

## Working Together to Safeguard Children – summary for Associates

### What is Working Together to Safeguard Children?

Working Together to Safeguard Children (usually referred to as just Working Together) is statutory guidance produced by the government which outlines how practitioners working with children, young people and families should work together in order to ensure that children and young people remain safe from harm. In this guidance child is defined as anybody under the age of eighteen; though the guidance does also apply to the safeguarding of unborn children.

### Why do we have Working Together?

The Working Together statutory guidance was initially published in 1999 and set out how all agencies and professionals should work together to promote children's welfare and protect them from abuse and neglect.

### December 2023 Update

The Department for Education (DfE) published the latest edition of its statutory guidance Working together to safeguard children in December 2023.

The guidance outlines what organisations and agencies must and should do to help, protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people under the age of 18 in England.

### Why do you need to know about this document?

Working together is aimed at

- local authorities and district councils that provide children's and other types of services,
- the NHS organisations and agencies and the independent sector,
- the police, including Police and Crime Commissioners and the chief officer of each police force in England and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime where they exist,
- the British Transport Police,
- the Probation Service ,
- governors or directors of prisons and young offender institutions (YOIs),
- directors of secure training centres (STCs) and
- youth offending teams (YOTs)

But as you can see from the direct quote below, you have a crucial role in safeguarding children and may be asked to assist with an agency who is responsible for carrying out this statutory guidance.

The document points out that many grass-roots organisations or providers like yourselves

"... provide education and activities for children as part of their work. Similar to staff in schools and colleges, the staff and volunteers working with children in these settings will often play an important role in building relationships, identifying concerns, and providing direct support to children; they can often be the first trusted adult to whom a child reports abuse. **Therefore, many of these organisations will have a crucial role to play in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.**"

### Further reading

Please find the updated Working Together document [here](#)

A summary of the recent changes can be found [here](#)

A briefing from the NSPCC can be found [here](#)