

GetDigitl Hackathon

Child protection policy and procedures for Get Digitl Hackathons

This policy applies exclusively to EVENTS held and/or organised by Get Digitl.

This policy applies to all Staff, including senior managers, paid staff volunteers, Organisers, students or anyone working on behalf of Get Digitl.

Get Digitl believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and their agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children and young people who receive Get Digitl's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- to provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection;

Legal framework:

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Adopting child protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures

- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

Duty of employees, directors and volunteers:

Every employee and director of Get Digitl as well as every volunteer who assists in any events is under a general legal duty:

- to protect children and young people from abuse;
- to be aware of the Get Digitl's child protection procedures and to follow them;
- to know how to access and implement the procedures, independently if necessary;
- to keep a sufficient record of any significant complaint, conversation or event;
- to report any matters of concern.

Initial complaint:

A member of staff suspecting or hearing a complaint of abuse:

- must listen carefully to the child/young person and keep an open mind. Staff should not take a decision as to whether or not the abuse has taken place;
- must not ask leading questions, that is, a question which suggests its own answer;
- must reassure the child/young person but not give a guarantee of absolute confidentiality.

The member of staff should explain that they need to pass the information to a Senior Member of Get Digitl who will ensure that the correct action is taken;

- must keep a sufficient written record of the conversation. The record should include the date, time and place of the conversation and the essence of what was said and done by whom and in whose presence. The record should be signed by the person making it and should use names, not initials. The record must be kept securely and handed to a Senior Member of the Get Digitl team

External agencies:

Whether or not Get Digitl decides to refer a particular complaint to Social Services or the Police, the parents and student will be informed in writing of their right to make their own complaint or referral to the Social Services Department or the Child Protection Unit of the police and will be provided with contact names, addresses and telephone numbers, as appropriate.

Allegations against children:

A child against whom an allegation of abuse has been made may be asked to leave the Get Digitl event and may be forbidden from attending future Get Digitl organised events.

Get Digitl will take advice from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on the investigation of such allegations and will take all appropriate action to ensure the safety and welfare of all children involved including the child or children accused of abuse. If it is necessary for a student to be interviewed by the Police in relation to allegations of abuse,

the Camp will ensure that, subject to the advice of the LADO, parents are informed as soon as possible and that the student is supported during the interview by an appropriate adult.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on:

17/05/2016

Ben Dunicliff