

SAFE COMMUNITIES PROJECT – AN OVERVIEW



The Safe Communities Project is a three-year NSPCC initiative to ensure all children and young people in England and Wales can take part in organised activities safely. It aims to reach out to organisations working with some of the most disadvantaged and hard to reach groups of children and young people, bringing about far-reaching changes not only in practice, but also in policy.

The project aims to:

- **enable** local community organisations to put **safeguards** in place to prevent the abuse of children and young people
- **ensure that there is someone to turn to** for children in every community-based organisation with the confidence, knowledge and skills to act on child safety and well-being
- **influence voluntary and community organisations** so that keeping children safe is integrated into local inter-agency safeguarding arrangements
- **influence safeguarding policy and practice nationally**, so that it becomes the accepted norm that all organised community activities for children and young people have essential safeguards

This will be achieved through:

- working with **community-based organisations** who provide activities for children
- working directly with **local authorities and national governments**, engaging local safeguarding children boards and funding bodies to achieve changes in policy
- **Sharing our learning** from the distribution of a new NSPCC resource: ***Safe Communities - a toolkit to protect children and young people.***

OUR APPROACH

The following activities have been set up to deliver The Safe Communities Project:

A NATIONAL STEERING GROUP

The purpose of the Steering Group is to provide a forum for members to be consulted on all aspects of the initiative. It will also provide advice and share learning from the roll out of the project locally and nationally in England and Wales

Membership of the Steering Group includes senior representatives from:

- Local Safeguarding Children Boards in three local pilot sites of Brent, Birmingham and Denbighshire
- Grant making bodies;
- National Umbrella and membership groups able to represent the beneficiary organisations;
- Organisations or individuals with particular expertise in relation to the Welsh language, disabled children and young people and black and minority ethnic children and young people;
- Local authorities and national governments in England and Wales.

THE SAFE COMMUNITIES – A TOOLKIT TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The information contained in this toolkit will help community organisations get the essentials in place to safeguard children they have contact with. It has different resources providing key advice, and signposts to further sources of information and help.

The toolkit will be useful for community groups and clubs that work with children of all ages, and that provide activities such as **arts, hobbies, religious teaching early-years care. After-school clubs** and **youth clubs** will also find it useful.

The toolkit will be distributed **FREE** to community groups and local agencies initially through pilot areas of **Brent, Birmingham** and **Denbighshire** and **via grant makers and umbrella organisations.**

INFLUENCING

We will be working at several levels to influence policy and practice so that community groups are fully supported in keeping children safe.

The principle areas we will be working to influence include **local authorities and national governments; Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Funding Bodies.** The project is being fully evaluated and the learning from this will inform discussion and learning about keeping children safe in community groups.

In addition to this, we will be working to influence key **black and minority ethnic communities.** A safeguarding product will be developed in 2007.

For further information or updates about any aspect of the NSPCC Safe Communities Project please contact:

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