COMMUNITY GUARANTOR SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE

The **Helping Hands Community Fund** has been created to be easily accessible to the community. As a funder, we require all applicants to have a bank account in their organisation's name, signed annual accounts and registered with Companies House or the Charity Commission. However, if you are an individual or a group of residents who are not part of an organisation or you are an organisation that does not have all the supporting documents, you can still apply through a 'Community Guarantor'.

Safeguarding and the Role of Your Community Guarantor

When applying to the **Helping Hands Community Fund**, safeguarding is not just a requirement; it's about creating safe spaces for young people. Your **community guarantor** plays a critical role in ensuring these standards are met.

Why Safeguarding Matters

Safeguarding protects children and young people from harm, ensures safe environments, and requires clear responses to concerns. These responsibilities apply to all projects, whether a single event or an ongoing program.

The Guarantor's Responsibilities

Your guarantor does more than manage finances; they provide oversight and accountability for safeguarding. Their role includes:

- **Guidance** on safeguarding policies and procedures
- **Access** to training and resources
- **Clear reporting structures** for concerns
- **Oversight** of your safeguarding practices
- **Support** in implementing measures

They are putting their organisation's reputation behind your work, so they need confidence that you can operate safely and responsibly. Expect questions, they're protecting both you and the young people.

Key Safeguarding Requirements

- **Enhanced DBS Checks**: Anyone in regulated activity with under-18s must have an Enhanced DBS check with the Children's Barred List. Your guarantor typically facilitates this process.
- **Safeguarding Policy**: Adopt your guarantor's policy or create one covering recruitment, acceptable behaviour, reporting, and confidentiality.
- **Risk Assessment**: Identify and manage risks, especially in projects addressing youth violence.
- **Training**: Ensure you and your team understand signs of abuse, exploitation, and risks linked to youth violence.

Practical Steps

- Discuss safeguarding expectations with your guarantor **before applying**.
- Clarify DBS processes, costs, and timelines early—checks can take weeks.
- Formalise arrangements in writing if your application is successful.

Remember: Your guarantor is your partner in safeguarding. Their role is to help you meet requirements, not create barriers. For support, contact helpinghands@youngwestminster.com