

## **Safeguarding Policy Statement**

First Step is committed to safeguarding all children and vulnerable adults that come in to contact with our work. We believe they have an equal right to protection from abuse, regardless of their age, race, religion, ability, gender, language, background or sexual identity and consider the welfare of the child/vulnerable adult is paramount.

We will take every reasonable step to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected where our staff and associates are involved in the delivery of our work. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

We expect all staff, trustees, volunteers, associates and anyone working on behalf of First Step to have read, understood and adhere to this policy and related procedures. We will provide suitable training and support to all staff to enable them to implement this policy.