

Ukraine Support Team Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all the Ukraine Support Team members. It also applies to hosts and others living in their household. Safeguarding concerns, even if you are unsure, can be notified to the Ukraine Support Team.

The contact number for the Ukraine Support Team is +44 1624 642500

This policy supports direct contact with the agencies responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults if preferred or necessary.

Any safeguarding concerns **in relation to children** contact:

+44 01624 686179 during office hours only.

+44 1624 631212 out of office hours (Isle of Man Police) and ask for the On-call Children's Social Worker.

If you have any safeguarding concerns **in relation to adults** please contact:

+44 1624 685969 during office hours

+44 1624 650000 out of office hours (Noble's hospital) and ask for the On-call Adult Social Worker

In the case of an emergency please contact the Isle of Man Police by ringing 999

Statement of intent

The Ukraine Support Team believes that it is never acceptable for a child or vulnerable adult to experience abuse of any kind and is committed to the safety of all members of the Ukrainian community, including hosts and members of their households, guests, home visitors and employees. Safeguarding is everyone's business and the Ukraine Support Team follow the Isle of Man Safeguarding Board's Policies and Procedures.

We recognise that the welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and that children and vulnerable adults, without exemption, have the right to equal protection from abuse regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Guests

The Ukraine Support Team coordinates the safe host checks for the hosts who will be accommodating adults and children who are refugees from Ukraine. We do not host unaccompanied children. We recognise that the people we are hosting are in a vulnerable position, sometimes in ways which are not immediately apparent. That

does not mean they are not articulate, intelligent determined human beings with personal agency. However, they are also in a complicated legal, financial and personal situation, often having endured very difficult circumstances that have left them with complex things to work through, and all this in an alien environment and culture.

Hosts

All hosts are subject to a variety of background checks, including enhanced disclosure and barring checks, which are arranged by the Ukraine Support Team when appropriate and their homes are subject to an assessment through a home visit. Home assessors all have a professional working background and have experience of carrying out environmental and home assessments.

Team members

The Ukraine Support Team recognises that its team members may also be vulnerable and is committed to practice which supports them. All employees have undertaken training in safeguarding which includes an assessment.

Abuse

Abuse may include:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse or violence
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self-neglect

Remember, abuse of a child or vulnerable adult can occur in any place, public or private, and can be perpetrated by anyone. So being aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse is vital in the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Rights and responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Ukraine Support Team include:

- Ensuring all members of the team have undertaken basic safeguarding training and are aware of the importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring all members of the team are aware that our guests are in a vulnerable position while being hosted.
- Recruiting and selecting team members responsibly.
- Recruiting and selecting Hosts responsibly.
- Providing guidance to Hosts in safeguarding matters, as appropriate.
- Notifying the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected.
- Ensuring this policy is available for team members and hosts at all times.
- Ensuring that employees are aware of safeguarding policies and procedures for both children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that the contact details of the relevant agencies are accessible to team members and Hosts.
- Supporting the safety of guests and ensuring hosts are encouraged to help identify individuals at particular risk.
- Considering the safety of all other individuals who are supporting Ukrainian community.
- Being familiar with this policy.
- Offering guidance on boundaries and behaviour where appropriate.
- Taking appropriate action, as above, and in line with this policy.

Support for those who report abuse

Anyone making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern about safeguarding should be reassured that:

- Their complaint, allegation or concern will be recognised, taken seriously and responded to appropriately by the Ukraine Support Team.
- Their complaint, allegation or concern will be treated confidentially. However, this will be subject to the Ukraine Support Teams responsibilities to notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected.

In particular, guests whose hosting has been arranged through the Ukraine Support Team have the right:

- To be made aware of this policy as appropriate.
- To have access to an interpreter if requested.
- To have any complaint or allegation recognised and taken seriously.
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout.
- To be involved in any process, as appropriate.
- To receive information about the outcome.

The Ukraine Support Team are committed to reviewing this policy annually.