

FAMILIES TOGETHER SUFFOLK (FAMILIES TOGETHER)

Data Protection Policy

Policy Statement

The lawful and appropriate management of personal data is extremely important to Families Together. This policy sets our commitment to protecting personal data and how we will implement this with regards to the collection and handling of personal data. The relevant legislation that this policy conforms to can be found in Appendix 2.

Failure to comply with data protection legislation could lead to financial penalties, regulatory action, as well as reputational damage.

This policy applies to:

- All staff, including temporary staff
- Trustees/Advisers
- Volunteers

The Data Protection Principles

Data Protection laws describe how organisations must collect, handle and store all personal data. Ensuring and demonstrating compliance is underpinned by the following principles.

Personal data must be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that inaccurate personal data, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed;
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures

Responsibilities for Compliance

- **Trustees** are ultimately responsible for ensuring that Families Together meets its legal obligations
- **All staff** have a responsibility for ensuring personal data is collected, stored and handled appropriately and must ensure that it is handled and processed in line with this policy and the data protection principles
- **DP Lead** is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy and the data protection legislation; managing personal data breaches and data subject rights; recording and maintaining appropriate records of processing activities and the documented evidence required for compliance.

Scope

The Policy applies to all personal data that Families Together holds relating to living identifiable individuals regardless of the category of data or the format of the data. Personal data is any data which could be used to identify a living individual e.g. name, address, email, postcode, CCTV image, and photograph. Special categories of personal data are any information about racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, health (mental and physical), sexual health, trade union membership and criminal convictions.

The policy applies to personal data held or accessed on Families Together premises or accessed remotely via home or mobile working. Personal data stored on personal and removable devices are also covered by this policy.

Compliance

Families Together will comply with our legal obligations and the data protection principles by:

- **Processing Lawfully and Fairly.** Families Together will ensure processing of personal data, and special categories, meets the legal basis as outlined in legislation. Individuals will be advised on reasons for processing via a freely available Privacy Notice. Where data subjects' consent is required to process personal data, consent (e.g. use of photos for Website/Annual Report) will be requested in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from other matters, in an intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language. Data Subjects will be advised of their right to withdraw consent and the process for Data Subjects to withdraw consent will be simple.
- **Purposes.** Personal data will only be used for the original purpose it was collected for. These purposes will be clear to the data subject. If Families Together wish to use personal data for a different purpose, we will notify the data subject prior to processing.
- **Adequate and Relevant data.** Families Together will only collect the minimum personal data required for the purpose. Any personal data discovered as excessive or no longer

required for the purposes collected for will be securely deleted. Any personal information that is optional for individuals to provide will be clearly marked as optional on any forms.

- **Accurate.** Families Together will take reasonable steps to keep personal data up to date, where relevant, to ensure accuracy. Any personal data found to be inaccurate will be updated promptly. Any inaccurate personal data that has been shared with third parties will also be updated.
- **Retention.** Families Together will hold data for the minimum time necessary to fulfil its purpose. Timescales for retention of personal data are outlined in the Records Retention Schedule (Appendix 1). Data will be disposed of in a responsible way to ensure confidentiality and security.
- **Security.** Families Together will implement appropriate security measures to protect personal data. Personal data will only be accessible to those authorised to access personal data on a 'need to know' basis. Employees, trustees and volunteers will keep all data secure, by taking sensible precautions and following the relevant Families Together policies and procedures relating to data protection.

Data Sharing

- In certain circumstances Families Together may share personal data with third parties. This may be part of a regular exchange of data, one-off disclosures, or in unexpected or emergency situations.
- Appropriate security measures will be used when sharing any personal data.
- Where data is shared regularly a contract or data sharing agreement will be in place to establish what data will be shared and the agreed purpose.
- Families Together will consider all the legal implications of sharing personal data prior to doing so.
- Data Subjects will be advised of any data sharing in the Privacy Notice.

Data Processors

Where Families Together engage Data Processors (e.g. outside contractors such as suppliers of IT systems, payroll or pensions providers to process personal data on our behalf, we will ensure:

- Data processors have appropriate technical security measures in place
- No sub-processors are used without prior written consent from Families Together (add name)
- An appropriate contract or agreement is in place explaining the full requirements of the data processor.

Security Incident & Breach Management

Occasionally Families Together may experience a personal data breach; this could be if personal data is:

- Lost, for example via misplacing documents or equipment that contain personal data, through human error, or via fire, flood or other damage to premises where data is stored.
- Stolen; theft or a result of a targeted attack on our network (cyber- attack).
- Accidentally disclosed to an unauthorised individual
- Inappropriately accessed or used

All security incidents or personal data breaches will be reported and managed by the Data Protection Lead. The Information Commissioner's Office and the individuals affected will be notified promptly, if required. All breaches will be managed using the Breach procedures within the Confidentiality policy.

Individual Rights

Families Together will uphold the rights of data subjects to access and retain control over their personal data held by us.

