

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NELSON

PARAMOUNTCY OF THE CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON

Policy	The welfare and interests of the young people is of paramount importance.
Compliance with Legislation	Services will be provided in a manner consistent with the Vulnerable Children Act 2014, Section 6 of the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 and its amendments.
Guidelines	<p>In all interactions with children, young people and their family/whanau staff will be guided by the principle that the welfare and interests of the child or young person are the first and paramount consideration.</p> <p>This commitment will be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- involving children and young people in making decisions that affect their lives where possible and appropriate- providing services that are culturally relevant and appropriate to the age and specific needs of the young person concerned
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This principal is reflected in <i>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson</i> Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, policies and procedures.• All staff have access to an up-to-date copy of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014, Child, Young Persons, and their Family Act 1989.• Staff will receive the opportunity to train on the detail of the Act.• Recognition of, and responding to, suspected child abuse and neglect is considered compulsory training for all staff and mentors.• All practices have the paramountcy of the child as a guiding principal. <p>A full assessment of the child/young person's needs is carried out as soon as practicable following receipt of a referral.</p> <p>The young person is encouraged to participate in the assessment and planning process to enable their specific needs to be identified and to help in making an appropriate match with a potential mentor.</p> <p>For community-based matches the family/whanau are always consulted and must consent to participate in the process before the child will be considered for inclusion in the programme.</p> <p>For school-based matches the family must sign a form consenting to their child's participation in the programme.</p> <p>Evaluations of progress are made regularly by the mentoring coordinator overseeing the match. This process involves talking</p>

with the young person, their family, the mentor and any other appropriate support people.

Safety of the Child

All staff, and mentors are screened for safety to work with children and young people prior to being accepted in to the service. This includes carrying out:

- Police vetting check,
- 3 referee checks
- Any other enquiries into the background of the person as may be deemed necessary to ascertain their safety to work with children

Young People with disabilities or special needs

As a general rule BBBS does not work with young people who have disabilities or special needs unless a mentor is found who has the specific skills and knowledge to work safely with the young person. Inclusion of young people with special needs on the programme is considered on a case-by-case basis on receipt of a referral.

Policy Reviewed – Every 3 years

Date Implemented	Date of Last Change	Next Review Date	Policy approved at
9 February 2016	April 2012	February 2019	

Signed _____

Position _____

Date _____