



CONTESA
(UK reg charity no 1109311)

Protection Policy for Orphans and
Disadvantaged Children in Zambia
Procedures & Guidance

Even though CONTESA does not employ any staff in the UK or in Zambia and does not work directly with or assume guardian or parental responsibility for any of the orphans and disadvantaged children it supports, the CONTESA trustees have deemed it best practice to put protection policies in place for the orphans and disadvantaged children which it supports through local partner organisations and agencies in Zambia.

These policies represent a statement of principle by CONTESA which reflects its' mission and vision and a commitment to continual safeguard all the orphans and disadvantaged children who it works with to prevent them from coming to harm. The policies make it clear to all in the charity what steps to take if any abuse or poor practices are suspected or identified.

CONTESA trustees have adopted 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' as its' reference document and benchmark for these policies, this guide was published by HM Government in 2013 and is available through the website of the Charity Commission in England and Wales, the regulator for all registered UK charities. This guide has been adopted together with the Charity Commission's 'Strategy for dealing with safeguarding vulnerable groups including children issues in charities'.

The trustees have determined that CONTESA will adopt the four strand approach as set out in the Charity Commission strategy,

1. Awareness and prevention;
2. Oversight and supervision;
3. Co-operation; and
4. Intervention.

in managing their policies for the protection of the orphans and disadvantaged children it supports through local Zambian partner agencies and organisations. CONTESA trustees note that local Zambian legislation, regulations, customs and sensitivities must be taken into account when following up on any suspected poor practices and/or abuse.

Therefore when the trustees (individually or collectively) are concerned regarding the safeguarding of any orphans and children under the care of CONTESA local partners they should follow the procedures set out below.

CONTESA trustees have agreed that if or when deemed necessary a certificate should be obtained from 'The International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC)' which is a criminal records check for UK nationals or non-UK nationals previously resident in the UK, seeking to work with children overseas. For local Zambian partner organisations and agencies CONTESA relies on assurances given by these organisations that they comply with Zambian laws and regulations.

The CONTESA orphan and vulnerable children protection policy (COVCPP) demonstrates a commitment by CONTESA, as far as possible, to safeguard from harm the orphans and vulnerable children who it supports through local Zambian partner organisations and agencies.

As set out in the Charity Commission strategy the essential inclusions for a child protection policy are outlined below: -

- the welfare of the children is paramount;
- no child or group of children must be discriminated against or treated any less favourably than others in being able to access services which meet their particular needs, based on their race or religion ;
- all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs;
- the policy is reviewed, approved and endorsed by the board of trustees regularly or when legislation changes;
- who the policy applies to (i.e. all trustees and volunteers);
- our local partners current and prospective are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate;
- all concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to the local partner organisation, education or welfare agencies, trustees and other volunteers, and in emergencies, the Police;
- a commitment by partners to safe recruitment, selection and vetting;
- reference to principles, legislation and guidance that underpin the policy;
- arrangements for policy and procedures review;
- reference to any associated policies and procedures which promote the safety and welfare of the orphans and vulnerable children eg with regards to: health and safety, anti-bullying, protection of children online, and photography.

CONTESA supports the Zambian Government initiatives especially the welfare and development of children which is guaranteed in the constitution and through the National Child Policy, other related policies and legislation. Government policy is to promote equal opportunities and enjoyment by both girls and boys of rights, resources and rewards. Zambia's interventions on gender and child development are guided by the policy and regulatory frameworks. In terms of policy, Zambia's development efforts are guided by the Vision 2030, the Sixth National Development Plan, the National Gender Policy and through the Ministry of Community Development's National Child Policy. The regulatory framework is guided by the Republican Constitution and its subsidiary laws.

CONTESA's Mission, Vision and Values reflect our commitment to protecting children and enhancing their rights.

'GIVING SANCTUARY AND HOPE WITH LOVE, COMPASSION AND RESPECT'

Our Vision

To help alleviate the suffering of (Aids) orphans and disadvantaged children in Zambia through the provision of food, education (primary and secondary), skills training and basic shelter if needed, regardless of their background, religion or race

Our Mission

To provide Aids orphans, other orphans and disadvantaged children with at least one basic meal a day and to provide them with hope and life skills through primary education, secondary education, skills training, basic shelter if needed and to work with and support local community organisations and volunteers.

Our Values

To protect children's rights, alleviate social injustice and achieve sustainable results.

