

Safeguarding Advice

Safeguarding is a routine part of managing activities in both schools and care homes and so both will already have their own risk assessment and safeguarding policies in place.

You may like to reflect on the following information and use it as a guide in your intergenerational activities.

Roles and responsibilities of safeguarding

Providers of health and social care services should ensure they have the key people, relationships, values and systems in place that will help them keep the people they work with safe. Likewise, safeguarding in schools requires all staff members to take a child-centred and coordinated approach to safeguarding.

So for children, this is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment.
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Health and care expectations are embedded in the Care Act. These six principles apply to all health and care settings:

1. Empowerment

People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

2. Prevention

It is better to take action before harm occurs.

3. Proportionality

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

4. Protection

Support and representation for those in greatest need.

5. Partnership

Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

6. Accountability

Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

What does this mean for someone undertaking an intergenerational project?

Here are some recommendations:

- Designating key individuals at the school and care home who will lead on/ be responsible for intergenerational activities helps with clarity and communication. Working in partnership with the school and care home will be central to the project's success.
- Have a conversation about safeguarding to ensure that everyone understands each other's procedures.
- Support from Head Teachers (/Senior Leadership Team) and Care Home Registered Managers (if these individuals are not already the ones leading the project) means that senior leadership are aware of your plans, support them, and are comfortable for them to go ahead.
- Communication with parents/carers/family will help to raise awareness about what children/older people are engaging in.
- Encouraging open discussion with children and older people about what they are feeling and experiencing during activities will help to flag up concerns and/or challenges, so that they can be addressed.
- Check what consent is in place for taking and sharing photographs/videos. Remember that people are entitled to confidentiality. Also consider using first names only on created items such as letters/artwork.