



Exeter Food Action Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy

1. Purpose

Exeter Food Action (EFA) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all individuals who come into contact with our charity, including employees, volunteers, clients and other stakeholders. This policy sets out the procedures to be followed to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of all individuals associated with EFA, in compliance with all applicable UK legislation (see appendix).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, clients and other stakeholders of EFA.

3. Definition

Safeguarding means protecting individuals from abuse, neglect or harm, and promoting their welfare. Wellbeing means the state of being comfortable, healthy or happy.

4. Principles

- a) EFA will ensure that all individuals associated with the charity are treated with dignity and respect, and that their rights and wellbeing are protected.
- b) EFA will ensure that all individuals associated with the charity are aware of the policy and the procedures to be followed in the event of any safeguarding or wellbeing concerns.
- c) EFA will ensure that all safeguarding and wellbeing concerns are taken seriously, investigated promptly, and dealt with appropriately.
- d) EFA will ensure that all employees and volunteers are appropriately trained in safeguarding and wellbeing practices.

5. Procedures

- a) EFA will appoint a Safeguarding Officer who will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy.
- b) EFA will provide appropriate information to all employees and

volunteers on safeguarding and wellbeing practices.

c) EFA will ensure that all individuals associated with the charity are aware of the policy and the procedures to be followed in the event of any safeguarding or wellbeing concerns.

d) Any safeguarding or wellbeing concerns must be reported immediately to the Safeguarding Officer or the appropriate authority, as required by law.

e) EFA will maintain appropriate records of all safeguarding and wellbeing concerns, and any actions taken in response to those concerns.

f) EFA will ensure that all individuals associated with the charity are aware of their rights, and that they are encouraged to speak out if they have any concerns.

6. **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains effective and relevant. Any necessary changes will be communicated to all employees, volunteers, clients, and other EFA stakeholders.

By implementing this safeguarding and wellbeing policy, EFA aims to promote the welfare of all individuals associated with the charity, and to comply with all applicable UK legislation.

Agreed by Trustees on: 28.02.26

Date for review: February 2027

Appendix

UK Safeguarding Legislation

Safeguarding legislation in the UK includes a range of laws and policies aimed at protecting vulnerable individuals from abuse and neglect and promoting their welfare. Some of the key legislation and policies include:

1. [**The Children Act 1989 and 2004**](#) [< link](#)
This sets out the legal framework for the protection and welfare of children in England and Wales, including the duties of local authorities and other agencies.
2. [**The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**](#) [< link](#)
This sets out requirements for vetting and barring individuals from working with vulnerable groups and creates the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
3. [**The Mental Capacity Act 2005**](#) [< link](#)
This sets out the legal framework for making decisions on behalf of individuals who lack capacity to make their own decisions and provides safeguards for their welfare.
4. [**The Care Act 2014**](#) [< link](#)
This sets out the duties of local authorities in relation to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse or neglect and provides a framework for their support and protection.
5. [**The Prevent Duty Guidance 2015**](#) [< link](#)
This requires public bodies to have regard to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism, and to safeguard individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.
6. [**The Human Rights Act 1998**](#) [< link](#)
This incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law and provides a legal framework for protecting the rights and freedoms

of individuals.

7. [**The Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance**](#) < link

This sets out the framework for multi-agency working to safeguard children and provides guidance for professionals on their roles and responsibilities.