



International **CHILD** ————— **SAFEGUARDING** **WEEK**

ICSW2025



OUR MISSION



EMPOWERING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

By partnering with Parents and Schools
to foster positive racial identity development
and promote acts of kindness.



Child Safeguarding in Community Events

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Afrikindness Safeguarding team



Focus Areas

- Safeguarding in community events – Why.
- Risk Management.
- Safeguarding Plan and its purpose.
- Culturally responsive Safeguarding practices.

Safeguarding in Community Events: **Why It Matters**

Why Safeguarding Is Important

- Community events bring together **children, families, and vulnerable individuals** in informal settings — making safety everyone's shared responsibility.
- A strong safeguarding culture ensures **trust, inclusion, and protection** for all participants.
- Prevents harm by ensuring **safe environments, appropriate conduct, and clear reporting channels**.
- Encourages community leaders and organisers to **recognise early warning signs** and act before issues escalate.
- Promotes **positive representation of cultural communities**, showing care, responsibility, and accountability.
- Aligns with local authority and national safeguarding standards — building confidence with partners and funders.

Common Associated Risks **in Community Events**



- **Unsupervised children** or unclear child protection responsibility.
- **Inappropriate behaviour or contact** between adults and minors.
- **Lack of DBS checks** or safeguarding training for volunteers and staff.
- **Cultural or faith-based misunderstandings** (e.g. discipline, consent, gender norms).
- **Failure to obtain consent** for photos, videos, or media sharing involving children.
- **Unsafe environments** – overcrowding, poor emergency plans, or inadequate supervision.
- **Bullying, harassment, or exclusion** within peer groups or between attendees.
- **Lack of awareness** of how or who to report safeguarding concerns to.
- **Hazards and Unsafe Acts and Conditions** – trip and fall hazard, electrical hazard, objects at height, suspended weights etc

Risk Assessment (Standard / Dynamic)

BEFORE: As part of the safeguarding plan, it's important to **proactively conduct a community event analysis and risk assessment** to identify potential hazards or safeguarding risks before the event.

DURING: Alongside this, organisers should carry out a **dynamic risk assessment** during the event itself — continuously observing and responding to emerging risks in real time to keep everyone safe. Extra precautions should be taken with large number of people, special needs people, or vulnerable adults/children.

KEY MESSAGE: “Safeguarding is not just a policy — it's a community mindset. Every event is an opportunity to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive space for all.”

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Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who is at Risk	Existing Controls	Further Actions Needed	Responsibility
Trips and Slips (e.g., wires, spills)	Attendees, exhibitors, volunteers	Cable covers, designated set-up areas, floor covering for liquids	Exhibitors to bring coverings for spillable items	Exhibitors, Event Team
Fire Hazards	All present	Venue fire protocols, no naked flames, fire exits clearly marked	Remind exhibitors of fire evacuation procedures	Venue, Event Coordinator
Electrical Equipment	Exhibitors, attendees, staff	PAT-tested equipment only, extension leads safely taped down	Check PAT labels during set-up	Exhibitors, Event Team
Manual Handling (e.g., heavy items)	Exhibitors	Volunteers available to assist. Exhibitors to bring their trolleys which is recommended for large items	Remind exhibitors to avoid lifting alone	Exhibitors, Volunteers
Crowd Management	Attendees, volunteers, staff	Scheduled breaks, visible signage, volunteers and ushers guiding traffic	Monitor flow during peak periods	Event Team, Venue Security
Confidential Booth Privacy	Parents/carers using drop-in spaces	8 booths provided, clear signage, volunteers monitoring entry/exit	Ensure sound privacy and confidentiality maintained	Event Team

