

## Safeguarding Policy for National Skills Competitions

WorldSkills UK is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people involved in our programmes of activity. WorldSkills UK believe it is unacceptable for any child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and providing a safe environment for skills development is core to our work.

### Purpose

The purpose of the safeguarding policy for national skills competitions is to establish and outline our relationship with Competition Organising Partners in the pursuit of facilitating good practice in Safeguarding Children and Young People.

### Responsibility

WorldSkills UK's commitment is to promote and share good practice in safeguarding with Competition Organising Partners' (COPs). Supporting the development of each COPs principles and processes to be person-centred and outcome-focused; making sure an individual's wellbeing is promoted; protecting all Participants in vulnerable circumstances, reducing and preventing risks.

The Competition Organising Partners responsibility is to:

- Protect all Participants involved in the WorldSkills UK national competitions programme whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexuality, promoting equal opportunity for all.
- Recruiting judges and delivery staff safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made, where applicable.
- Ensuring all Partners' involved in the planning and delivery of national competitions fully understand their responsibilities and are provided with the appropriate guidance and updates of the legislation.
- Share concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and young people appropriately.
- Reviewing policies and procedures annually.

### Our definitions

For the purposes of WorldSkills UK's national competition safeguarding policy we recognise the following definitions:

**Child / young person/ young people** - The legal definition of a child or young person within the Children Act 1989 is anyone under the age of 18 years. In addition, any young person under 24 years with learning difficulties and / or disabilities is legally defined as a child. We would use this term to define our competitors.

**Vulnerable adult** - A vulnerable adult can be defined as someone who requires additional support to carry out everyday tasks due to physical disability or learning difficulties / disabilities, where their support needs render them open to exploitation. We would use this term to define competitors.

**Partners'** - Third party organisations and individuals responsible for supporting or delivering WorldSkills UK competitions activities i.e. Competition Organising Partners or Judges.

**Participants'** - We would define a participant as anyone involved in our programme which will cover Competitors, Judges or Competition Organising Partners.

**Staff** - An individual employed by WorldSkills UK, this does not include contractors or consultants.

**National competitions** - These are competitions overseen by WorldSkills UK and managed by education and industry partners, known as Competition Organising Partners' (COPs) who are responsible for planning and delivery of the heats, qualifiers and national finals.

### **Further assistance and guidance**

The WorldSkills UK designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for supporting Competition organising Partners' develop their safeguarding policies and practices.

### **WSUK Safeguarding Policies**

Our policies and practices are underpinned by two working documents:

1. National competition safeguarding policy
2. International competition safeguarding policy

For further information about our practice, please contact:

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By Whom: Chris Herron – Designated Safeguarding Lead