

# Safeguarding Policy

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## Policy Statement

Pro Bono Economics acknowledges that children and vulnerable adults can be harmed through sexual, physical, emotional abuse or through neglect. We believe implacably that children and vulnerable adults have a right to be kept safe from harm.

Pro Bono Economics takes the protection of children and vulnerable adults most seriously and its staff and volunteers will always act in such a way as to safeguard and promote their welfare.

A vulnerable person is defined as a person who:

*“is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”.*

As an intermediary organisation, Pro Bono Economics and its volunteers do not usually come into direct contact with the beneficiaries of the charities we support, i.e. children and vulnerable adults. However, we promote the protection of children and vulnerable adults when recruiting staff and volunteers and before engaging with charities where the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is applicable.

## Implementation

### **Management**

The Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for ensuring that this Safeguarding Policy is implemented, monitored and audited.

### **Safe Supervision of Children and vulnerable adults by Projects**

Responsibility for ensuring the safety of charity beneficiaries, i.e. children and vulnerable adults rests with the charities themselves. However, as part of its assessment and decision-making process, Pro Bono Economics will take reasonable steps to ensure that the charities we work with have suitable Safeguarding Policies and procedures in place before our engagement with them commences.

### **Information and confidentiality**

On occasions, we may receive information that could be considered sensitive, such as personal information about a child or vulnerable person (e.g. the nature of a disability). In this case, the information is treated with strict confidentiality and is given only to those who need to know it. In instances where sensitive information will be shared, relevant Staff members and volunteers sign a Confidentiality Policy. Pro Bono Economics also adheres to a strict Data Protection Policy.

### **Safe Recruitment Practice**

If site visits involving children and vulnerable adults become necessary within the scope of the project, the staff members and volunteers involved will undergo a basic level Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The CEO will ensure that newly recruited staff and volunteers are aware of Pro Bono Economics' Safeguarding and Confidentiality Policies and procedures.

### **Practice in responding to Allegations or Concerns of Abuse**

- If staff or volunteers observe or become aware of any sign of abuse or anything that causes them concern, this will be reported immediately to the charity's nominated person responsible for the protection of children and vulnerable adults and the CEO of Pro Bono Economics.
- If any volunteer or charity staff member contacts Pro Bono Economics because they are uncertain of how to tackle an incident that has occurred, they will be referred to an appropriate support agency.
- If a charity beneficiary makes a complaint to Pro Bono Economics about the project, they should be signposted to, and assisted in contacting, an appropriate support agency.
- No member of staff or volunteer of Pro Bono Economics should attempt to investigate an incident or allegation themselves.