

## **Child Protection Policy**

**Reach** was formed in 1978 by parents of children who were missing part of their arm or a hand, in order to lobby for the provision of a new artificial arm under the NHS. Since then Reach has grown to become a national organisation providing support and advice for children with hand or arm deficiencies, and their parents.

### **Policy Statement**

**“Reach is committed to practices that safeguard children and protect their welfare. Staff and volunteers (some of whom may be parents) in this association recognise and accept responsibility to develop the awareness of the issues that may cause children harm, in accordance with The Children Acts 1989 & 2004.”**

### **Definition**

**For the purposes of these policies and procedure a child is any person under the age of 18 years.**

We will endeavour to safeguard children by: -

- Adopting child protection policies and guidelines through a code of behaviour for staff and volunteers, in line with the Children Acts 1989 & 2004.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Keeping open channels of communication for children in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference.
- We believe that children, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, language, sexuality and gender have a right to have their wishes and feelings taken in to account when receiving our services.
- We acknowledge that children are best cared for within their families and ensure our services are provided alongside of and with families.
- Ensuring that the Criminal Record Bureau, in accordance with their guidelines, checks all staff and volunteers with responsibility for or access to children whilst they are involved in the services of Reach.
- Making all new staff and volunteers aware of our child protection procedures and policies.
- Appointing two designated people to enable any concerns to be reported in accordance with our procedures.
- We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice at regular intervals.

**Child Protection Officers: Gary Phillips. Telephone 07044 080140 Email [garyp@reach.org.uk](mailto:garyp@reach.org.uk) or Sue Stokes at Head Office (details as above)**

*Support, Contact and Advice*

‘REACH’ IS A CHARITY REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 REGISTERED NO. 278679