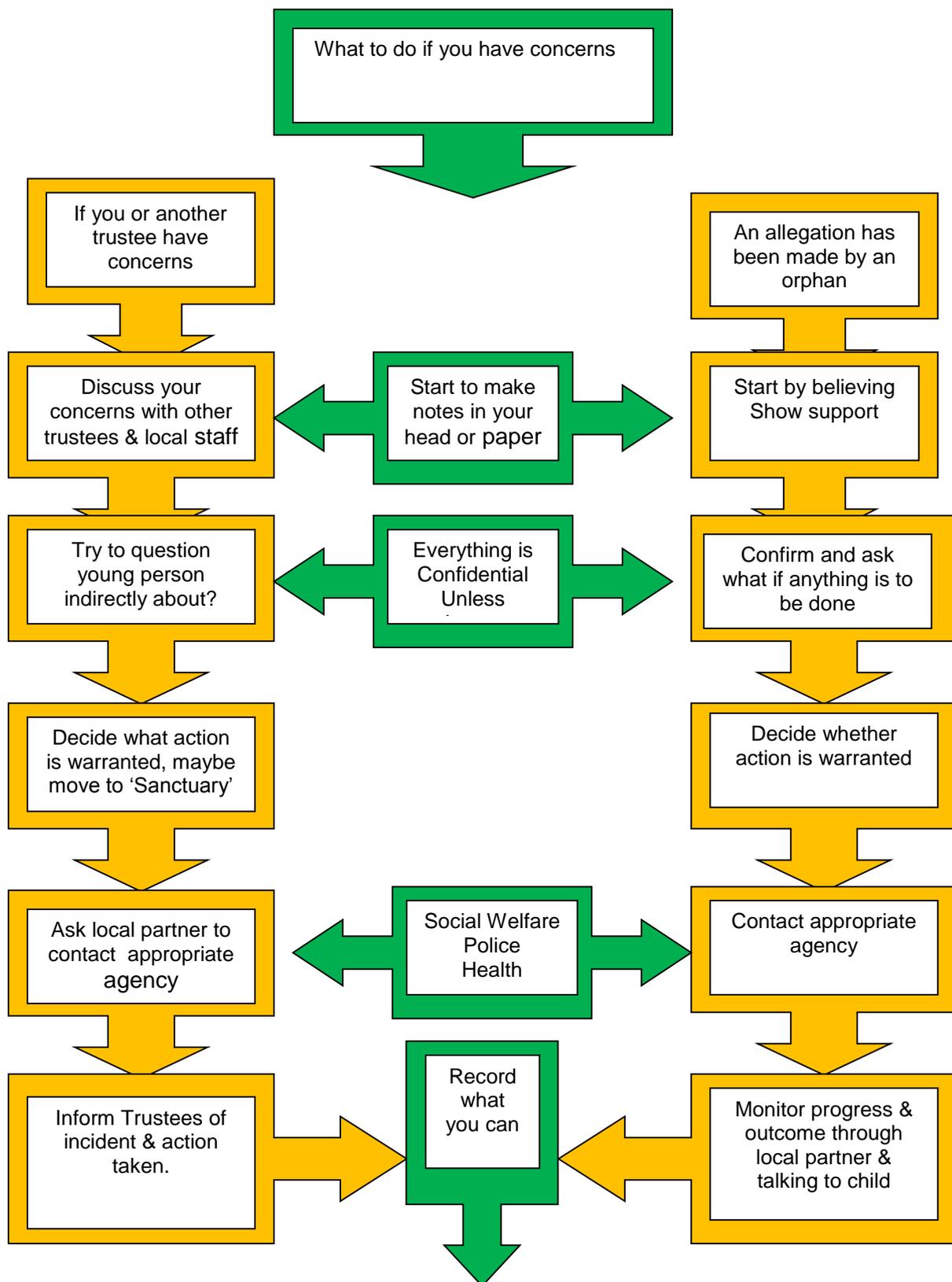
CONTESA fully supports

the UNICEF the Child Protection Programme which works at both national and sub-national levels. At national level the programme seeks to influence and inform legislative, policy and budget reform in accordance with CRC standards and other international standards related to child protection rights.

Evidence for influencing national reform and good practices at sub-national level will be keys to programme success, and ensuring national data sets on child protection are generated and inform policy and legislative changes. Through piloting, strengthening evaluation functions of partners and of the child protection programme itself, evidence will inform decision making and advocacy strategies.

The Child Protection programme will promote strengthening of partnerships including but not limited to government (Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Judiciary), non-government organizations, civil society actors, mass media, academic institutions, parliamentarians, UN agencies, private sector and the donor community.

TO ASSIST TRUSTEES THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST HAS BEEN PREPARED



Note: The actions and notes taken will be in addition to those carried out by the local organisation or agency and will be used to inform trustees and to ensure our

partners take all necessary and appropriate actions to ensure the safeguarding of the orphans and disadvantaged children.