# Safeguarding Policy

## Slings & Support Wirral CICTrading as Wirral Sling Library

Date of Policy: 23rd May 2025

Review Date: 23rd May 2026

**1. Purpose**

Slings & Support Wirral CIC, trading as Wirral Sling Library, is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and adults at risk who engage with our services. This policy outlines our responsibilities and procedures to ensure the protection from abuse, harm, or exploitation.

**2. Scope**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, directors, contractors, and anyone working on behalf of Slings & Support Wirral CIC, including consultants and temporary staff.

**3. Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults, including:
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Care Act 2014
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Data Protection Act 2018 & UK GDPR
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010

**4. Definitions**

- Child: Anyone under the age of 18.
- Adult at Risk: A person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support, is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to protect themselves.
- Abuse: A form of maltreatment including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, neglect, financial abuse, discrimination, and institutional abuse.

**5. Our Commitment**

We will:
- Promote a safe and inclusive environment.
- Take all safeguarding concerns seriously.
- Report concerns in line with our procedures.
- Train all relevant personnel on safeguarding responsibilities.
- Ensure appropriate DBS checks and references for all staff and volunteers.

**6. Safeguarding Responsibilities**
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):
Name: Ruth Grint
Contact: ruth@slingsandsupportwirral.org.uk Tel 07786 960 170

- Managing safeguarding concerns
- Liaising with local safeguarding partners (Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership / Wirral Adult Safeguarding Board)
- Maintaining records securely
- Ensuring training and policies are up to date

**7. Code of Conduct**

All team members must:
- Treat all children and adults with respect
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of abuse
- Avoid being alone with a child or adult at risk where possible
- Report any concerns immediately

**8. Identifying Abuse**
Signs may include:
- Unexplained injuries
- Sudden changes in behavior
- Fearfulness or anxiety
- Withdrawal or isolation
- Unexplained loss of money or possessions

**9. Reporting Concerns**

If a child or adult is in immediate danger, call 999.

Otherwise:
- Report to the DSL as soon as possible.
- Record the concern in writing using the safeguarding report form.
- Do not investigate or confront the individual about the concern.

Contact for Wirral Safeguarding:
- Children: Integrated Front Door: 0151 606 2008
- Adults: Central Advice and Duty Team (CADT): 0151 514 2222

**10. Confidentiality**
All information will be handled in line with data protection laws. Concerns will only be shared with those who need to know in order to safeguard.

**11. Safer Recruitment**
All staff and volunteers working with children or adults at risk will undergo:
- Enhanced DBS checks where applicable
- Safeguarding induction and regular training

12. Training

All team members must complete safeguarding training every two years. The DSL must attend advanced safeguarding training suitable to their role.

13. Review
This policy will be reviewed annually or after any significant safeguarding incident or legislative change.

Approved by:
Name: \_\_Ruth Grint\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Position: \_\_\_\_Director\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Date: \_\_23 May 2025\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_