Families Together will comply with an individual's:

- **Right to be Informed** – by ensuring individuals are informed of the reasons for processing their data in a clear, transparent and easily accessible form and informing them of all their rights
- **Right to Access** – by ensuring that individuals are aware of their right to obtain confirmation that their data is being processed; access to copies of their personal data and other information such as a privacy notice and how to execute this right
- **Right to Rectification** – by correcting personal data that is found to be inaccurate. We will advise data subjects on how to inform us that their data is inaccurate. Inaccuracies will be rectified without undue delay
- **Right to Erasure** (also known as 'the right to be forgotten') - we will advise data subjects of their right to request the deletion or removal of personal data where processing is no longer required or justified
- **Rights to Restrict Processing** - we will restrict processing when a valid request is received by a data subject and inform individuals of how to exercise this right
- **Right to Data Portability** – by allowing, where possible, data to be transferred to similar organisation in a machine-readable format
- **Right to Object** – by stopping processing personal data, unless we can demonstrate legitimate grounds for the processing, which override the interest, rights and freedoms

of an individual, or the processing is for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Privacy by Design

Families Together has an obligation to implement technical and organisational measures to demonstrate that we have considered and integrated data protection into our processing activities throughout the organisation.

Trustees will be responsible for ensuring a Data Audit is completed and retained, this becomes a Record of Processing required by Article 30 of GDPR.

When introducing any new type of processing, particularly using new technologies, we will take account of whether the processing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals and carry out Data Protection Impact Assessment.

All new policies including the processing of personal data will be reviewed by the Data Protection Lead to ensure compliance with the law.

Training

All staff will be aware of good practice in Data Protection and where to find guidance and support for data protection issues.

Adequate and role specific training will be available regularly to everyone who has access to personal data, to ensure they understand their responsibilities when handling data.

Breach of Policy

Any breaches of this policy, may be considered under the Families Together disciplinary procedures, and may result in disciplinary action being taken, including dismissal.

Monitoring and Reporting

Regular audits will be undertaken to check compliance with the law, this policy and any relevant procedures.

Related Policies and documents

Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct, Confidentiality Policy, Privacy Notice, LIA, Record of Processing (data Audit), DPIA, DP Checklist, Record Retention table (Appendix 1)

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, although changes will be made to the policy during the 12 month period if required to meet changes in legislation and to address any weakness identified in the policy.

Signed by Chair:	C. Read
Date:	November 2023
Review Date:	November 2024

APPENDIX 1

RETENTION PERIODS

Retention Periods in Families Together	
<p>In general, the personnel file should be retained for 6 years, but need only contain sufficient information in order to provide a reference.</p> <p><i>Exception: If an allegation is made about the member of staff or trustee the personnel record should be retained until they retire or for 10 years, if that is longer.</i></p>	
Application form	<p>For successful candidates: retained for the duration of employment, shred when employment ends Sufficient information in order to provide a reference may be retained.</p> <p>For unsuccessful candidates: should be retained for 6 months</p>
Shortlisting information	<p>For successful candidates: should be removed from their file and destroyed after 6 months</p> <p>For unsuccessful candidates: should be retained for 6 months</p>
<p>Staff file</p> <p>References received</p> <p>Eligibility to work in the UK</p> <p>Sickness records</p> <p>Leave records</p> <p>Parental leave</p> <p>References provided</p> <p>Disciplinary records</p>	6 years from end of employment
Records relating to an injury or accident at work	12 years
DBS/PVG/ACCESS NI checks	Documented record of each as received and satisfactory (or otherwise) then destroy securely in compliance with DBS/PVG/ACCESS NI
Trustee files	6 years after standing down as trustee
Volunteer files	The volunteer file is retained for 12 months after the volunteer has ceased to be a Families Together volunteer. Sufficient information in order to provide a reference may be retained.

Retention Periods in Families Together	
Family files, where no safeguarding concern	The family file is retained for 12 months from the date of ending Families Together support. The file is stored securely and is marked with the date (month/year) it should be destroyed. The file will be securely destroyed at the appropriate date.
Family files, where a safeguarding concern was referred by Families Together, or the family were subject to a child protection plan or a Child in Need Plan and any files containing a Record of Concern and Action	The family file is retained for 6 years from the date of ending Families Together support. The file is stored securely and is marked with the date (month/year) it should be destroyed and stored securely. The file will be securely destroyed at the appropriate date.
Financial Records	
Financial records	6 years
Payroll and tax information	6 years
Corporate	
Employers Liability Certificate	40 years
Insurance policies	Permanently
Certificate of Incorporation	Permanently
Minutes of Board of Trustees	Permanently
Memorandum of Association	Original to be kept permanently
Articles of Association	Original to be kept permanently
Variations to the Governing Documents	Original to be kept permanently
Statutory Registers	Permanently
Membership records	10 years after the person leaves
Rental or Hire Purchase Agreements	6 years after expiry
Other	
Deeds of Title	Permanently
Leases	12 years after lease has expired
Accident books	12 years from the date of the last recorded accident, see also records of injuries/accidents at work, above
Health & Safety Records	12 years

APPENDIX 2

The legislation that the policy conforms to:

- General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)
- UK Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA2018)
- Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR)
- Any legislation that will replace the GDPR in UK law after leaving the European Union.