

Safe Recruitment of Staff NMS 13.2 13.8 13.9 13.11

We are vigilant in our recruitment procedures, aiming to ensure all people working with children are suitable to do so. We follow this procedure each and every time we recruit a new member to join our team.

Legal requirements

- We abide by the requirements of the National Minimum Standards and its associated regulations and any CIW guidance in respect of obtaining references and suitability checks for staff
- We also follow any requirements or guidance given by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in relation to carrying out checks; and abide by our employer's responsibilities relating to informing the DBS of any changes to the suitability of their staff, whether this member of staff has left the organisation or is still under investigation. Please refer to the child protection/safeguarding policy for further information.

Advertising

- We use reputable newspapers, websites and the local job centre to advertise any vacancies
- We ensure that all recruitment literature includes details of our equal opportunities policy and our safe recruitment procedures, including an enhanced (DBS) check and at least two independent references for every new employee. We also include the requirement for an additional criminal records check (or checks if more than one country) for anyone who has lived or worked abroad.

Interview stage

- We shortlist all suitable candidates against a pre-set specification and try to ensure all applicants receive correspondence regardless of whether or not they are successful in reaching the interview stage
- All shortlisted candidates will receive a job description, a person specification, an equal opportunities monitoring form and an application form
- The manager will decide the most appropriate people for the interview panel. There will be at least two people involved in the overall decision making
- During interview stage, all candidates will be required to prove they are eligible to work in the UK and asked to bring suitable ID to prove who they say they are.
- The interview will also cover any gaps in the candidate's employment history
- All candidates reaching the interview stage are questioned using the same set criteria and questions. These cover specific areas of play work and/or youth work, including safeguarding the children and young people attending the provision, planning suitable activities to enhance the child's development and their understanding of the legal frameworks applied to childcare and play work. The questions will be valuebased and will ensure the candidate has the same values as the organisation with regards to the safety and welfare of the children and young people.
- Candidates will be given a score for their answers including a score for their individual experience and qualifications
- Every shortlisted candidate will be asked to take part in a supervised practical exercise which will involve spending time in a particular activity sessions, interacting with the children, young people staff and, where appropriate, volunteers and parents
- The interview panel will then select the most suitable person for this position, based on these scores and their knowledge and understanding of the framework, as well as the needs of the organisation
- Every candidate will receive communication from the organisation stating whether they have been successful or not. Unsuccessful candidates are offered feedback.

Starting work

- The successful candidate will be offered the position subject to at least two references from previous employment or, in the case of a newly qualified student, their tutor and a personal or professional reference. These references will be taken up **BEFORE** employment commences. This may be verbal initially and then followed up with a written reference which will form part of their personnel file

- The successful candidate will be asked to provide proof of their qualifications, where applicable. All qualifications will be checked and copies taken for their personnel files
- Prior to employment but after the job has been offered a health check questionnaire will be given to the employee and its results will be taken into account in making an overall decision about suitability. The organisation reserves the right to take any further advice necessary in relation to a person's physical and mental fitness to carry out their role. Please see the absence management policy for more details about how we manage health problems including access to medical records
- All new starters, other than those who have registered for the continuous updating service (see below) will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This will be initiated before the member of staff commences work in the setting and they will not have unsupervised access to any child or young person or their records before this check comes back. Further to this, the new starter will not be allowed to take photographs of any child, looking at their learning and development log or provide personal care without an up-to-date enhanced DBS check (whether supervised or not)
- The organisation will record and retain details about the individual including staff qualifications, identity checks carried out and the vetting process completed. This will include the criminal records disclosure reference number, the date the disclosure was obtained and details of who obtained it. We will not retain copies of the disclosure itself once the employment decision is taken but we will record the disclosure reference number and share that with relevant agencies i.e. RCT Play and CIW
- There may be occasions when a DBS check is not clear but the individual is still suitable to work with children. This will be treated on an individual case basis and at the manager's discretion, taking into account the following:
 - seriousness of the offence or other information
 - accuracy of the person's self-disclosure on the application form
 - nature of the appointment including levels of supervision
 - age of the individual at the time of the offence or other information
 - the length of time that has elapsed since the offence or other information
 - relevance of the offence or information to working or being in regular contact with children
- If the individual has registered on the DBS system since 17 July 2013 managers may use the update service with the candidate's permission instead of carrying out an enhanced DBS check
- New starters are required to sign their application form to state that they have no criminal convictions, court orders or any other reasons that disqualify them from working with children or unsuitable to do so and that, to the best of their knowledge, no-one living in their household has been disqualified from working with children
- All new members of staff will undergo an intensive induction period during which time they will read and discuss the policies and procedures and will introduce to the staff team. They will receive information as to how the organisation operates
- During their induction period all new staff will receive training on how to safeguard children in their care and informed that they are required to follow the Safeguarding Child Protection policy and procedure, about emergency evacuation procedures, equality policy and health and safety issues
- The new member of staff will have regular meetings with their line manager during their induction period to discuss their progress.

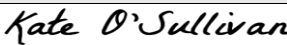
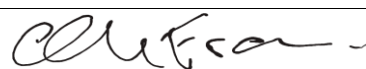
Ongoing support and checks

- All staff are responsible for notifying the manager in person if any there are any changes to their circumstances that may affect their suitability to work with children (staff suitability status will also be checked through an annual 'staff suitability questionnaire'). This includes any incidents occurring outside the setting or involving people they live in a household with. Staff will face disciplinary action should they fail to notify the manager with immediate effect
- All members of staff will update a health questionnaire on an annual basis to ensure management have a good knowledge of any changes that may require support or additional resources to aid them to carry out their day-to-day duties. This will also be discussed at staff supervisions/review meetings. Management may require this

more regularly where health circumstances change. There are more details about how the organisation deals with any health problems in the absence management policy

- The Children and Young Peoples Officer and/or senior manager/community association manager will review any significant changes to an individual's circumstances that may suggest they are no longer suitable to work with children and young people. They will take appropriate action to ensure any unsuitable or potentially unsuitable employee does not have unsupervised contact with children until the matter is resolved. Please see the Disciplinary Policy for further details
- Every member of staff will have at least one annual supervision and appraisal session per annum. This will provide an opportunity for the manager and member of staff to discuss training needs for the following year as well as evaluate and discuss their performance in the previous year
- The Children and young peoples development officer will be responsible for any support the staff team may have between these reviews. This includes mentor support, one-to-one training sessions, ongoing supervision, work-based observations and constructive feedback. We operate an open door policy so that all staff can speak with their line manager or senior management at any time and especially at the time when they need to such as if a problem arises
- The organisation will provide appropriate opportunities for all staff to undertake professional development and training to help improve the quality of experiences provided for children and young people.

This policy was adopted on 13.10.2025 and will be reviewed on or before 13.10.2026

Name and Position	Signed	Date
Kate O'Sullivan Community Association Manager		13.10.2025
Olive Frances Vice Chair of Trustees		13.10.2025