

# Ensuring the Safety of Young People

To help create a **safe and appropriate environment** for **attendees under 18**, the Co-operative Party will implement the following measures at **all in-person events**:

- Identification: All attendees under the age of 18 will be issued a conference pass with a red lanyard for easy identification.
- Alcohol-Free Access: Young people under 18 will not be permitted to attend any event where alcohol is being served.
- Adult Supervision: It is strongly recommended that each under-18 attendee has at least one – ideally two – designated adult carers (e.g., a parent, guardian, or nominated responsible adult). These carers will be responsible for the young person throughout the event, including being aware of their travel plans to and from the venue. The young person should also have the mobile contact details of their designated adult carer.
- Travel Responsibility: The Co-operative Party is not responsible for organising transport to or from the event. Young attendees should be prepared with the following:
  - Enough money to cover return travel;
  - Printed travel tickets (if applicable);
  - A fully charged phone;
  - A written copy of their parent or designated adult carer's contact number.

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## 1. Policy Statement

The Co-operative Party is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. We recognise our duty of care to protect children under the age of 18 who attend our events, and to ensure their experience is safe, inclusive, and respectful.

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## 2. Purpose

This policy sets out the Co-operative Party's approach to:

- Protecting children from harm at events.
- Promoting their welfare and ensuring they feel safe.
- Establishing clear procedures for managing safeguarding concerns.

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## 3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Co-operative Party members, volunteers, staff, and elected representatives involved in planning or delivering events where children or young people are present.
- All children attending Co-operative Party events, whether accompanied or unaccompanied.

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## 4. Legal Framework

This policy is underpinned by:

- *Children Act 1989 and 2004*
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)*
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (as applicable)*
- *General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)*

## 5. Safeguarding Responsibilities

The Co-operative Party will:

- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for events where children are in attendance.
  - Conduct risk assessments for all events involving under-18s.
  - Require parental/carers consent for attendance.
  - Ensure adult-to-child ratios are appropriate (minimum 1:10 for children 13-18 years).
  - Carry out DBS checks for volunteers and staff supervising children.
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## 6. Code of Conduct

All adults involved in Co-operative Party events must:

- Treat all children with dignity, respect, and fairness.
  - Never be alone with a child in a private space.
  - Avoid physical contact unless necessary for safety or support.
  - Challenge and report any inappropriate behaviour.
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## 7. Consent and Information

Parents or legal guardians must:

- Complete a **Consent & Safeguarding Form** before a child can attend.
  - Provide emergency contact details and relevant medical information.
  - Be informed of the event schedule, staff in charge, and safeguarding procedures.
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## 8. Photography and Media

- Explicit parental consent must be obtained before photographing or filming children.
  - Images must be used in line with the Party's media policy and GDPR standards.
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## 9. Dealing with Disclosures and Concerns

If a child discloses abuse or a safeguarding concern:

- **Listen without judgement.**
  - **Do not promise confidentiality.**
  - **Report immediately** to the DSO.
  - The DSO will follow safeguarding procedures, including referral to social care or the police if necessary.
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## 10. Training and Awareness

- All staff and volunteers involved in events with children must complete basic safeguarding training.
  - The safeguarding policy will be reviewed annually or after any safeguarding incident.
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## 11. Contact

- DSO for Co-operative Party Events:  
Name: Issy Oozeerally, Events Manager
- Email: [i.oozeerally@party.coop](mailto:i.oozeerally@party.coop) or [safeguarding@party.coop](mailto:safeguarding@party.coop)