

Teens Unite Keeping Young People Safe Online

Charity Number 1118361

Online Safety of Beneficiaries

12/14/20

Teens Unite Fighting Cancer ensures that safeguarding young people is at the heart of all their activities including the digital delivery of The Positive Steps Program formed of regular activities designed to help the young people progress, learn new skills and benefit from peer-to-peer support.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is to

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people and is paramount when adults, young adults and teenagers are using the internet, social media or mobile devices
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety
- Ensure that, as a Charity, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices to deliver our service

The policy applies to all staff, volunteers, teenagers and young adults, and anyone involved in Teens Unite's activities.

Belief

We believe that

- Teenagers and young adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- Teenagers and young adults should be able to use the internet, social media platforms and mobile devices for education, personal development and to connect with peers, but safeguards need to be in place to ensure they are kept safe at all times

Understanding

Teens Unite understands and recognises that

- The online world provides everyone with many opportunities - however, it can also present risks and challenges
- We have a duty to ensure that all teenagers, young adults, staff and volunteers involved in our organisation are protected from potential harm online
- We have a responsibility to help keep teenagers and young people safe online, whether or not they are using Teens Unite's network and devices
- All beneficiaries, regardless of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Working in partnership with beneficiaries, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promotion young people's welfare and in helping young people to be responsible in their approach to online safety

Our Commitment

We will

- Provide clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online
- Support and encourage the young people using our service to use the internet, social media platforms and mobile devices in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others
- Support and encourage parents and carers to do what they can to keep teenagers and young adults safe online
- Develop an online safety agreement that beneficiaries and their parents/carers sign up to when they register for our services
- Develop clear and robust procedures to enable us to respond appropriately to any incidents of inappropriate online behaviour, whether by an adult, or a teenager/young adult
- Review and update the security of our information systems regularly
- Ensure that usernames, logins, email accounts and passwords are used effectively
- Ensure personal information about the people who are involved in our work is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- Ensure that images of beneficiaries and their families are only used after their permission has been obtained, and only for the purpose for which consent has been given
- Provide support and training for staff and volunteers about online safety
- Carry out risk assessments for any social media platforms and new technologies before they are used within the organisation

If online abuse occurs

We will

- Have clear and robust safeguarding procedures in place for responding to abuse (including online abuse)
- Provide support and training for all staff and volunteers on dealing with all forms of abuse, including bullying/cyberbullying, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation
- Make sure our response takes the needs of the person experiencing abuse, any bystanders and our Charity as a whole into account
- Review the plan developed to address online abuse at regular intervals, in order to ensure that any problems have been resolved in the long term

This policy will be reviewed on annual basis – next review date December 2021