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Specialist Breastfeeding + Perinatal Support

The Maddie's Miracle Charity: Safeguarding Policy

Particulars of Charity

Registered Charity: 1181584

Date of Document Update: December 2025

Reviewed and Updated in accordance with Charity Commission (CC30) and OSCR Safeguarding Guidance.

Charity Areas of Operation: England, Wales, and Scotland

Physical Groups: Bournemoth (Dorset)

1. Maddie's Miracle's Safeguarding Statement

Maddie's Miracle is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to ensure that we operate in ways that protect beneficiaries from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Our safeguarding principles apply to all trustees, staff, volunteers, and anyone representing the charity.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, trustees, and volunteers involved with Maddie's Miracle. It covers in-person and online activities, community support events, social media engagement, and all interactions with beneficiaries, particularly women, babies, and families accessing breastfeeding and perinatal support services.

3. Principles

Maddie's Miracle upholds the following safeguarding principles:

- The welfare of the child and vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All women, children, and families have a right to equal protection from harm.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – all staff and volunteers must act on concerns.
- We work in partnership with statutory agencies to promote effective safeguarding.
- We maintain safe recruitment practices and provide ongoing safeguarding training.



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4. Legal and Policy Framework

This policy is based on and informed by the following legislation and guidance:

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (HM Government, 2023)
- The Care Act 2014 (England)
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR
- Charity Commission Safeguarding and Protecting People (CC30, 2023)
- The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Equality Act 2010

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding is properly managed across the charity. The Safeguarding Lead oversees implementation, training, and compliance. All staff and volunteers must complete required training and immediately report any safeguarding concerns.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Maddie McMahon –
maddie@maddiemcmahon.com

Safeguarding Contact: office@maddiesmiracle.org.uk | 07539 284 238

6. Safeguarding Processes

Safeguarding concerns may arise in-person, online, or at events. The following procedures apply:

1. a) Online and Social Media:

If a safeguarding concern arises during an online video call, pause the session if necessary, record details factually, and report immediately to the Safeguarding Lead.

b) Facebook group discussion, or social media comments

Take a screenshot of comments, record the details, including date and time, and report to DSL and email to: office@maddiesmiracle.org.uk

c) In-Person Support and Events:

If a concern arises during a support group, ensure immediate safety, make a factual written record, contact the Safeguarding Lead and report or sign-post to Health Visitor or GP where relevant. Follow up with Maddie's Miracle Safeguarding Lead.

d) Breastfeeding bus event, or outreach activity

If a concern arises during a support group, ensure immediate safety, make a factual written record, and contact the Safeguarding Lead within 24 hours.



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7. Reporting Concerns

If you believe a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of harm, follow this reporting sequence:

1. Act immediately if someone is at risk of immediate harm – contact emergency services (999).
2. Record factual details of the concern – who, what, where, when.
3. Report to Maddie's Miracle Charity Manager as soon as possible: office@maddiesmiracle.org.uk
4. Notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead via email or phone: Zohar Marer, Laura Smith, Maddie McMahon. *Personal Phone numbers provided to the team.*
5. If a serious and urgent concern, contact local authority safeguarding services directly: Health Visitor for in-person interactions. Charity Trustees for online interactions that require escalation in order to find relevant Health Visitor, Midwife or GP of the beneficiary (mother or baby).

We encourage any team member to discuss queries or observations of possible behaviours that may lead to identifying a safeguarding issue, where there may not be an actual concern, but they have a suspicion or a query regarding unusual behaviour or incidents. This may be behaviour such as continuous missed appointments, inconsistencies or other observations that in themselves do not constitute a safeguarding concern but are worth discussing with the DSL. This can then be reviewed by the DSL.

8. Whistleblowing

Maddie's Miracle supports an open and transparent culture. Any staff member or volunteer may raise safeguarding concerns without fear of reprisal. If you feel unable to raise an issue internally, contact the NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line on 0800 028 0285, or the Charity Commission Serious Incident Reporting line.

9. Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Information is shared only on a need-to-know basis. Confidentiality must never prevent the sharing of information where a person is at risk of harm. All data will be managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.



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10. Training and Safer Recruitment

All trustees complete the NSPCC 'Charity Trustees: Your Duties to Safeguard and Protect' course. All volunteers complete 'Child Protection: An Introduction'. Refresher training is completed every two years. DBS checks (or PVG in Scotland) are required for all roles involving contact with children or vulnerable adults.

11. Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Women

Domestic abuse is a safeguarding issue. Staff and volunteers should be alert to signs of abuse, particularly in pregnant women and new mothers. All concerns must be reported following the standard safeguarding procedure.

12. Review and Version Control

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if there are significant changes in legislation, guidance, or charity operations.

Version Control

Version
2025.2

Date Approved
December 2025

Approved By
Board of Trustees –
Maddie's Miracle