

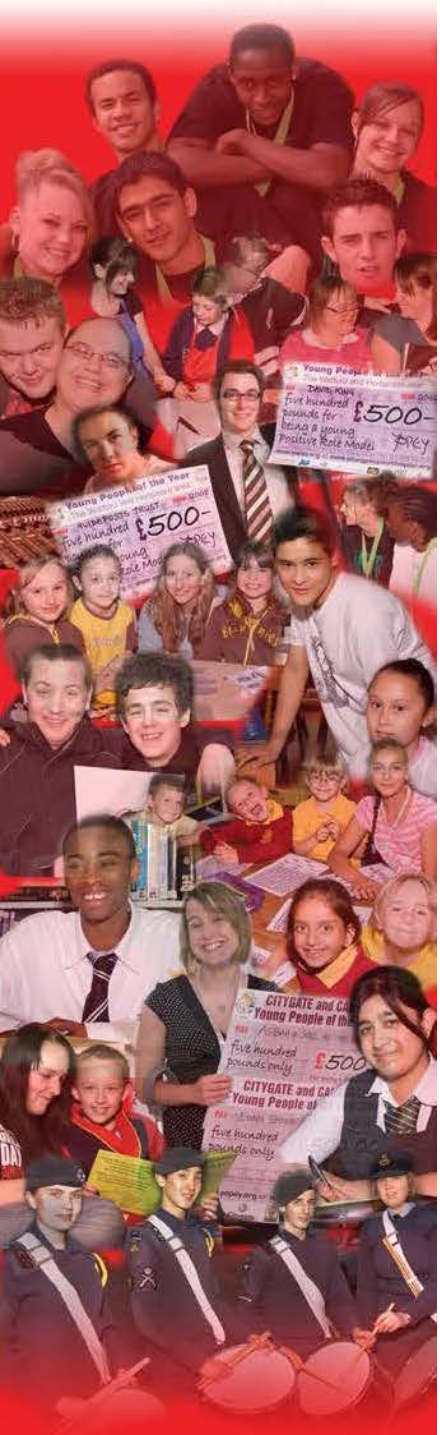
Revealing, Recognising, Rewarding Positive Role Models

YOPEY – the Young People of the Year charity

Woodfarm Cottage, Bury Road, Stradishall, Newmarket. CB8 8YN
01440 821654 or 07711 255 675
websites yopey.org & yopeybefriender.org
email hello@yopey.org

Name Surname
YOPEY job title
Address
Address
Town Postcode

21 September 2026



YOPEY was formally known as Young People of the Year and still uses this title where appropriate.

The YOPEY Child Protection Policy

As an adult in the YOPEY (Young People of the Year) movement, you have a responsibility to ensure that young people are protected from harm.

It is the responsibility of each adult in YOPEY to ensure that:
- their behaviour is appropriate at all times
- they observe the rules established for the safety and security of young people
- they follow the procedures following suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse
- they recognise the position of trust in which they have been placed; and
- in every respect, the relationships they form with young people in their care are appropriate

All adults in YOPEY must accept and understand this policy. They must also agree to put the YOPEY's policy on child protection into practice. They must also agree to be DBS checked where they work or volunteer for this charity with children.

