

Children 1st



Safeguarders
Panel

Safeguarders

Information for children,
young people and families



My name is

I am the Safeguarder for

You can contact me if you need to by:

Phoning / texting

Emailing

You may have a lot of worries and questions about a Safeguarder. This booklet is to help children, young people, and their families understand what a Safeguarder is and what they do. We hope you find this information helpful.

Safeguarders want you to feel...

Safe and comfortable

Listened to

Respected

Confident
to ask
questions

Informed
about
Safeguarders
and their role

What is a Safeguarder?

When a child or young person is experiencing difficult things in their life, they may be involved in a Children's Hearing or court case. Sometimes a Safeguarder will be asked to help a Sheriff or Children's Hearing Panel decide what should happen next for the child or young person.

A Safeguarder wants to learn about what is going on in a child or young person's life to help make sure that any decisions made at the Hearing or in court are in the best interests of the child or young person.



Safeguarders are independent. This means they are not connected to other people working with the child or young person, like panel members, social workers, or lawyers. They are free to give their views of what is in the child or young person's best interests.



What does 'best interests' mean?

Children and young people have human rights. These rights are all the things they need to live a safe, healthy and happy life. They are listed in a document called the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Safeguarders must respect and protect children's human rights as they think about what is best for a child or young person.

'Best interests' means that children and young people enjoy all the rights that are in the UNCRC, and that adults think about their wellbeing growth and development when they are making decisions that will affect the lives of children and young people.

Safeguarders will always do what they think is best for a child or young person. They are there to make sure the Children's Hearing or court can make the best decision for the child or young person.

The child, young person and their families may or may not agree with the Safeguarder's recommendations. Safeguarders will always explain why they have made their recommendations.

More information about children's human rights and the UNCRC can be found here:
www.cypcs.org.uk/rights



What will a Safeguarder do?

A Safeguarder will meet the child or young person to get to know them, learn about what they want, and answer any questions they might have.



A Safeguarder will speak to adults in the child or young person's life (like parents, carers, teachers, social workers, or others) to learn what they think would be best for the child or young person.



A Safeguarder will read the information from the Children's Hearing about the child or young person and their situation.



A Safeguarder will make recommendations to help the Children's Hearings Panel decide what is best for the child or young person. This will be written as a report, and a Safeguarder should **share and explain** their recommendations with the child or young person and others.

The child or young person may see this report as part of the information that is shared with the Children's Hearing.



A Safeguarder will attend the Hearing or court to share the views of the child or young person and explain their recommendations for what should happen next.



Once a decision is made, a Safeguarder will not be involved anymore and they will say goodbye to the child or young person.



For more information about accessing a Safeguarders report in the future, please visit:
www.scra.gov.uk

Privacy and Confidentiality

Children and young people have a right to privacy, and it is important that this is respected by the Children's Hearings System and by Safeguarders.

Safeguarders want to meet and speak with a child or young person to learn about their life, but the child or young person can decide that they do not wish to speak with the Safeguarder. They have a choice to speak with a Safeguarder or not, and they can change their mind.

Safeguarders will keep all personal information confidential, which means they will keep it private and only share it when it's necessary with people who have permission to see it.

Safeguarders will make sure that they keep all electronic and paper documents safe and secure. They must follow the rules outlined in the General Data Protection Regulations 2016.

Once a decision is made by the Children Hearing or the court, a Safeguarder must dispose of any information they hold about a child or young person.

If a Safeguarder receives information about a child or adult not being safe or about a crime, it is their duty to report this.

Feedback about Safeguarders



We want to hear from you!

Your views and opinions help us make sure that Safeguarders are doing their best to protect the best interests of children and young people.

If you want to tell the Safeguarders Panel Team anything about your experience with a Safeguarder, please scan the QR code or visit:



www.children1st.org.uk/sg-feedback

If you have a worry, concern or complaint about your Safeguarder's work, actions or behaviour, please contact the Children 1st Safeguarders Panel Team. More information here:

www.children1st.org.uk/sg-complaints



Visit our website to find out more about Safeguarders
or to provide feedback:

www.children1st.org.uk/safeguarders

Safeguarders Panel Team

Telephone number: 0345 604 4296

Email: safeguarderspanel@children1st.org.uk



Safeguarders are appointed by Scottish Government Ministers and are supported by the Safeguarders Panel Team. The Safeguarders Panel Team (SPT) is based at Children 1st and manages the national network of Safeguarders.

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