



Salford Community & Voluntary Services

Data Protection Policy

Approved by Salford CVS Board January 2025

Version 10

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Salford Community & Voluntary Services Data Protection Policy

1. The Importance of Data Protection

Salford CVS recognises the importance of the correct and lawful treatment of personal data; it maintains confidence in the organisation and provides for successful operations. In order to ensure effective delivery of services, Salford CVS is required to maintain certain personal data about individuals in order to carry out our work and legal obligations. This personal information must be collected and dealt with appropriately.

2. Policy statement

The aim of this policy statement is to give you a basic understanding of the data protection laws, our responsibility in respect of data protection practice, your rights and obligations and to explain why privacy is so important to us. It applies to all actions we take which involve the processing of and working with personal data.

2a.Scope

This policy applies to all personal information including special category/criminal conviction data used, stored or shared by or with Salford CVS whether in paper or digital form and wherever it is located. It also applies to all personal information and special category information processed by Salford CVS on behalf of other organisations.

Data Protection Legislation (Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) governs the use of information about people; this is Personal Data. Personal data is information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. An identifiable natural person is someone who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier, which include names, Identification numbers, location data or other factors such as the physical, genetic, biometric, mental, economic or social identity of a natural person. Data about businesses or organisations is not covered by Data Protection Legislation but data about their directors, partners, employees, customers and suppliers is.). Personal data can be held on computer or in a manual file, and includes email, minutes of meetings, and photographs.

2b.Who this policy applies to.

This policy applies to trustees, employees, consultants, volunteers, temporary/agency staff, volunteers and anyone acting on behalf of Salford CVS. In this policy, reference to "employee" includes reference to any consultants, volunteers, temporary / agency staff and anyone acting on behalf of Salford CVS.

All board members, staff and volunteers working with in Salford CVS who have access to personal information, will be expected to read and comply with this policy. Non compliance with this policy could result in disciplinary action, loss of job (or volunteering placement), personal fines and potentially imprisonment.

3. Principles

The Data Protection Legislation sets out seven key principles (Article 5(1)) which are summarised as follows:

- Lawfulness, fairness and transparency
- Purpose limitation
- Data minimisation

- Accuracy
- Storage limitation
- Integrity and confidentiality (security)
- Accountability

These principles specify the legal conditions that must be satisfied in relation to obtaining, handling, processing, transportation and storage of personal data and lie at the heart of the UK Data Protection Legislation. Compliance with the spirit of these key principles are the fundamental building blocks for good data protection practice and compliance.

Salford CVS fully endorses and adheres to these principles. Employees and any others who obtain, handle, process, transport and store personal data for Salford CVS must adhere to these principles.

4. Responsibilities

The Salford CVS CEO and Board will ultimately take responsibility for the implementation of this policy and take into account legal requirements to ensure that it is properly implemented, Salford CVS will remain the data controller for the information it collects and holds for its own purposes. Salford CVS, its members, staff and volunteers will be personally responsible for processing and using personal information in accordance with the current legislation.

4a. Data Protection Lead

Salford CVS is currently not legally required to have a Data Protection Officer. However, a Data Protection Lead has been identified and will be responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented and will have the responsibility:

- To inform and advise the organisation, the board and its employees about their obligations to comply with Data Protection Legislation.
- To monitor compliance with Data Protection Legislation, including managing internal data protection activities, advise on data protection impact assessments; train staff and conduct internal audits.
- To ensure Salford CVS continues to be registered with the Information Commissioner and that all details remain up to date,
- To be the first point of contact for supervisory authorities and for individuals whose data is processed (employees, customers etc).

Staff and Volunteers are actively encouraged and supported through training and their line manager to report any concerns that they may have in order to improve both our data protection and services to users.

However, all staff and volunteers are also aware that a deliberate breach of the rules and procedures identified in this policy may result in disciplinary action being taken against them

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice in data management, security and control and to ensure compliance with any changes or amendments made to legislation.

In case of any queries or questions in relation to this policy please contact the Salford CVS Data Protection Lead:

Kirsten Robinson
Salford CVS, Eccles Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Salford, M30 0FN
Tel 0161 787 7795

5. Data collection

Salford CVS will only collect data that is 'necessary' to conduct its operational and contractual requirements. It will identify the lawful basis for processing and ensure that this is communicated clearly within its privacy notices and that appropriate documentation of our processing activities is recorded. Processing includes obtaining, recording, holding, reading, using or destroying personal data.

When collecting data, the Salford CVS will ensure that the Individual/Service User:

- a) Clearly understands why the information is needed
- b) Understands what it will be used for and what the consequences are should the Individual/Service User decide not to accept the purposes of processing
- c) Where necessary, grants explicit consent, either written or verbal for data to be processed
- d) Is, as far as reasonably practicable, competent enough to understand what processing would require and if necessary provide consent that has been given freely.
- e) Has received sufficient information on why their data is needed and how it will be used.
- f) Further information on the data we collect including its conditions for processing can be found within the Salford CVS Privacy Notice.