Meeting your responsibilities

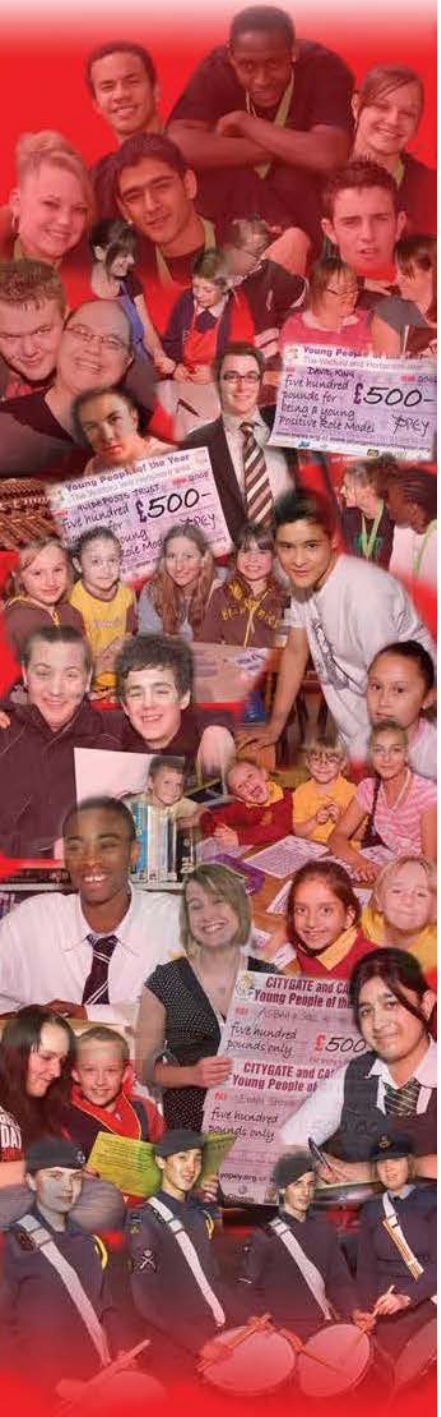
To give positive guidance the YOPEY Child Protection Policy sets out a code of behaviour. It is essential that all adults in YOPEY follow this code. The 'do's and 'don'ts' below can help you ensure that:
- the welfare of the young people for whom you have a duty of care is safeguarded
- you avoid compromising situations or opportunities for misunderstandings or allegations

Every Adult, who works or volunteers for YOPEY, should have a copy of the YOPEY Child Protection Policy.

DO put this code into practice at all times
DO treat everyone with dignity and respect
DO set an example you would wish others to follow
DO treat all young people equally. Show no favouritism
DO conduct your YOPEY work where you are in contact with young people that it involves more than one other person being present

YOPEY registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales as charity number 1145573
Registered with the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales as company number 7751145
Registered address: Woodfarm Cottage, Bury Road, Stradishall, Newmarket CB8 8YN





Revealing, Recognising, Rewarding Positive Role Models

DO avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust e.g. a sexual relationship with a young person in YOPEY over the age of consent
DO have separate sleeping accommodation for young people and adults working away from home for YOPEY
DO allow young people to talk about any concerns they may have
DO encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like
DO avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention seeking behaviour e.g. tantrums and crushes
DO follow the YOPEY's 'no alcohol, no smoking and no recreational drugs' guidance when young people are in your care
DO make everyone aware of the YOPEY's child protection procedures - young people, parents/carers,volunteer helpers, freelance workers
DO remember this code even at sensitive moments e.g. when responding to bullying, bereavement or abuse
DO keep other YOPEY adults informed of where you are and what you are doing
DO remember someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
DO take any allegations or concerns of abuse seriously and refer immediately

DO NOT trivialise abuse
DO NOT form a relationship with a young person that is an abuse of trust
DO NOT permit abusive peer activities e.g. bullying
DO NOT engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact – physical, verbal, sexual
DO NOT play physical contact games with young people
DO NOT make suggestive remarks or threats to a young person, even in fun
DO NOT use inappropriate language – writing, phoning, email or internet
DO NOT let allegations, suspicions, or concerns about abuse go unreported
DO NOT just rely on your good name to protect you