RISK ASSESSMENT

Assessment from: *Independent Road 2025*

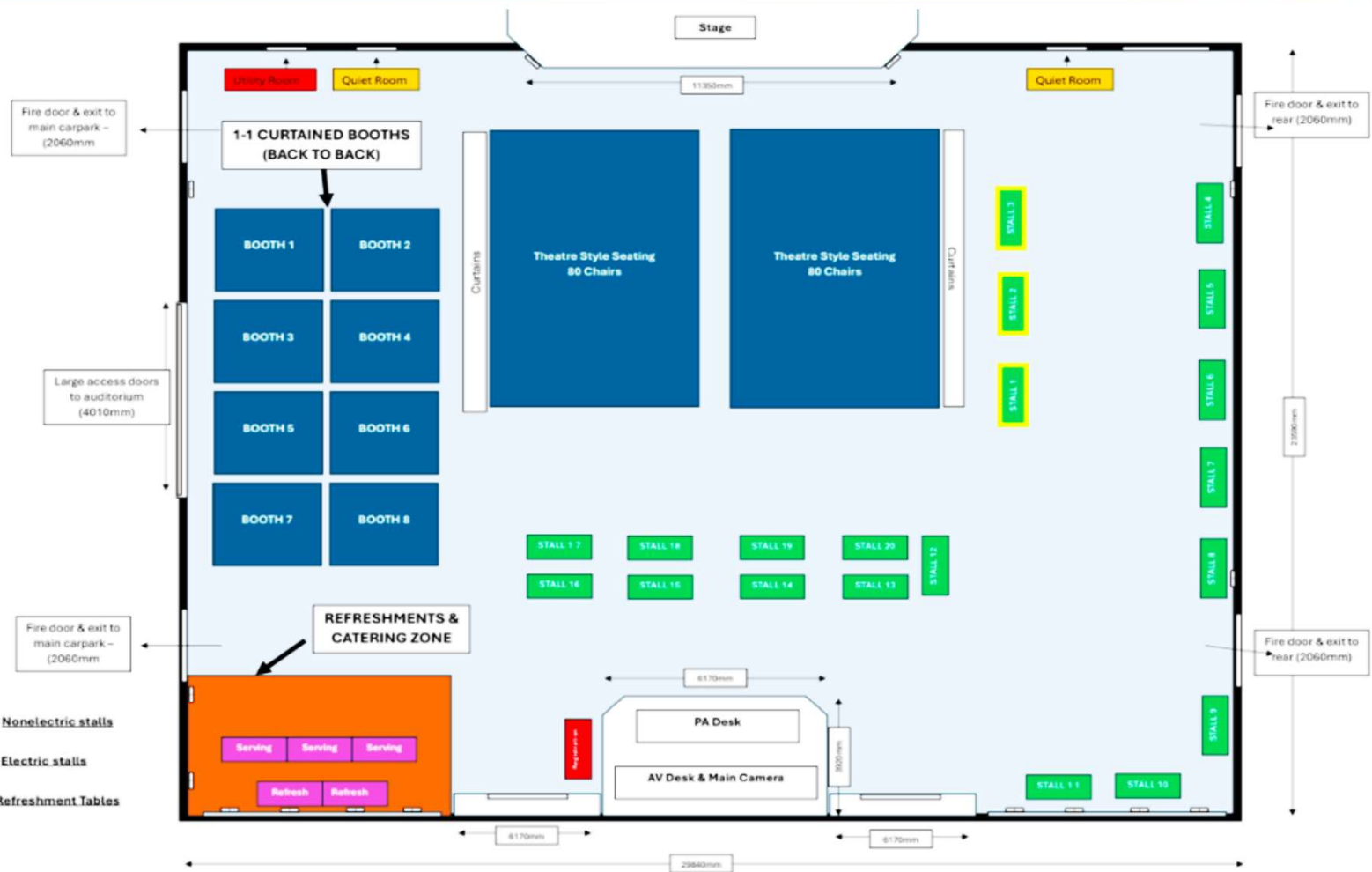
	HAZARD (A)	UNLIKELY (B)	POSSIBLE (C)	LIKELY (D)	ALMOST CERTAIN (E)
CRITICAL (1)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH
SERIOUS (2)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH
SIGNIFICANT (3)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH
MODERATE (4)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH
MINOR (5)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH

