

## Balloon Safeguarding Policy

### Policy Summary

The Safeguarding Policy outlines Balloon's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the children and young people we come in to contact with in line with UK law and policy. Further it lays out our commitment to safeguard children, young and vulnerable groups as part of our Safety and Security Framework.

### Scope

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers, including those attached to Balloon but not permanently employed (e.g. journalists). This policy sits within the broader Safety and Security Framework and forms one of the supplementary policies of the Safety and Security Policy. This policy relates to the Incident Reporting Policy and the Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- To protect children, and young people who participate in our programmes or interact with those that do. Including, but not limited to: staff, volunteers, partners, entrepreneurs and residents in host homes;
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding;
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance for spotting, reporting and disclosing safeguarding-related concerns.

Balloon believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people. We are committed to delivering all aspects of our work in a way that keeps them safe and protected at all times.

### Balloon's Scope of work with Children and Young People

Balloon recruits, trains and supports young people (volunteers) from around the world to work with other young people in the global south who want to set up and grow their own business (entrepreneurs). All volunteers and entrepreneurs we work with are over 18; the vast majority are no older than 25. Our volunteers live in host homes while on placement and we recognise our responsibility to the children that may be living in those homes.

Balloon is committed to recruiting and supporting a diverse body of volunteers and entrepreneurs. This diversity is a key strength of our approach. It does mean however, that some of the young people we work with are more likely to be additionally vulnerable to harm.

We believe that young people can do amazing things – making a real difference in the world and we treat them with respect and dignity so that they feel empowered to do this. We require all our staff, volunteers and partners to demonstrate and be driven by the same values; respect, dignity and empowerment.

## Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in line with UK law and policy guidance that seeks to protect children and young people, namely:

- Children Act 1989;
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991;
- Data protection Act 1998;
- Sexual Offences Act 20113;
- Children Act 3004;
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

## Definition of Safeguarding

The UN defines a young person as someone aged between 15 and 24 years old. For the purposes of this policy, safeguarding is the action necessary to protect children and young people from abuse and maltreatment so as to prevent impairment of their health, development and/or a violation of their human rights. It aims to ensure that children and young people can develop in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, where their inherent worth and dignity are protected and they have optimum life chances.

## Guiding Principles

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989;
- All children and young people, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse;
- Some children and young people are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues. Balloon will always take these into account, where they are known;
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

## Approach to Safeguarding

Balloon will seek to keep Children and Young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them;
- Providing effective management of staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training;
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks (DBS) are made;

- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with staff and volunteers;
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and young people appropriately.

## **Duty to Report**

All Balloon staff and volunteers are required to report any safeguarding issues to their Line Manager/Programme Coordinator (in line with Balloon's Incident Reporting Policy). However, reporting of Safeguarding issues should be done with confidentiality. Staff response to safeguarding issues should be in line with the Responding to Safeguarding Issues Procedures.

If you believe anyone is in imminent danger, you must report this immediately to the Country Emergency Phone.