

Purpose and Scope

1. The purpose and scope of this policy overview:

The Dundonald Elim Church Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre (DEDEAC) works with young people between the ages of 14 and 25 years to prepare them for future life.

The purpose of this Policy Statement Overview is to remind all concerned with DofE activities that we must:

- Protect and support participants, leaders and people who engage with the DEDEAC, and,
- To inform parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to Safeguarding.

2. Available to:

This overview is available to anyone who is listed below and those who have an interest in the Dundonald Elim Duke of Edinburgh's approach to Safeguarding.

3. Applicable to:

The Safeguarding Policy applies to everyone engaged with DEDEAC. This includes those who lead, our volunteers, any subject matter specialists, those who work directly with participants, and the participants themselves.

4. Legal framework:

The Safeguarding Policy has been drawn up by Dundonald Elim Church and Dundonald Elim DofE Leaders on the basis of legislation, policy, guidance and best current practice that seeks to protect those participating in Northern Ireland.

5. We believe that:

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

6. We recognise that:

- The welfare of participants is paramount
- Participants, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some participants may be additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues

- Working in partnership with participants, their parents, guardians, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

7. We will seek to keep participants safe by:

- a) Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- b) Seeking the support of our Safeguarding Officer, and her Deputy.
- c) Fully utilising The Dundonald Elim Safeguarding Policy and DofE focused Addendum procedures which reflect best practice.
- d) Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving our participants, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- e) Maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- f) Sharing information about safeguarding best practice with participants, their families, staff and volunteers via the most appropriate means.
- g) Recruiting leaders and volunteers in compliance with the Safeguarding Policy, ensuring all necessary checks are made and records are maintained.
- h) Providing effective management for leaders and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures.
- i) Using our procedures to manage any allegations against leaders or volunteers appropriately and in compliance with the Safeguarding Policy requirements.
- j) Following the published complaints and whistleblowing measures in place.
- k) Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our participants, leaders, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law, regulatory guidance, and recognised best practice.
- l) Accurately recording and storing information professionally and securely.
- m) Child protection records retention, storage and disposal policy.