

### **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy**

Make it Better (mitber) CIC supports communities to live well through the arts. Mitber sees protecting the children and young people we work with from harm and abuse as an essential part of helping communities to live well. It is all our responsibilities to promote the welfare of children and young people.

**We will keep children and young people safe by-** Assessing situations, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Making connections in the local community and working with other agencies.

**We will listen to concerns by-** Identifying and understanding children and young peoples views and wishes to solve problems and improve their lives. Challenging beliefs that conflict with ours whilst acknowledging when we make mistakes ourselves.

**We will respond to concerns by-** Documenting and sharing information with relevant agencies, working with consent if at all possible. Ensuring that people can easily find out what they need to do if they have a concern about the abuse of children or young people. Whilst supporting children and young people to make their own informed choices and enabling positive risk- taking.

**We will create a safe environment by-**

- Training professional staff and volunteers
- Carrying out enhanced DBS checks for staff and volunteers
- Mentoring staff and volunteers
- Safely using our media and imagery with consent
- Addressing issues of concern on the spot and following these up
- Making sure that employees and volunteers are recruited safely

### **Referenced law**

Childrens Act 2004

Definition:

A child is “anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ‘Children’ therefore means ‘children and young people’ throughout. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate for children and young people, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989. (See Children’s Act 2004)

#### Key Principles:

Effective safeguarding arrangements in every local area should be underpinned by two key principles:

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- a child-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children.

#### The Care Act 2014

- Consideration is given to your views, wishes, feelings and beliefs, as you know best.
- Your wellbeing comes first in order to reduce the use of support now and looking ahead; family and friend's wellbeing should be considered too.
- Decisions are made with your involvement and with your circumstances in mind.
- We should always work to protect you and others from abuse and neglect.
- We should ensure that any actions taken to support or protect you affect your rights and freedom as little as possible.

#### The Mental Capacity Act 2005

- Protect people that are unable to make decisions without help.
- Use advocacy to help individuals with decision-making.
- Make decisions with others for a persons best interests if they are unable to do so.
- Help individuals to plan their futures and look forward.

#### Serious Crime Act 2015

- Identify repeated or continuous controlling behavior, force and or threats between people who are personally connected.
- Identify behaviour that is designed to intimidate or cause fear of violence on two or more occasions and which impacts on day-to-day life.

#### **Mitber Equality Statement**

Make it Better (mitber) CIC aims to support communities to live well through the arts. Mitber sees protecting the people we work with from harm and abuse as an essential part of helping them to live well.

- A community that lives well, feels diverse, sounds positive and is active.
- Mitber will not discriminate against characteristics such as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex.

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- Mitber challenges any forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination.
- Mitber works creatively to give everyone the right to a meaningful role.
- At Mitber we define roles to each persons ability, not by their individual characteristics.
- Mitber is a community that lives well by recognising that everyone has something valuable to contribute.
- Mitber will challenge discrimination in all its activities.

**This policy applies to staff, board members, volunteers, organisations who have a working relationship with us. 7/9/22**

#### Contact details

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