



Healthy Children

# Healthy Children in Healthy Families: Ethical considerations

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# Why consider ethics?



Healthy Children

- To protect volunteers
- To protect families
- To protect the organisation
- To prevent harm



# Code of conduct



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## 1) Limitations of the role

Volunteers are not acting as health professionals, even if they possess the necessary skills and training. As such volunteers should not enter into detailed medical discussions or offer health advice outside of basic healthy lifestyle guidelines.

Action: Signpost to GP or relevant health service



# Code of conduct



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## 2) Privacy

Volunteers will treat all information provided by, or learned about, the family as confidential. Volunteers will not disclose this information to anyone outside of the HCHF project team. Information relating to families and the HCHF project will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

- ANY personal information must be stored securely (electronic or written)
- Personal information can only be used for the purpose it was collected

**Action: Ask Martyn**



# Code of conduct



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## 3) Disclosure of illegal activity & risk of harm

Volunteers may discover evidence of illegal activity during their work with families. Volunteers are not bound by the same rules as health professionals and should use their best judgement as *members of the public* as to whether these activities should be reported to authorities.

Where there is evidence of neglect, abuse or serious harm to a child, volunteers are obliged to report this. Evidence should be discussed with Martyn and an appropriate course of action agreed. Families should be informed of any report made.

Action: Contact Martyn



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## 4) Professionalism

Volunteers should maintain good standards of timekeeping, cleanliness and conduct.

Volunteers should maintain professional boundaries with families at all times.

Volunteers should not enter into any financial relationship with families.

Action: Contact Martyn for advice

