

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Author & Board member</u>	<u>Date to Review</u>	<u>Responsible staff</u>
Safeguarding Statement	Samantha Johnson: CEO	July 2021	All – youth worker to update

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Keeping children and young people safe is everyone's responsibility

ECHO - Evelina Children's Heart Organisation - is committed to delivering a service for children and young adults with congenital & acquired heart disease that complies with safeguarding and safe working practice guidelines. We have a duty of care to make sure all our staff and volunteers are trained and equipped to provide a safe and supportive environment for every child under the age of 18 who accesses our services.

At ECHO we understand our statutory responsibility to keep children and young people safe, and to promote their well-being. All of our working practices will adhere to policies and procedures relating to both child and adult safeguarding practice.

At ECHO, we recognise that the child's welfare is paramount. All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse and we have policies in place which inform the organisation, and individuals within it, how to respond in situations where abuse is suspected.

ECHO will work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that any risk to those we work with is acknowledged and responded to quickly and effectively.

ECHO is committed to the provision of child protection training for all our team members, with additional supervision and support, to ensure effective safeguarding. Our child protection policy is reviewed on an annual basis, informed by the National guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015*, in accordance with the *Children Act, 2004* and the *Children Act, 1989* and *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act, 2006*. The policy is shared with all new ECHO employees, volunteers and trustees.

ECHO will continue to work to national and local safeguarding policy including Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and protocols, and will keep up to date with future changes in safeguarding and safe working practice policy.

ECHO staff, trustees, sessional workers and volunteers are trained on our Child Protection Policy as part of their induction, and on an ongoing basis through annual refreshers. All the above named people must know how to communicate and record concerns and know to act upon concerns in line with our policies to Safeguard Children.

In addition, the ECHO staff team hold policy review meetings every two weeks as part of their regular staff meetings, ensuring all staff are fully briefed on all ECHO policies on a regular basis across the year.

All children and young people in contact with ECHO Children's Charity will:

- Be treated with respect
- Be listened to and taken seriously, whatever their level of development or communication
- Be given time to do things for themselves, to understand and be understood
- Be involved in decisions that affect them
- Have their privacy respected at all times and in all places
- Have a right to confidentiality – all information about them will be treated carefully, be kept safe and only shared with those people who need to know.

Visit our website for our Child Protection Policy or if you need to report a safeguarding concern: <https://echo-uk.org/about-us/policies/>

ECHO commits to reviewing policies regularly with our board of trustees. We have a named policy contact on the board, and we ensure all ECHO policies are reviewed throughout the year as part of policy review sessions every two weeks.

The wellbeing of a child or young person is the paramount consideration in all circumstances.

Our CEO is available for any questions or comment regarding safeguarding: samantha@echo-uk.org.uk 0207 998 4710 www.echo-uk.org