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What are the hazards? a hazard is anything that may cause harm, such as chemicals, electricity, working from ladders, an open drawer etc	Who could be harmed and how?	What is already being done to control the risks?	What further action is recommended to reduce the risks further? E.g. Training, provision of additional equipment etc	Person(s) Responsible for taking action?	Date action taken
Defective or damaged INTERNAL FLOOR SURFACES Obstructed HALLWAYS AND CORRIDORS Slips, trips and falls, cuts and bruises Obstructed fire safety routes, Breaches of Fire Safety Reform Order Poorly lit GRADED LEVELS / SLOPES	All employees, volunteers, patrons, guests, visitors, contractors, disabled persons, expectant mothers, young people and children, performers, exhibitors, Café Staff Slips and trips from spillages, dust and dirt, wet weather run off. flooring surfaces e.g. loose, threadbare	Routine, corrective or preventative maintenance. In-house cleaning undertaken daily BBC staff undertake remedial action where appropriate and are responsible for ensuring that all routes of escape are clear and free from obstruction. Fire Risk Assessment completed by Contractor Sentient Placement of yellow warning signs/a-frames whenever cleaning takes place and in the event of spills Nonslip flooring surfaces Faults and damages are reported to Facilities and Property.	Maintain existing arrangements	For repairs and maintenance Property and Facilities Management	As required

CODE

- Nonelectric stalls
- Electric stalls
- Refreshment Tables



Fire Action: **Bridge Centre**



- Operate nearest fire alarm
- Leave building by the nearest exit - DO NOT USE THE LIFT.
- Report to the person in charge at the assembly point at:

Car Park 4

Meeting at the MUGA fence

Health Certificate

(Insert Date - Year of Issue)

Client name: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female _____

Date of Birth: _____

Insurance details

Insurance name and date: _____

Insured: _____

The subject is insured: _____

The insurance fee for the _____

The amount of the insurance _____

INSURANCE CODE (C) _____

Self-insurance: _____

Other insurance:

See applicable: _____

I, , hereby certify that the above is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Purpose of a Safeguarding Plan

Goal: Ensure everyone involved in an organization or activity is safe, respected, and protected from harm.

Key Objectives:

- Identify and mitigate risks to individuals, especially children and vulnerable adults
- Set clear roles and reporting pathways for safeguarding concerns
- Promote a culture of safety, inclusion, and accountability

Applies to:

- All staff, volunteers, contractors, and participants.



Core Components of a Strong Safeguarding Plan

1. Risk Assessment

- Identify potential safeguarding risks across activities and environments
- Implement proportionate mitigation measures

2. Roles & Responsibilities

- Named Safeguarding Lead and Deputies
- Clear lines of escalation and emergency contacts

3. Policies & Procedures

- Code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Reporting and response protocol (confidentiality & record-keeping)
- Incident management plan

4. Training & Awareness

- Regular safeguarding training and updates
- Clear guidance for identifying and responding to concerns



Putting the Plan **into Action**

Before the Community Event

- **Safeguarding lead:** Appoint a named person responsible for safeguarding during the event.
- **Clear policies:** Ensure safeguarding and child protection policies are in place and shared with all volunteers and partners.
- **DBS checks:** Verify that all volunteers and staff working directly with children or vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted.
- **Training:** Provide safeguarding awareness or refresher training for all event staff and volunteers.
- **Emergency contacts:** Have a clear process for reporting and escalating safeguarding concerns.
- **Consent forms:** Obtain written parental consent for children attending, including for photography or videos.

Putting the Plan **into Action**

During the Community Event

- **Visible safeguarding presence:** Make attendees aware of who to contact if they have a concern (e.g., badges or posters).
- **Safe spaces:** Designate quiet areas or “safe zones” for children who feel overwhelmed or unsafe.
- **Supervision ratios:** Maintain appropriate adult-to-child ratios throughout the event.
- **Sign-in/sign-out procedures:** Keep accurate attendance records.
- **Health & safety:** Include first aid cover and accessible facilities for children and families.
- **Cultural awareness:** Encourage inclusion and respect for diverse traditions and languages during activities.
- **Dynamic risk assessment:** Continuously monitor and manage new or changing risks as the event unfolds.

Putting the Plan into Action

After the Community Event

- **Debrief:** Review any safeguarding issues or near misses with staff and volunteers.
- **Feedback:** Gather feedback from attendees to identify potential improvements.
- **Follow-up:** Report and record any safeguarding concerns appropriately.
- **Reflection:** Evaluate cultural learning and make recommendations for future events.

Putting the Plan into Action

In Practice:

- Embed safeguarding principles into all activities and decision-making
- Ensure accessible reporting mechanisms for everyone
- Encourage a “speak up” and listening culture

Review & Improve:

- Record and review any incidents or near misses
- Conduct regular audits and refresh training
- Update the plan based on learning and feedback

Key takeaway:

- “Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility — it must be lived, not just written.”

