

## Safeguarding statement

Spread a Smile is a registered charity in England and Wales (1152205) and provides entertainment and special events (both virtually and in-person) for children and young people with serious illness, and their families.

We believe that children, young people and adults should never experience abuse of any kind. As such, we are committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of everyone who uses our services. We recognise that we have a responsibility to protect the welfare of children and adults and to ensure that they are protected from harm. To do this, we will create a safe space for all.

## Creating a safe space - ensuring we all feel safe

A 'safe space' is a place or environment in which a person or category of people can feel confident in that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment or any other emotional or physical harm.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of children, young people or adults who use our services, or any other concerns about our services, you can raise them with a Spread a Smile member of staff, who will share them with one of our Designated Safeguarding Officers.

Sometimes, we may have concerns about the wellbeing of a child, young person, or adult. If this is the case, we may need to share these with the designated safeguarding team at Spread a Smile, and, in some instances, with other professionals, such as hospital staff.

If we do have to share concerns with anyone, we will always attempt to speak to you and share those concerns with your knowledge and consent. However, just like in other settings, such as schools, colleges, or doctors' surgeries, there may be rare instances when we must share concerns without your consent and/or knowledge.

We want to reassure you that such instances are extremely rare, and that any information we do share is for the protection and wellbeing of the people we work with, because ultimately, we are here for you and your family, and our services are designed to bring joy, creativity, and connection.

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