



Support for Young People
Affected by Crime

Climate and Ecological Emergency Policy Statement

Purpose

SAFE! recognises that the climate and ecological emergency is one of the most significant challenges facing society. Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and the depletion of natural resources have far-reaching consequences for communities, public health, wellbeing, equality and resilience.

As a charity supporting children, young people and families affected by crime, abuse, violence and trauma, we understand that those already experiencing disadvantage are often disproportionately affected by environmental challenges. We believe that social justice and environmental sustainability are closely connected, and that organisations have a responsibility to contribute positively to both.

This statement sets out SAFE!'s commitment to responding to the climate and ecological emergency through responsible decision-making, sustainable operations and continuous improvement. It complements our wider social value and environmental sustainability commitments.

Our Commitment

SAFE! acknowledges the scientific consensus that urgent action is required to address climate change and biodiversity loss. We recognise that every organisation has a role to play in reducing environmental harm and supporting a more sustainable future.

We are committed to:

- Minimising the environmental impact of our activities.
- Considering environmental sustainability in organisational decision-making.
- Reducing waste and promoting the efficient use of resources.
- Supporting sustainable ways of working that reduce carbon emissions.
- Encouraging environmental awareness amongst staff, volunteers and trustees.
- Seeking opportunities to contribute positively to environmental sustainability through partnerships, learning and innovation.
- Monitoring our progress and identifying opportunities for ongoing improvement.

We recognise that meaningful progress will require ongoing learning, adaptation and collaboration and we are committed to embedding environmental responsibility into the way we operate as an organisation.

How We Will Deliver This Commitment

Sustainable Operations

We will take practical steps to reduce the environmental impact of our day-to-day activities. This includes:

- Promoting digital working and reducing unnecessary printing and paper use.
- Maximising the use of technology to facilitate remote meetings, training and support where appropriate.
- Continuing to develop flexible and hybrid approaches to working that reduce travel and commuting.
- Encouraging recycling, reuse and waste reduction across all offices and activities.
- Monitoring our use of energy and resources and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Sustainable Travel

Travel is often necessary to provide effective support to children, young people and families. However, where appropriate, we will:

- Reduce unnecessary travel through virtual meetings and service delivery options.
- Encourage environmentally responsible travel choices.
- Plan services and meetings efficiently to minimise avoidable journeys.
- Consider the environmental impact of travel alongside service quality and accessibility needs.

Procurement and Partnerships

We will seek to ensure that our purchasing decisions and partnerships reflect our commitment to sustainability by:

- Considering environmental impacts when purchasing goods and services.
- Where practical, supporting local suppliers and organisations.
- Encouraging suppliers and partners to demonstrate responsible environmental practices.

- Reducing unnecessary consumption and promoting sustainable alternatives.

Organisational Culture

We recognise that environmental sustainability is most effective when embedded within organisational culture. We will:

- Raise awareness of climate and environmental issues among staff, volunteers and trustees.
- Encourage environmentally responsible behaviours within the workplace.
- Create opportunities for staff to suggest and implement sustainable improvements.
- Share learning and good practice across the organisation.

Governance and Accountability

The Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team have overall responsibility for ensuring that SAFE! delivers its commitments to environmental sustainability and social value. Appropriate oversight will be provided through our governance arrangements, including regular review of progress against our Social Value Action Plan and Environmental Sustainability objectives.

This policy statement will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains relevant, proportionate and aligned with emerging best practice.

Looking Forward

SAFE! is committed to playing its part in addressing the climate and ecological emergency. While recognising our primary mission to support children, young people and families, we believe that responsible environmental stewardship is an important aspect of being a sustainable, ethical and forward-looking organisation.

Through continuous improvement, collaboration and responsible action, we will contribute to a healthier environment and more resilient communities for current and future generations.