RIGHT TO CHILDHOOD

Protect Children.
Strengthen Families.

# Safeguarding at Right to Childhood

**A brief overview of how we incorporate safeguarding into everything we do.**

October 2026

# Our commitment to Safeguarding

**At Right to Childhood, we work with trusted local partners to support programmes that strengthen families, protect children, and help communities create lasting change. Across everything we do, the safety, dignity and wellbeing of children, young people and adults at risk remains our highest priority.**

## Our approach

Safeguarding is not separate from our mission, it is fundamental to it. It is embedded in how we operate, how we fund programmes, how we work with partners and how we hold ourselves and others accountable. We are committed to creating environments where people are protected from harm, concerns can be raised safely, and learning drives continuous improvement.

### Accountability

Accountability is a key tenet of any transparent organisation that operates with good governance.

In recent years we have strengthened organisational governance through:

- Increased oversight of the programmes we fund
- A robust due diligence process
- A safeguarding strategy and framework
- Increased scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements
- Greater alignment between HR and Safeguarding through joining the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme
- Clearer accountability for safeguarding performance
- External audits in safeguarding and governance

Regular monitoring and learning also play an important role in assessing progress and identifying areas for further improvement.

We embed safeguarding considerations into strategic decision-making (including at Board level), risk management and organisational planning, helping to ensure that safeguarding remains a core organisational priority.

### Better Systems and Learning

We have worked to develop more robust safeguarding systems and processes. Our preventative approach has evolved to one that is increasingly proactive. We believe in being risk-based and informed, and we centre our safeguarding work on continuous learning.

As a result, we have strengthened policies and procedures, improved incident reporting and response processes, enhanced risk management practices and introduced mechanisms and systems that support learning from safeguarding concerns, audits and reviews.

These improvements help us identify risks earlier, respond more effectively and ensure that lessons learned lead to meaningful organisational change.

### Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

Preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) is a fundamental aspect of our safeguarding work. We expect high standards of conduct across all aspects of our organisation and partnerships.

We promote safe working cultures, encourage concerns to be raised and are committed to responding appropriately when issues are identified. Safeguarding and PSEAH considerations are integrated into our HR, policies, partnership expectations and organisational learning processes.

## How we work with our local partners

Because we work with local organisations and community-based partners, safeguarding within partnerships is critical to achieving our mission responsibly. We recognise that effective safeguarding requires both accountability and collaboration. Strong safeguarding is built through partnership, shared learning and mutual commitment to protecting children and adults at risk. We work with our local implementing partners to:

- Carry out safeguarding due diligence before partnerships begin and assess safeguarding risks
- Include safeguarding requirements and minimum standards within funding arrangements
- Maintain ongoing engagement with partners to monitor and strengthen safeguarding practice.

Where additional support is needed, i.e. in complex, high-risk or humanitarian settings, we take additional measures to work alongside partners to strengthen safeguarding capability through collaboration, action plans, strengthened agreements and safeguarding sub-committees providing support, guidance, discussion and learning opportunities.

This risk-based approach helps ensure that safeguarding expectations are clear while recognising the diverse and challenging contexts in which our partners operate.

## Looking ahead

As Right to Childhood continues to evolve, our goal is not simply to meet safeguarding standards. It is to create and sustain an organisation where the safety, rights, dignity and wellbeing of children and adults at risk are reflected in every partnership, programme and decision we make.

We recognise that safeguarding is a journey, not a destination, and we are committed to continuous improvement.

Our priorities include:

- Continuing to strengthen organisational accountability and assurance
- Deepening safeguarding culture across the organisation
- Increasing the participation of children, young people and communities in shaping safeguarding and our overall approach
- Strengthening safeguarding capability within partner organisations where agreed
- Improving organisational learning and insight through data, monitoring and review
- Sharing learning and contributing to safeguarding improvements across the wider sector

We know that trust must be earned through action and maintained over time. Safeguarding will therefore remain a defining part of who we are and how we work. We also recognise that policies and systems alone do not keep people safe. We are committed to a strong safeguarding culture where people feel able to speak up and report concerns without fear of repercussion.

Right to Childhood is committed to listening, learning and continually improving so that safeguarding remains at the heart of our organisation and the communities we exist to serve.