6. Data Storage, Retention and Disposal

Information and records relating to service users will be stored securely and will only be accessible to authorised staff and volunteers.

Information will be stored for only as long as it is needed or by required statute and will be disposed of appropriately. The retention period for relevant data shall be recorded with Salford CVS's Retention Policy and Procedure

The organisation will take steps to ensure that personal data is kept secure at all times against unauthorised or unlawful loss or disclosure. The measures taken include:

- Personal Data will be kept in locked filing cabinets with access restricted to those people whom have authority to access the data
- Password protection on personal information files
- Restricted access to computer files and systems
- Use of secure VPN mechanisms to ensure personal data does not need to be duplicated unnecessarily
- Data, including personal data, is backed up daily and information kept off site
- Suitable encrypted attachments for sensitive personal information sent by email

Any deliberate unauthorised disclosure of personal data to a third party by an employee may result in disciplinary proceedings.

The Board and trustees are accountable for compliance with this policy. A trustee could be personally liable for any penalty arising from a breach that they have made.

Any deliberate unauthorised disclosure made by a volunteer may result in the termination of the volunteering agreement.

It is Salford CVS's responsibility to ensure all personal and company data is non-recoverable from any computer system previously used within the organisation, which has been passed on/sold to a third party. Any external destruction of data will be undertaken under contract and undertaken to any relevant British Standard.

Further information can be found in Salford CVS's Retention Policy and Procedure

7. Data Accuracy

Salford CVS will undertake reasonable steps to ensure data is kept accurate and up to date. This includes:

- To limit errors, data will only be held where necessary
- Asking data subjects whether there have been any changes to their information
- Ensuring that when inaccuracies are found that records are updated e.g. an out of date phone number is deleted from files
- Investigating and acting upon any notifications by individuals of inaccuracies.

8. Training

Training and awareness raising about the Data Protection Legislation and how it is followed in this organisation will take the following forms:

On induction: All new staff, trustees and volunteers that have access to personal data will receive training appropriate to their role as part of the induction process. This will include training on the organisations policy and procedures in respect of Data Protection and their responsibilities as staff volunteers of Salford CVS. Staff and Volunteers will be asked to sign a declaration confirming they understand and will adhere to the policy.

Staff processing DBS applications will have additional training on the safe and secure handling of disclosure information.

All Salford CVS staff must complete mandatory data protection awareness training.

General training/ awareness raising: Information will be placed around the building to remind staff of the principles of data protection. This will be in the form of simple do's and don'ts. Staff will be reminded of their responsibilities at team meeting and in line management. Where required staff will offered additional training as part of staff training and professional development opportunities.

Salford CVS will ensure that:

- 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.

9. Data Protection by Design

Salford CVS is committed to considering data protection and privacy issues upfront in everything you do. Salford CVS are committed to integrating data protection into all our activities and practices, from the design stage right through delivery lifecycles. This includes:

- Anticipating risk and privacy invasive events through the organisational risk register and taking steps to prevent harm to individuals.
- Considering data protection issues as part of the planning, design and implementation of systems, services and delivery. Both through broader tools and Data Protection Impact Assessments as required.
- Only processing the personal data that we need for our purposes(s), and that we only use the data for those purposes.

- Providing the identity and contact information of those responsible for data protection both within our organisation and to individuals.
- Ensuring that data processors can provide sufficient guarantees of the measures for data protection.
- Using 'plain language' policy with any public documents and privacy notices so that individuals easily understand what we are doing with their personal data.

10. Subject Access Request

Under legislation individuals have a range of rights regarding how their personal data is used. Including –

- The right to request a copy of their data you hold.
- The right to have inaccurate data corrected.
- The right to ask you to delete / destroy their data.
- The right to limit the amount or type of data used.
- The right to request you stop using their data.

A request does not have to be in writing but it should clearly describe the information sought. Salford CVS has one calendar month to provide the requested information or enter into discussion with the individual about extending the time allowed.

If staff receive any requests these should be immediately forwarded to the Data Protection Lead to ensure they are handled in line with our subject access request procedure.

In case of any requiring further information on this aspect of the policy please read Salford CVS' Subject Access Request Procedure or contact the Salford CVS Data Protection Lead.

11. Freedom of Information

Members of the public may request certain information from statutory bodies under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Act does not apply directly to Salford CVS. However if at any time we undertake the delivery of services under contracts with relevant statutory bodies we may be required to assist them to meet the Freedom of Information Act request where we hold information on their behalf.

