

Safeguarding Advice for Families Fundraising

Solving Kids' Cancer UK is a safeguarding charity that aims to promote and protect the welfare of all children and young people, particularly when they and their families are experiencing a challenging time. The following advice is given not to alarm or add to worry but simply to create awareness to help ensure that any risk, however small, to the safety of children (siblings included) is minimised during fundraising.

The context to this advice is that public fundraising campaigns can receive a lot of attention and compel others to want to help, from friends and relatives to people unbeknown to families. A range of events and activities may be organised on behalf of families, some of which families will attend. Fundraising campaigns' social media may also engage new supporters, who may in turn use social media to help promote campaigns or fundraising activity. Such activity may lead to new supporters, followers, and Facebook friends.

Amidst fundraising campaign activity, it is important to remember that there are unfortunately instances when adults will deliberately seek out, create, or exploit opportunities to abuse children. They do so by attaching themselves to families in difficult circumstances or to organisations supporting families, and sadly, they can be very successful in gaining the trust of those around them.

To help minimise any potential risk, we would suggest following the guidance below:

- Be mindful of photos and videos being taken of children; their purpose; and how and where they will be distributed. When families don't feel comfy, they have the right to withhold consent for photos and videos in relation to their children as well as to question anyone who is taking photos at an event.
- Before taking photos and videos of someone else's children and / or sharing photos of someone else's children with others or online, seek the permission of their parents.
- Be mindful of those in direct contact and communication with children. It is not recommended that donors, fundraisers or supporters have unsupervised access to children, including online. Where communication does take place, make sure to monitor it, especially if this takes place online or through social media.
- Be aware that those supporting fundraising campaigns or supporting the charity, should not automatically be regarded as being in positions of trust. Solving Kids' Cancer UK's responsibility extends to the conduct of its employees, trustees, and other volunteers only who are acting on its behalf, all of whom are vetted. Others who support the charity and those supporting fundraising campaigns are not vetted and irrespective, vigilance should always be maintained.
- Talk to children about how they feel about attending events and let them know that they can talk about anything that makes them feel uneasy.

We appreciate that the topic of safeguarding is difficult by its very nature because it involves the safety and protection of children – we share this information and advice with families' best interests at heart.

Families shouldn't hesitate to contact us with any questions and if they see, hear or witness anything that causes concern or discomfort - support@solvingkidscancer.org.uk