

CHILD-SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1 Purpose

- 1.1 Lifeline South East (SA) Inc. (LLSE) recognises and understands the importance of developing, implementing, monitoring and maintaining a child-friendly, and child-safe environment, where all Children and Young People feel safe, are valued, and protected from harm, as far as is reasonably practicable, whilst at LLSE.
- 1.2 LLSE will not tolerate any inappropriate behaviour to Children and Young People and the Child-Safe Environment Policy (the Policy) will assist board members, staff and volunteers to be aware of their roles, responsibilities and appropriate actions to initiate should there be reported, suspected or observed instances of harm, or risk of harm to Children and Young People.

2 Scope

- 2.1 The Policy (in line with the Children & Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (South Australia), applies to all board members, staff and volunteers associated with LLSE. Failure to comply with the Policy may result in disciplinary action commensurate to the offence. Expectation is that all involved will act in accordance with the Policy requirements, as detailed.

3 References

3.1 Legislative

- 3.1.1 *Children & Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)*
- 3.1.2 *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 (SA)*

3.2 Lifeline South East (SA) Inc. Documents

- 3.2.1 Child-Safe Environment Procedure

3.3 Resources

- 3.3.1 Department of Human Services (Government of South Australia)
- 3.3.2 https://dhs.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/103179/CSE-Mandatory-notification-information-booklet.PDF

4 Definitions

Children & Young People

Children are persons who are under 12 years old, and a Young Person is 12 to 18 years of age.

5 Policy Principles

- 5.1 LLSE is committed to ensuring that Children and Young People including those of different race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes and religious beliefs accessing our premises are safe, valued, treated with respect and honesty and are encouraged to reach their full potential.
- 5.2 In order to achieve this, LLSE will ensure through its implemented Child Safe Environment Policy (the Policy), and its Child-Safe Environment Procedure (the Procedure), that the fundamental rights of Children and Young People whilst at LLSE are respected and safeguarded, as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 5.3 The views of Children and Young People, and those of their legal parent/guardian, will be encouraged to enable LLSE to improve its operational systems and processes. Any complaints or feedback received will be dealt with professionally and expediently, ensuring the safety and protection of Children and Young People is not affected.
- 5.4 LLSE will inform staff/volunteers of its risk management strategies, their roles, and responsibilities regarding provision of a Child-Safe Environment, through induction handbooks, the Policy, the Procedure, and related Annexures.
- 5.5 Children and Young People will be made aware of LLSE Child-Safe Policy through display of posters and pamphlets provided to their legal parent/guardian, detailing the complaints process and rights for Children and Young People's when attending LLSE. Children and Young People

will be encouraged to complete an annual survey relating to how safe and comfortable they feel whilst attending LLSE (refer to LLSE Child-Safe Environment Procedure).

- 5.6 The LLSE 'Code of Conduct – Child Safe Environment' details the expected actions of staff/volunteers, and is required to be adhered to when interacting with Children or Young People at LLSE. Engagement of personnel who may interact with Children or Young People at LLSE will **not** be approved until all mandatory working with children (WWCC) checks have been submitted.
- 5.7 Mandated notifiers at LLSE includes those individuals who provide services directly for Children and Young People (i.e.: counsellors). As mandated notifiers they have a legal responsibility to report where they suspect, or have reason to suspect that a Child or Young Person may be at harm or at risk of harm, as soon as they become aware to: **CARL 13 14 78**, or to **SAPoL 000**, if a Child or Young Person is at immediate risk (This is further detailed in the Procedure).
- 5.8 The views of Children and Young People will be sought by encouraging them to participate in a LLSE annual survey to assess suitability and effectiveness of services offered.
- 5.9 This Policy was developed in consultation and collaboration with the Board of Governance, staff, and volunteers, and will be reviewed as pertinent legislation is amended, or as circumstances at LLSE change, no less than each five (5) years. New lodgement with DHS is required each time the Policy is reviewed or updated.

LLSE CEO _____

