



Data Protection Policy

Approved on: June 2025

Next Review on: June 2026

Data protection

As an organisation we need to collect and use certain types of information about the different people we come into contact with, in order to carry out our work. This may include information relating to service users, staff and volunteers.

SPCF is committed to protecting and respecting the personal information we collect, process and store.

SPCF is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and acts as a Data Controller.

This policy applies to all trustees, steering group committee members, staff and volunteers.

Definitions

Personal Data: any information which enables a person to be identified.

Sensitive data: any information which is relevant to a person such as religion or ethnicity

Data Subject: an individual about whom data is held (e.g. SPCF members, staff and volunteers)

Data Controller: entity with overall responsibility for data collection and management (SPCF trustees, steering group and staff)

Data Processor: an individual handling or processing data (SPCF steering group, staff and volunteers)

Data Breach: a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed.

Background & Legislation

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into effect in the UK on 25 May 2018. The regulations give individuals the right to know what information is held about them and provide a framework to ensure that personal information is handled properly.

SPCF is committed to collecting and processing data in accordance with the principles set out in the GDPR which require that personal information is:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

SPCF is committed to complying with the GDPR principles at all times

This means that we will:

- Inform individuals as to the purpose of collecting any information from them, as and when we ask for it.
- Be responsible for checking the quality and accuracy of the information and keeping it up to date.
- Regularly review our records to ensure that information is not held longer than is necessary.
- Ensure appropriate security measures to safeguard personal information whether it is held in paper files or electronically.
- Not share personal information with others unless there is a safeguarding, regulatory or legal requirement to do so.
- Set out clear procedures for responding to requests for access to personal information
- Report any breaches of the GDPR in accordance with the procedure set out below.

Confidentiality and sharing information

Because confidentiality applies to a much wider range of information than Data Protection, we have a separate SPCF Confidentiality Policy. This Data Protection Policy should be read in conjunction with the Confidentiality Policy.

All personal information will be regarded as confidential and will not be shared without an individual's knowledge or consent, except:

- Where SPCF is legally bound to provide information.
- Where safeguarding concerns are involved (see Confidentiality Policy and Safeguarding and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for more information)
- Statistical information used for research and monitoring purposes.

Data storage, security and retention

Any recorded information on members, service users, volunteers and employees will be:

- Handled, transferred, processed and stored with the utmost care and regard
- Stored in secure office facilities, locked drawers or cabinets, or secure cloud-based digital storage.
- Protected by the use of passwords if kept on computers and/or other devices and encrypted if appropriate.
- Destroyed confidentially if it is no longer needed, or if requested by an individual.

We will regularly review our procedures for ensuring that our records remain accurate and consistent. Information will be stored for only as long as it is needed or required by statute. Paper records will be destroyed within six years of the individual they relate to ceasing contact with SPCF.

Access to data

Information and records will be stored securely and will only be accessible to authorised employees and volunteers, and the individual to whom the information relates.

All individuals have the right to request access to personal information stored about them.

Individuals can contact SPCF at any time to request to see, change/correct and delete (where there is no good reason for us to continue to hold or process) the information we hold about them. SPCF will act on access requests within one month of receipt and will not charge for this.

Where the individual making a request is not personally known to SPCF, their identity will be verified before handing over any information.

Data breaches

All Staff, trustees, steering group members and volunteers are required to report any data breach to the Co-Chairs as soon as possible once they are aware that it has occurred.

Less serious breaches will be recorded and listed in an appropriate place, and trends or lessons learned will be reviewed.

Serious personal data breaches will be reported to the ICO within 72 hours of the breach occurring if possible, and if not, informing the ICO about the reasons for any delay.

Transparency

We are committed to ensuring that individuals are made aware of how and why their personal information is stored and processed, what types of disclosure are likely and how to exercise their rights in relation to the data.

Individuals will be informed in the following ways:

- Employees: in the staff terms and conditions
- Volunteers: in the volunteer induction pack
- Trustees: in the roles and responsibilities/induction pack
- Members and Service Users: when they provide their information and consent to retain it is obtained, or when they request services (on paper, online or by phone).

Consent

Consent will always be sought prior to the storing and processing of data, and records kept of the dates, and circumstances. Online consent will be requested when clients sign up to services, donate, or sign up to mailing lists. In all cases it will be documented on the database that consent has been given.

We acknowledge that, once given, consent can be withdrawn at any time.

Personal Information will only be made public with the individual's explicit consent. This includes photographs.

Consent will be obtained from parents, if children's data is being stored or processed depending on the age of the child/young person in accordance with legislation.

'Sensitive' data (including health information and ethnicity) will be held only with the knowledge and consent of the individual.

Sharing information

SPCF will not normally share any information about individuals with any other agency without their consent.

However, information sharing may take place without the consent or the knowledge of the individual concerned in the following circumstances:

- where there are safeguarding concerns (see SPCF Confidentiality Policy and Safeguarding and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy)
- where SPCF is legally bound to provide information, no consent need be sought, nor will individuals necessarily be informed that the information has been provided.

- statistical or other anonymised information may be shared, for research and other purposes (e.g. with funders)
- anonymised parent feedback is collated and reported to other agencies (e.g. Sefton Council, Sefton ICP) to inform the design, planning and review of services.

Website

SPCF collects information from users of its website when they fill out a membership form or use an enquiry form.

The SPCF website uses cookies in order to enhance the experience of users by:

1. Tracking visitor statistics using Google Analytics.
2. Allowing users to share content on various social network sites.

The SPCF website contains links to other websites. These third-party sites have separate and independent privacy policies. SPCF therefore has no responsibility or liability for the content and activities of these linked sites.

Comments posted on SPCF's Facebook page are not moderated prior to publication. SPCF reserves the right to take action regarding comments which do not comply with the requirements of our Social Media policy. Action may range from simply deleting a comment and providing a warning, up to and including banning a user from future commenting privileges.

Related SPCF policies and notices:

- Confidentiality Policy
- Data Protection Notice
- Safeguarding and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy