



## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### *Purpose and Scope of this policy statement*

Shines Children (Uganda) UK Supporters (“**Shines UK**”) is a charity incorporated in England which partners with Shines Children’s Foundation (“**Shines Uganda**”), a Ugandan indigenous NGO, and Care For Girls (“**CFG**”), a community benefit organisation registered in Mbale, Uganda/

Shines UK provides funds to Shines Uganda and CFG, and also arranges volunteering visits by its trustees and others to assist Shines Uganda and CFG in the delivery of their projects.

The purpose of this Safeguarding Policy statement is:

- to protect the children and young people who receive services from Shines UK from harm;
- to ensure that the children and young people who receive services from Shines Uganda and CFG are protected from harm; and
- to provide our trustees and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This Safeguarding Policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Shines UK, including the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and students.

This Safeguarding Policy should be read alongside any rules, agreements and informational literature that may be provided to any trustee, employee, volunteer or student prior to commencement of any work with Shines UK, and any information provided during the induction phase of any project.

This Safeguarding Policy should also be read in conjunction with the safeguarding and other policies and procedures issued from time to time by Shines Uganda and CFG. In any case in which this Safeguarding Policy is less stringent than any policy or procedure issued by Shines Uganda or CFG in circumstances when a trustee, staff member or volunteer is engaged in a

project belonging to Shines Uganda or CFG, the more stringent policy or procedure shall apply.

### ***Core principles***

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind; and
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take;
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare;
- all children, regardless of age, disability, sex, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or belief have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, their family situation, disability and communication needs or other issues; and
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

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

- valuing, listening to and respecting them;
- appointing a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding;
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for trustees, staff and volunteers;
- providing effective management for trustees, staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all trustees, staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes;
- confidently and competently recruiting and selecting trustees, staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance applicable in any relevant jurisdiction;
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions;
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern;
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately;

- using our procedures to manage any allegations against trustees, staff and volunteers appropriately;
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place;
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with applicable law and regulatory guidance;
- building a safeguarding culture where trustees, staff and volunteers, children and young people, and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

### **Contact details**

#### **Nominated child protection lead**

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

This policy was last reviewed on: 22 December 2024

Signed:



Child Protection Lead

Date: 22/12/24