

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

**Policy Owner
Skevos Loizou**

Soveks Lo Radio and Podcast Productions Ltd.

1. Policy Statement

Soveks Lo Radio and Podcast Productions Ltd acknowledges that:

- all children and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everybody's responsibility
- doing nothing is not acceptable
- working in partnership with relevant agencies, in conjunction with local safeguarding procedures, has demonstrable results.

2. Scope, roles and responsibilities

Scope

This policy applies to all children and vulnerable adults in the scope of Soveks Lo Radio and Podcast Productions Ltd.

It supports the safeguarding processes of local authorities, charities and companies in whose areas we work.

The policy and its accompanying procedure and guidelines outline the responsibilities of Soveks Lo, colleagues, sub contractors, learners and volunteers in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults using our services.

The policy recognises that the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults who come into contact with Soveks Lo Radio and Podcast Productions Ltd.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all to support the organisation's commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and attend training as required. It is the responsibility of the company to ensure compliance and the effectiveness of the procedure accompanying this policy.

Managing Director is responsible for maintaining, updating and delivering appropriate procedures to deliver policy objectives, and that these are available and understood by all who come into contact.

Definitions

Safeguarding is the right of every child and vulnerable individual accessing our company to be protected from any form of abuse. Abuse occurs when the child's or vulnerable adult's rights are not respected.

Abuse is any behaviour towards a person that deliberately or unknowingly causes them harm, endangers life or violates their rights. It includes not only physical, emotional and psychological ill treatment but also neglect (including self neglect), financial or sexual abuse, and the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. It concerns the misuse of power, control and /or authority and can be perpetrated by an individual, a group or an organisation.

A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

An adult is anyone aged 18 or above.

A vulnerable adult is someone of 18 years or over 'who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness' and 'who is or maybe unable to take care of him or herself.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a statutory framework to empower and protect vulnerable people who are not able to make their own decisions. It makes it clear who can take decisions, in which situations, and how they should go about this.

The definition of abuse includes Domestic Abuse and forced marriage. Domestic Violence is 'any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are, or have been intimate partners or between family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Some incidents of abuse could also be relevant to our domestic violence policy and procedures, and we will be clear how we propose to manage any such incident. Forced marriage is one in which one or both of the spouses do not consent to the marriage and some element of duress is involved, including the use of physical and emotional pressure. Forced marriage is not sanctioned within any culture or religion.

3. Principles

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is the paramount consideration.
- We will not tolerate abuse in any circumstances. Doing nothing is not an option.
- All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs and sexual identity have a right to protection from abuse.
- Adults have the right to be in control of their life, make decisions, be treated with respect and consideration and have their confidentiality respected.
- All children and vulnerable adults have a right to intervention, support and/or information which could make life better and/or safer for them and be involved in decisions that are made about them.
- We will promote the empowerment, wellbeing, security and safety of children and adults at risk of abuse consistent with their rights, mental capacity and personal choices.
- We aim to minimise the risk of abuse by being sensitive to cultural, gender and individual needs in our service delivery.
- We will maintain a culture and standards that prevent the development of poor care and support practices.

- We recognise that inter-agency co-operation is essential if children and vulnerable adults are to be protected effectively from abuse. We will work closely in partnership with key agencies and professionals, sharing information and developing appropriate strategies to respond to the needs of our tenants and clients.
- All colleagues will be aware of, and comply with, local guidelines in relation to reporting concerns about children or vulnerable adults at risk. Where no such local procedures exist externally, we will provide our own.
- We will report every instance of disclosed or suspected abuse to the appropriate social services contact in line with each Local Authority safeguarding procedures alerting the police or other emergency services as required. Where appropriate, we will report concerns to the Disclosure Barring Service or the Care Quality Commission.
- We actively encourages and supports reporting of concerns and will protect colleagues disclosing malpractice from the risk of victimisation provided the disclosure is made in good faith.
- We comply with relevant legislation and regulation, including:
 - Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) regulations
- We will review new legislation as it arises and continually review our procedures in line with good practice.

4. Application

We deliver the principles of this policy through the application of processes which clearly distinguish between the requirements to safeguard vulnerable adults and the safeguarding of children.

Work with Children as defined by this policy will require parental permission especially in the broadcasting of material and the display of photos on all mediums.

Work with third party organisations that have responsibility with children and young people will need to have the implementation of full safeguarding procedures including permissions of use of materials.

Professional Boundaries will be upheld with children, young people and vulnerable adults

All colleagues, partners, will work within the procedures that accompany this policy and training on this policy at induction especially if the work means contact with Children and Young People.

The procedures that deliver this policy complement local authority safeguarding procedures and will ensure that all colleagues engaged in delivering our services:

- Are alert to the possibility of abuse of a vulnerable adult/Children that come into contact with in the services.
- Know how to recognise abuse
- Understand the need to share information about concerns with agencies that need to know
- Understand professional boundaries
- Identify risks associated with lone working by staff they manage
- Know and use local authority guidelines
- Know how and where to report concerns
- Are aware of good practice

Date of Policy October 2019
Review Date October 2020