Culturally Responsible Safeguarding Practices **at Afrikindness Events**

- A community-led approach to protecting children and families through cultural understanding, empathy, and empowerment.
- “Protecting our children, preserving our heritage.”



We're a Pod Games Champion!

Afrikindness secured 1st place in the **LIGHTWEIGHT Pod Games league!**

July 2025

www.afrikindness.org



Safeguarding Session
from a Christian Perspective



Key things to consider from a cultural or faith-based perspective when planning a community event

- **Cultural sensitivity:** Understand and respect cultural norms, beliefs, and practices without compromising safeguarding standards.
- **Faith-based settings:** Ensure religious or traditional practices (e.g., prayers, blessings, initiation) are conducted safely and inclusively.
- **Gender considerations:** Be mindful of gender roles and expectations that may influence participation or disclosure of concerns.
- **Communication styles:** Use clear, accessible language; avoid jargon and ensure translations are accurate and culturally appropriate.
- **Trusted figures:** Identify and engage community or faith leaders who can reinforce safeguarding messages in culturally relevant ways.

Key things to consider from a cultural or faith-based perspective when planning a community event

- **Boundaries:** Reinforce appropriate physical contact and behaviour, especially in communities where touch is common as a sign of respect or affection.
- **Supervision:** Ensure clear roles and accountability when children are in the care of community or faith volunteers.
- **Privacy and dignity:** Handle safeguarding concerns sensitively to avoid stigma or shame within close-knit cultural groups.
- **Dress codes and customs:** Be aware of cultural dress expectations and plan for safe, inclusive spaces for all participants.
- **Cultural myths and misconceptions:** Address beliefs that may discourage reporting or minimize abuse (e.g., “family matters should stay private”).
- **Partnership with safeguarding professionals:** Collaborate with local safeguarding boards or authorities to ensure compliance while maintaining cultural respect.

Why Cultural Context Matters **in Safeguarding**

The Intersection of Culture, Faith, and Protection

- Cultural beliefs shape *how* communities view child discipline, care, and protection.
- Without cultural sensitivity, safeguarding messages may be misunderstood or rejected.
- Empowering communities ensures safeguarding becomes *shared responsibility*, not external enforcement.
- Builds bridges between **professional systems** and **community values**, ensuring no child is left unprotected.
- Promotes inclusion, trust, and long-term behaviour change within families and communities.

What We Do **at Afrikindness**

Awareness and Trainings

- **Adapting Safeguarding to Cultural Context** – **Adapted training packs** from local **Safeguarding Boards and accredited organisations** to reflect the realities of faith-based and African communities.
- Use of **language and communication styles** that resonate with the audience – avoiding jargon, simplifying processes, and ensuring cultural relevance.
- Developed **Faith-Based Safeguarding Training** using Biblical scriptures and values to connect safeguarding principles with moral and faith foundations.
- Delivered under the **Community Empowerment Programme** – launched in Leeds through the Lord Mayor's Office – now reaching over **600 families**.

Our Impact – Reaching Diverse Communities **Empowering Communities on Safeguarding**

Communities Trained and Engaged So Far

- **Leeds** – African and Caribbean faith leaders, parent groups (over 300 participants)
- **Bristol** – Faith-based safeguarding session
- **Igbo Union Yorkshire** – Over 70 participants trained: cultural safeguarding dialogue with Lord Mayor of Leeds
- **Faith & Intercultural Groups** – Church leaders engaged on family and child protection principles across the world
- **Partnerships** – Voluntary Action Leeds, NHS, Child Friendly Leeds etc

Impact Highlights

- Increased safeguarding awareness and early reporting in community settings
- Greater trust and cooperation between social services and cultural communities
- Leaders empowered to cascade learning and act as safeguarding champions

Safeguarding: What parents need to know



 REGISTER NOW

<https://bit.ly/AfrikindnessSafeguardingTraining>





Safeguarding Session

from a Christian
Perspective



**AFRIKINDNESS COMMUNITY
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

IGBO UNION YORKSHIRE CIC



PRESENTS

SAFEGUARDING SESSION FOR PARENTS AND LEADERS

SEPTEMBER 28 2025.

TIME:- 5-8PM

