**Youth With A Future**

**Safeguarding policy statement**

The Youth With A Future (YWAF) Trustees do not have any direct contact with the young people it seeks to serve. The Trust is for the purpose of grant-making to young people aged 16-25 who live in the Mendip area of Somerset.

We believe that the welfare of young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we make for them, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. They have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

This policy was developed following discussions with the Local Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership who deemed that Youth With A Future (YWAF) does not need a specific Safeguarding Policy as the Trustees do not have direct contact with any young people because all applications for funding for individual young people have been received through their support workers or other professionals involved in their support. Those professionals involved with supporting young people will be guided by their own organisations’ safeguarding policies.

The grant applications are made by referring agencies, such as the YMCA and other organisations, who are working with and supporting the young people concerned. It is essential that the YMCA and other organisations have their own safeguarding policies and procedures and that young people’s personal information is kept safe. The young person’s consent must be given for the application to be prepared and submitted.

Occasionally a young person will make their own application so we would seek to contact a parent/carer (if under 18) or the organisation they are working alongside (usually a further education establishment for college kits & equipment or a uniformed organisation/gym/sports club) in order to obtain more information and ensure they have safeguarding policies and measures in place.

We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them. We request sight of organisational safeguarding policies for all organisations applying for funds for young people. If the Trustees are ever concerned that a young person’s safety or well-being is at risk or suffering, we will speak to the agency supporting the application, expressing our concerns and asking for them to be addressed. We will also contact Somerset County Council’s Somerset Direct helpline to share these concerns if needed.

A copy of this safeguarding statement will be added to the Grants page of the YWAF website.

**This policy was last reviewed on: 06/10/2020 (date)**

**Signed: pp – Sue Crisfield on behalf of all trustees – agreed virtually during the Corona Virus pandemic**

**YWAF Chair after agreement by all trustees**

**Date of next review: …… 06/10/2021**