



BRIDGING THE GAP (MANCHESTER)

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

- *Bridging the Gap (BTG) is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults with care and support needs and ensuring their well-being.*
- *We recognise that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and all BTG's workers are committed to preventing harm or Abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms that we may encounter through our food bank activities.*
- *We recognise that the personal dignity and rights of adults and children must be at the centre of all that we do and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.*
- *We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with and/or are responsible for children and adults with care and support needs.*
- *We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We will make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm, so we may act in accordance with our safeguarding policy and procedures.*

We are committed to:

- *Following statutory and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that all food bank employees and volunteers will work within, and adhere to, the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.*
- *Implementing the requirements of all relevant national legislation relevant to BTG's operations.*
- *Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work to do so safely, effectively and compliantly, with dignity, compassion and justice.*
- *Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.*
- *Supporting all those who come into contact with BTG's in the provision of food bank activities affected by, or at risk of, harm, abuse and neglect.*

We recognise:

- *Children's Social Care (England, Wales, Scotland) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or*

suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.

- *Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.*
- *Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.*
- *All BTG's employees and volunteers operate in a position of trust in providing our services to those individuals and will uphold.*
- *The sharing of information with relevant parties is a key part of effective safeguarding practice and where possible/appropriate, we will always share information required to keep people safe from harm, abuse or neglect.*

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as Safeguarding Officers for BTG

Charity Safeguarding Trustee – Michelle McHale

Telephone: 07598634476

Email: michellemchale@manchestersouthcentral.foodbank.org.uk

Designated Safeguarding Officer - Heidi Exell (Project Manager)

Telephone: 0161 226 3413 /

Email: projectmanager@manchestersouthcentral.foodbank.org.uk

Deputy Safeguarding Officer - Emily Jeremy (Assistant Project Manager)

Telephone: 0161 226 3413 /

Email: Info@manchestersouthcentral.foodbank.org.uk

BTG's safeguarding policy can be seen/accessed upon request. To request a copy please email michellemchale@manchestersouthcentral.foodbank.org.uk

Agreed and signed on behalf of BTG on 15 September 2025

Michelle McHale

Safeguarding Trustee/ Chair of Trustees

Signature:



Heidi Exell

Designated Safeguarding Officer

Signature: HExell

We will review this statement and our policy annually. Next Review: 06 June 2026