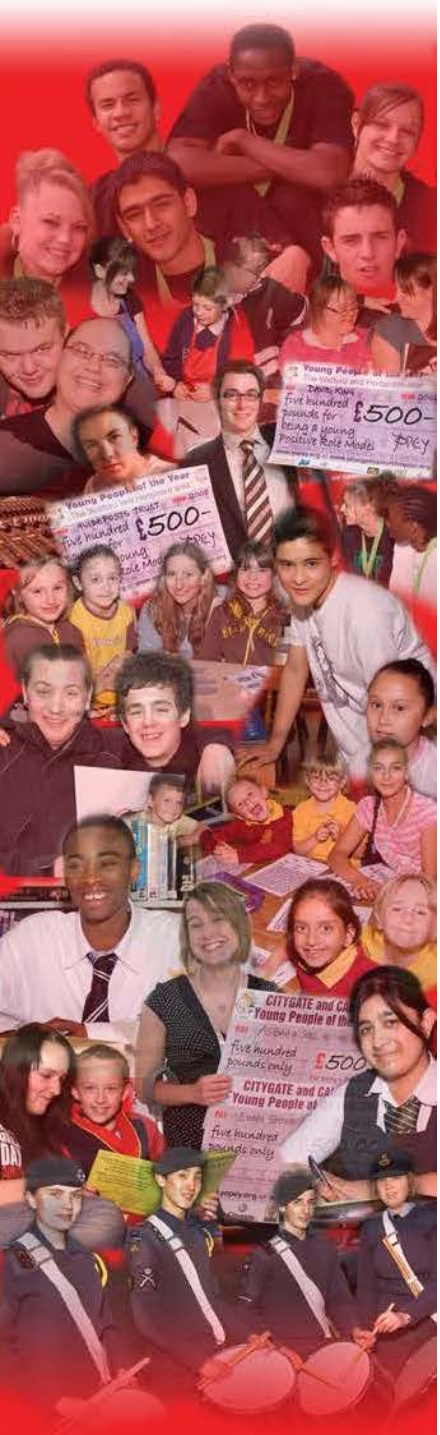
What is child abuse?
Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.
An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event. And it can increasingly happen online.

Types of child abuse

Domestic abuse: Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships.
Sexual abuse: A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities. This doesn't have to be physical contact, and it can happen online.
Neglect: Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs. It's dangerous and children can suffer serious and long-term harm.
Online abuse: Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones.
Physical abuse: Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.
Emotional abuse: Children who are emotionally abused suffer emotional maltreatment or neglect. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can cause children serious harm.
Child sexual exploitation: Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status.
Female genital mutilation (FGM): Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

YOPEY registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales as charity number 1145573
Registered with the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales as company number 7751145
Registered address: Woodfarm Cottage, Bury Road, Stradishall, Newmarket CB8 8YN





Bullying and cyberbullying: Bullying can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online (cyberbullying). It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally.
Child trafficking: Child trafficking is a type of abuse where children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.
Grooming: Children and young people can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know – a family member, friend or professional.
Harmful sexual behavior: Children and young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour harm themselves and others.

Source for types of abuse – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 and NSPCC.

3. Designated Named Person for safeguarding children

YOPEY has an appointed individual who is responsible for dealing with any child Safeguarding concerns. In their absence, a deputy will be available for workers to consult with. The Designated Named Person(s) for Child Safeguarding within YOPEY is:

Tony Gearing MBE, YOPEY's Founder and a Trustee
Emergency Contact Number 07711 255675. Please text your name and number and 'I wish to report possible child abuse' to this number. If Tony does not pick up, he will ring back at the earliest opportunity.

Should Tony be unavailable the deputy is Joanne Galazka, YOPEY Trustee, on 07594 344173 or joannegalazka@yahoo.com.

If Joanne is also unavailable then contact Children's Social Care in the area of the child you are concerned about.

The roles and responsibilities of Tony or Joanne is:

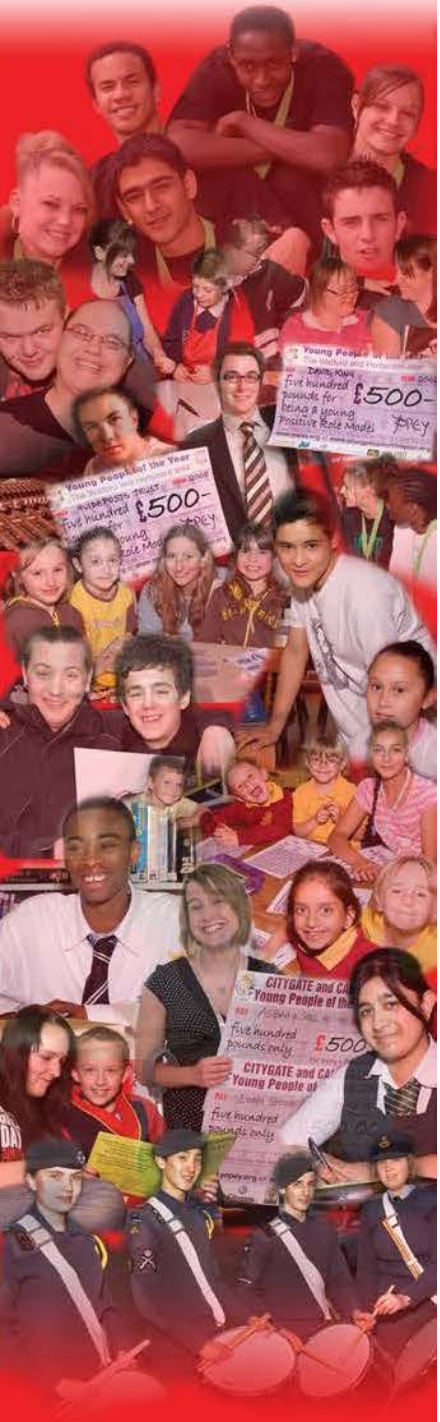
- to ensure that all staff including volunteers and trustees are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they have concerns that a child may be experiencing or has experienced abuse or neglect.
- to ensure that concerns are acted on, clearly recorded and referred to a Children's Social Care team in that area or to the allocated social worker where necessary.
- to follow up any referrals and ensure the issues have been addressed.
- consider any recommendations from the child Safeguarding process
- to reinforce the utmost need for confidentiality and to ensure that staff and volunteers are adhering to good practice with regard to confidentiality and security. This is because it is around the time that a person starts to challenge abuse that the risks of increasing intensity of abuse are greatest.
- to ensure that staff and volunteers working directly with service users who have experienced abuse, or who are experiencing abuse, are well supported and receive appropriate supervision.
- if appropriate staff or volunteers will be given support and afforded protection if necessary, under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998: they will be dealt with in a fair and equitable manner and they will be kept informed of any action that has been taken and its outcome

4. Responding to people who have experienced or are experiencing abuse

YOPEY recognises that it has a duty to act on reports, or suspicions of abuse or neglect. It also acknowledges that taking action in cases of child abuse is never easy.

How to respond if you receive an allegation:
- Reassure the person concerned • Listen to what they are saying





Revealing, Recognising, Rewarding Positive Role Models

- Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible
- Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief
- Tell them that the information will be treated seriously
- Don't start to investigate or ask detailed or probing questions
- Don't promise to keep it a secret

If you witness abuse or abuse has just taken place the priorities will be:

- To call an ambulance if required
- To call the police if a crime has been committed
- To preserve evidence
- To keep yourself, staff, volunteers and service users safe
- To inform Tony Gearing
- To record what happened as soon as possible, date and sign

All situations of abuse or alleged abuse will be discussed with Tony Gearing. If a a trustee, employee or volunteer feels unable to raise this concern with Tony then concerns can be raised directly with Social Care in your area. The alleged victim will be told that this will happen.

If it is appropriate and there is consent from the individual, or there is a good reason to override consent, such as risk to others, a referral will be made to Social Care.

If the individual experiencing abuse does not have capacity to consent a referral will be made without that person's consent, in their best interests.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or if relevant law changes.

Please follow these guidelines. If you do not you will jeopardise your position with YOPEY.

Please print two copies and sign and date both and send one back to YOPEY.

Sign:

Print:

Date:

YOPEY registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales as charity number 1145573
Registered with the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales as company number 7751145
Registered address: Woodfarm Cottage, Bury Road, Stradishall, Newmarket CB8 8YN