

Blue Sky Autism Project Data Protection Policy

<p>Aims of this Policy</p>	<p>Blue Sky Autism Project needs to keep certain information on its employees, volunteers, service users and their parents, guardians or carers and trustees to carry out its day to day operations, to meet its objectives and to comply with legal obligations.</p> <p>The organisation is committed to ensuring any personal data will be dealt with in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. To comply with the law, personal information will be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed to any other person unlawfully.</p> <p>The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone handling personal data is fully aware of the requirements and acts in accordance with data protection procedures. This document also highlights key data protection procedures within the organisation.</p> <p>This policy covers employed staff, users' parents, guardians or carers, trustees, volunteers</p>
<p>Definitions</p>	<p>In line with the Data Protection Act 1998 principles, Blues Sky Autism Project will ensure that personal data will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be obtained fairly and lawfully and shall not be processed unless certain conditions are met • Be obtained for a specific and lawful purpose • Be adequate, relevant but not excessive • Be accurate and kept up to date • Not be held longer than necessary • Be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects • Be subject to appropriate security measures • Not to be transferred outside the European Economic Area (EEA) <p>The definition of 'Processing' is obtaining, using, holding, amending, disclosing, destroying and deleting personal data. This includes some paper based personal data as well as that kept on computer.</p> <p>The Personal Data Guardianship Code suggests five key principles of good data governance on which best practice is based. The organisation will seek to abide by this code in relation to all the personal data it processes, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability: those handling personal data follow publicised data principles to help gain public trust and safeguard personal data. • Visibility: Data subjects should have access to the information about themselves that an organisation holds. This includes the right to have incorrect personal data corrected and to know who has had access to this data. • Consent: The collection and use of personal data must be fair and lawful and in accordance with the DPA's eight data protection principles. Personal data should only be used for the purposes agreed by the data subject. If personal data is to be shared with a third party or used for another purpose, the data subject's consent should be explicitly obtained.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access: Everyone should have the right to know the roles and groups of people within an organisation who have access to their personal data and who has used this data. • Stewardship: Those collecting personal data have a duty of care to protect this data throughout the data life span.
Type of information processed	<p>Blue Sky Autism Project processes the following personal information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on applicants for posts, including references • Employee information – contact details, bank account number, payroll information, supervision and appraisal notes. • Users – contact details of users’ parents, guardians or carers • Case notes of service users • Information provided to us by volunteers <p>Personal information is kept in the following forms: paper-based and computer-based systems</p> <p>Groups of people within the organisation who will process personal information are: senior staff members and trustees</p>
Notification	<p>The needs we have for processing personal data are recorded on the public register maintained by the Information Commissioner. We notify and renew our notification on an annual basis as the law requires.</p> <p>If there are any interim changes, these will be notified to the Information Commissioner within 28 days.</p> <p>The name of the Data Controller within our organisation as specified in our notification to the Information Commissioner is Dr Ruth Glynn-Owen</p>
Responsibilities	<p>Under the Data Protection Guardianship Code, overall responsibility for personal data in a not for profit organisation rests with the governing body. In the case of Blue Sky Autism Project, this is the trustees</p> <p>The trustees delegate tasks to the Data Controller. The Data Controller is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding and communicating obligations under the Act • identifying potential problem areas or risks • producing clear and effective procedures • notifying and annually renewing notification to the Information Commissioner, plus notifying of any relevant interim changes <p>All employed staff and trustees who process personal information must ensure they not only understand but also act in line with this policy and the data protection principles.</p> <p>Breach of this policy will result in investigation and, where necessary, disciplinary proceedings for staff.</p>

<p>Policy Implementation</p>	<p>To meet our responsibilities, staff and trustees will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure any personal data is collected in a fair and lawful way; • Explain why it is needed at the start; • Ensure that only the minimum amount of information needed is collected and used; • Ensure the information used is up to date and accurate; • Review the length of time information is held; • Ensure it is kept safely; • Ensure the rights people have in relation to their personal data can be exercised <p>We will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone managing and handling personal information is trained to do so. • Anyone wanting to make enquiries about handling personal information, whether a member of staff, volunteer or service user, knows what to do; • Any disclosure of personal data will be in line with our procedures. • Queries about handling personal information will be dealt with swiftly and politely.
<p>Training</p>	<p>Training and awareness raising about the Data Protection Act and how it is followed in this organisation will take the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On induction: staff will be provided with a copy of this policy • General training/ awareness raising will include sending annual reminders about this policy to staff and trustees
<p>Gathering and checking information</p>	<p>Before personal information is collected, we will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What details are necessary for Blue Sky Autism Project to collect to provide its services to its users and to employ its staff • Personal information will not be retained for longer than is necessary for Blue Sky Autism Project to provide its services. Normally, that will be for 12 months after a service user, a member of staff, a trustee or a volunteer leaves us. <p>We will inform people whose information is gathered about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why the information is being gathered • what the information will be used for • who will have access to their information (including third parties) <p>This will be stated in a notice 'How we use your information', which will be provided for staff, trustees and users' parents, guardians or carers and volunteers</p> <p>We will take the following measures to ensure that personal information kept is accurate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically, Blues Sky Autism Project will ask staff, trustees and users' parents, guardians or carers to check the information that it holds on them and ask them to confirm its accuracy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff, trustees and users' parents, guardians or carers should also notify Blue Sky Autism Project of any changes that arise, as they become aware of them <p>Personal sensitive information will not be used apart from the exact purpose for which permission was given.</p>
Data Security	<p>Blues Sky Autism Project will take steps to ensure that personal data is kept secure at all times against unauthorised or unlawful loss or disclosure. The following measures will be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using lockable cupboards (restricted access to keys) • Password protection on personal information files • Setting up computer systems to allow restricted access to certain areas • If personal data is taken off site (as hard copy, on laptop or on memory stick), that will only be by senior staff who have agreed to abide by this policy <p>Any unauthorised disclosure of personal data to a third party by an employee may result in disciplinary procedures.</p> <p>The trustees are accountable for compliance of this policy. A trustee could be personally liable for any penalty arising from a breach that they have made.</p>
Subject Access Requests	<p>Anyone whose personal information we process has the right to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What information we hold and process on them • How to gain access to this information • How to keep it up to date • What we are doing to comply with the Act. <p>They also have the right to prevent processing of their personal data in some circumstances and the right to correct, rectify, block or erase information regarded as wrong.</p> <p>Individuals have a right under the Act to access certain personal data being kept about them on computer and certain files. Any person wishing to exercise this right should apply in writing to:</p> <p>Dr Ruth Glynne-Owen Blue Sky Autism Project 9 Fountain Road Bridge of Allan FK9 4ET</p> <p>We may make a charge of £10 on each occasion access is requested.</p> <p>The following information will be required before access is granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full name and contact details of the person making the request • Their relationship with the organisation (former or current member of staff, trustee or volunteer, parent, guardian or carer of a service user) • Any other relevant information, e.g. timescales involved

	<p>We may also require proof of identity before access is granted. The following forms of ID may be required: passport or copy or driver's licence</p> <p>Queries about handling personal information will be dealt with swiftly and politely.</p> <p>We will aim to comply with requests for access to personal information as soon as possible, but will ensure it is provided within the 40 days required by the Act from receiving the written request and relevant fee.</p>
Review	<p>This policy will be reviewed at intervals of three years to ensure it remains up to date and compliant with the law.</p>