



## **Child Safeguarding Policy**

### **Purpose and scope of this policy statement**

SUSTENTO The Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations works with people with disabilities, including their children and families and children with disabilities.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive SUSTENTO's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of SUSTENTO], including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and students.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in Latvia.

### **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 the child is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal 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
- appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead, a deputy child protection/safeguarding lead and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding
- developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- sharing information about child protection and safeguarding best practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures
- implementing a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- recording and storing information professionally and securely.

## **Reporting procedure for dealing with disclosures, concerns or allegations of child abuse**

1. The employee or volunteer who has received a disclosure of child abuse or who has concerns about a child should bring them to the attention of the Designated Liaison Person immediately.

2. Under no circumstances should a child be left in a situation that exposes him or her to harm or of risk to harm. In the event of an emergency where you think a child is in immediate danger you should contact child protection services/the police.

Examples of reasonable grounds for concern are:

- specific indication from the child that he/she was abused;
- an account by the person who saw the child being abused;
- evidence, such as an injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and unlikely to be caused in another way;
- an injury or behaviour which is consistent with abuse and with an innocent explanation but where there are corroborative indicators supporting the concern that it may be a case of abuse. An example of this would be a pattern of injuries, an implausible explanation, other indications of abuse, dysfunctional behaviour;
- Consistent indication over a period of time that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect.

## Contact details

### Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection

Name: Gunta Anča, Chairperson of SUSTENTO The Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice **annually**.

This policy was last reviewed on: 16.01.2024

Signed:

Gunta Anča

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Anča', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or stamp.