CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Trust is dedicated to safe practices and the positive youth development of all young people. This policy outlines procedures for employees or contractors of the Trust to manage actual and/or suspected child abuse and neglect while participating in the Trust's work.

Principles:

The Trust adheres to the following principles:

- Ensuring best practice positive youth development outcomes for the young people engaged or worked with by youth development organizations in Aotearoa.
- Prioritizing the safety of both contracted Assessors and young people interviewed during Scope Reviews.

Safety of children and young people:

- Recognizing the unique and privileged position held by the Trust when entering youth development organizations and engaging with their staff and young people.
- Requiring all contractors and staff engaging a member of the Scope Review Team to undergo Police Vetting every two years as a condition of employment or contracting with the Trust.
- Storing the results of these checks securely in the Trust's HR system, accessible only by authorized personnel.
- Initiating a good faith conversation if concerns arise during the vetting process to assess the individual's appropriateness for continued engagement with the Trust.

Allegations of abuse or neglect:

The following process should be followed as soon as practicable after an incident or when concerns about abuse and neglect arise:

1. Ensuring the safety of the child/young person is the priority. If abuse is disclosed during a review interview or program observation, the Scope Review Leader will report the concerns to the relevant organization if safe to do so.
2. Informing the child/young person that a third party is being informed due to safety concerns, in line with privacy regulations.

3. Contacting the Manager of Scope Aotearoa Charitable Trust to report the disclosure, then consulting with the Manager of the youth development organization being reviewed, who will follow their Child Protection policy. If the Manager of the reviewed organization is implicated, the chair of the governance body will be informed.
4. Informing the Chairperson of the Trust when the Trust Manager is informed of the disclosure by a Scope Review Team Assessor. The matter will be considered at a Trustee Meeting to seek professional/legal advice and ensure policy adherence.
5. Providing appropriate support (supervision, cultural supervision, counselling, or spiritual direction) to each member of the Scope Review Team.

Date Policy Approved: 2024

Policy Review Date: August 2026