving people appropriately.
* Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment.
* Applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
* Ensuring that adults aren’t alone in a room with minors
* Risk assessing any Cabinet activities

Procedures:

* If any safeguarding or child protection issues are found or suspected, the person who finds or suspects the issue must go directly the Support and Advisory Committee and must inform SMT that they have spoken to the Committee about a safeguarding issue (without revealing any details of the case).
* All volunteers at Warrington Youth Cabinet and its user groups must ensure that they know the child protection procedures that are in force and who is responsible for child protection issues (as mentioned previously).
* **Under no circumstances should you speak to or confront the abuser.  Do not share suspicions or information with any other person other than the Committee MASH and the Police.  Information given to MASH or the Police will be taken seriously, handled sensitively and shared only on a ‘need to know’ basis, wholly to protect the child. However, in order to ensure that children are safeguarded based on proper evidence, the source of the referral cannot be kept anonymous.**