



**Gecko**

# FROM HERE ON



**Project Safeguarding Policy Statement & Code of Conduct**

## Good Chance and Gecko: *From Here On* Project Safeguarding Policy Statement Overview

*From Here On* is new, international piece of world-class physical theatre from Good Chance and Gecko in collaboration with young people, creating performances in public spaces across the UK and Europe about displacement, movement and being forced to find a new home.

In every activity or project we undertake at Good Chance and Gecko, we are committed to ensuring that every person we work with can participate in a safe environment and with their human rights fully respected.

Our Safeguarding Policy is based upon the principles within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. And in practice we make a commitment to ensure effective safeguarding procedures meeting the government guidance Keeping Children Safe In Education, (KCSIE) September 2023 and Working Together to Safeguard Children, December 2023.

Good Chance and Gecko seek to create, build and promote a positive culture and ethos of collaborative work between the organisations and other professionals within the arts sector and young people/adults participating in this project.

We will take every reasonable step to ensure that young people and adults at risk of abuse are protected wherever:

- our own staff are directly involved in the delivery of our arts project and/or
- our staff recruit or broker relationships between an artist or arts facilitator and others

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect young people (defined as aged 0-25) who take part in the project *From Here On* from harm
- to provide staff and volunteers, young people and their families with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection and the safeguarding of all young people

This policy statement relates to Safeguarding and applies to anyone working on behalf of the project *From Here On* including staff, senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff and young people participating in our Project.

## Good Chance and Gecko: *From Here On* Project Safeguarding Code of Conduct

At Good Chance and Gecko, we are committed to making sure that every person we work with can participate in a safe environment and with their human rights fully respected.

We recognise that our work on *From Here On* will engage directly with young people, children and adults at risk. As such, we are in a position of trust and our responsibilities to them and the organisation must be taken seriously. It is important to recognise how our own attitudes and behaviour can impact those we work with and that we ourselves can also be adults at risk.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We expect anyone engaging with *From Here On* - whether staff, volunteer, partner or participant - to actively prevent harm and abuse where possible. Should you have any concerns about yourself, members of the team or any of the people you connect with through Good Chance & Gecko projects, we actively encourage you to discuss these with the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the project.

A safeguarding concern can be any concern of harm, exploitation or abuse that has occurred or may occur if no action is taken.

**This statement and Code of Conduct must be read alongside the Project Safeguarding Policy and accompanying documents.**

It is important for everyone who is involved in any way in *From Here On* to safeguard and support each other, both during and outside of working hours. To do this, we ask staff, volunteers, partners and participants to:

**Be part of our culture of openness, honesty and safety:**

- Respect each person's boundaries and support them to develop their own understanding and sense of their rights.
- Challenge and report abusive or potentially abusive behaviour.
- Be aware of and adhere to the Project's Safeguarding Policy and undertake any training requested.
- Be aware of relevant and current health and safety rules - including public health rules and guidelines - and take appropriate steps to ensure you abide by them.

## Actively behave in a safeguarding positive way:

### Approaches and practical steps:

- Always behave in ways that are positive and appropriate to the situation.
- Treat every person you engage with as part of the project with respect, equality, dignity and courtesy.
- Do not discriminate or show prejudice, including prejudicial signs of approval or disapproval.
- Build relationships based on the work you're undertaking together, rather than building any expectations of friendship.
- Use appropriate language and body language and follow the safe touch procedure outlined in the Safeguarding Policy at all times. This includes asking permission for initiating touch, ensuring intention is clear and touch is appropriate, firm, necessary, direct, precise and functional, and offering an option that does not involve touch, in case a participant wishes to avoid contact.
- Work in open environments, visible to others: avoid staying in the same room or being alone with children, young people or an adult at risk.

### Safeguarding procedures:







- Help children or adults at risk to know what they can do if they have a problem.
- Report any incidents, disclosures and concerns to the Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.
- Proactively seek help if you would like additional support or guidance. Contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead if needed.

### Online/media:

- Staff and freelancers must not take photos of any young people under any circumstances (official project photos of participants will be taken only after consent is obtained and usage has been explained). Always get permission from adults if you wish to photograph them and explain the way in which the photograph will be used.
- Never give out your personal contacts and social networking sites to children or young people or directly message them. If adults ask for your contacts/social networking sites, it is your decision whether to give these out but we recommend that instead of giving your personal details you should instead direct people to Good Chance's/Gecko's Instagram or Facebook page to stay in touch with the organisation.
- Support and encourage young people and adults at risk to use the internet, social media and mobile phones in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others. Young people are not permitted to take photos/videos of each other during workshops/rehearsals/performances.



## Good Chance and Gecko: *From Here On* Quick Reference Guides - Actions

<p>You are approached by a <b>young or vulnerable person with a disclosure</b> that s/he/they are being harmed or abused.</p>	<p>You have concerns that a <b>child or an adult at risk</b> is or may be subject to abuse or harm.</p>	<p>You have concern about the behaviour of a <b>member of staff</b> or someone working as part of <i>From Here On</i></p>
		
<p>Stay calm and keep an open mind. Don't promise to keep information secret. Make it clear that you have a duty to pass it on.</p> <p>Don't question the individual except to clarify what they are saying</p>	<p>Make a written and dated note of any observations</p>	<p>If the behaviour of a member of staff or other person (including other young and vulnerable people) is potentially threatening the wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult, you must report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, unless the allegation is about this person, in which case inform most senior manager not implicated</p>
		
<p>Record the information you are provided with and pass on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (within 24 hours) who will decide what further action might be needed.</p> <p>This information is likely to be passed on to an external agency and should include a record of the time, date and persons present.</p>	<p>Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible and within 24 hours, who will investigate and make any necessary referrals.</p>	<p>The person to whom this information has been given makes contact with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for advice and guidance (if the concern is in respect of the staff member's behaviour with a child), or seeks advice from the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (if the concern is in respect of the staff member's behaviour with an adult)</p>

## Good Chance and Gecko: *From Here On* Quick Reference Guide - Reporting

If the person is in immediate danger, contact the Police on 999 in an emergency.

All concerns should be reported as soon as possible to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible and never later than within 24 hours.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is our Safeguarding Consultant Karen Bastick-Style: [karen@goodchance.org.uk](mailto:karen@goodchance.org.uk) 07591 011505

If you cannot reach the Designated Safeguarding Lead and need immediate guidance, the NSPCC helpline is 0808 800 5000.

If your concern is about the DSL, you should contact one or both of the Good Chance and Gecko Project Leaders Emily Webb (Good Chance Producer, [emily@goodchance.org.uk](mailto:emily@goodchance.org.uk)) or Paul Smethurst (Gecko Creative Engagement Producer, [paul@geckotheatre.com](mailto:paul@geckotheatre.com))

If your concern is about these Project Leaders you should contact the Good Chance or Gecko trustees with responsibility for safeguarding:  
Good Chance: Susan Witherow: [susanwitherow@mac.com](mailto:susanwitherow@mac.com) and Gemma White: [gemmawhite@blackstonechambers.com](mailto:gemmawhite@blackstonechambers.com)  
Gecko: Sue Smith: [sue.smith@falmouth.ac.uk](mailto:sue.smith@falmouth.ac.uk)