12. Disclosure & Data Sharing

Salford CVS may need to share data with other agencies such as local authorities, funding bodies and other voluntary agencies as part of its work.

The individual will be made aware in most circumstances how and with whom their information will be shared as part of the Privacy Notice process. However, there are circumstances where the law allows Salford CVS to disclose data (including sensitive data) without the data subject's knowledge.

These include:

- When required to by law – This may as simple as providing information to HMRC for tax purposes or if required by the police in relation to a crime.
- Protecting vital interests of a Data Subject or other person – This includes safeguarding concerns where an individual may be at risk or in cases of medical emergencies.
- Conducting any legal proceedings, obtaining legal advice or defending any legal rights

Salford CVS regards the lawful and correct treatment of personal information as very important to successful working, and to maintaining the confidence of those with whom we deal.

Salford CVS will ensure that personal information is treated lawfully and correctly.

If Staff or Volunteers believe they can legitimately disclose personal data to an individual or organisation they should first seek advice from the Data Protection Lead.

Where data is being sent to an organisation for them to process the data either on their own behalf or for us, we will carry out due diligence on that organisation to make sure they have adequate data protection standards and processes. We will carry out due diligence, put in place contracts and/or data sharing protocols to govern the use of data by the third party to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance.

13. Risk Management

The consequences of breaching Data Protection can cause harm or distress to service users if their information is released to inappropriate people, or they could be denied a service to which they are entitled.

This policy and the supporting policies and procedures are designed to minimise the risks and to ensure that the reputation of Salford CVS is not damaged through inappropriate or unauthorised access and sharing.

Data Protection is everyone's responsibility if staff or volunteers know or suspect that a personal data breach has occurred, then they should immediately contact the Data Protection Lead.

Salford CVS makes every effort to avoid data protection incidents, however, it is possible that mistakes will occur on occasions. Examples of how personal data incidents might occur include through:

- Loss or theft of data or equipment
- Ineffective access controls allowing unauthorised use
- Equipment failure
- Unauthorised disclosure (e.g. email sent to the incorrect recipient)
- Human error
- Hacking attack

In the event of a breach leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data, Salford CVS will promptly assess the risk to individuals concerned and if appropriate report this breach to the ICO (more information is available on the ICO website).

If a reportable breach has occurred Salford CVS is required to notify the Information Commissioner's Office as soon as possible, and not later than 72 hours after becoming aware of it.

Staff and Volunteers are actively encourage to report any incidents or concerns that they may have in order to improve both our data protection and services to users.

However, staff and volunteers are also aware that they can be personally liable if they deliberately or maliciously use service user's personal data inappropriately.

14. International Data Transfer

Salford CVS does not intend to transfer personal data outside the European Economic Area (EEA) as standard. If a need to do this is identified we will ensure any such transfer is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Legislation to ensure that the level of protection to data subjects required is not undermined by any such transfer.

Any member of staff or volunteer must refer any potential transfer of data to the Data Protection Lead, before it takes place. This includes the use of cloud based software and storage such as Google Workspace solutions and other cloud based applications.

15. Related Policies

Data protection is an organisation wide process and this policy does relate to other policies and documents within the organisation including but not limited to Subject Access Requests Procedure, Retention Policy and Procedure, Organisation Risk Register, IT Acceptable Usage Policy, and Business Continuity Plan.

16. Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed annually by the board

17. Further information

If staff, volunteers or members of the public/or stakeholders have specific questions about information security and data protection in relation to Salford CVS please contact the Data Protection Lead:

Kirsten Robinson
Salford CVS, Eccles Old Town Hall, 5 Irwell Place, Salford, M30 0FN
Tel 0161 787 7795

The Information Commissioner's website (www.ico.gov.uk) is another source of useful information.

Appendix i – Glossary of Terms

The following list contains definitions of the technical terms we have used and is intended to aid

Data Controller – The person who (either alone or with others) decides what personal information (insert name of org) will hold and how it will be held or used.

Data Protection Act 2018 – The UK legislation that provides a framework for responsible behaviour by those using personal information.

Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) - is a process to help you identify and minimise the data protection risks of a project.

Data Protection Lead – The person(s) responsible for ensuring that Salford CVS follows its data protection policy and complies with legislation.

Individual/Service User – The person whose personal information is being held or processed by (insert name of org) for example: a client, an employee, or supporter.

Information Commissioner (ICO) – The UK Information Commissioner responsible for implementing and overseeing the Data Protection Act 1998.

Processing – means collecting, amending, handling, storing or disclosing personal information.

Personal Information – Information about living individuals that enables them to be identified – e.g. name and address. It does not apply to information about organisations, companies and agencies but applies to named persons, including service users, individual volunteers or employees

Sensitive data – refers to data about:

- race;
- ethnic origin;
- politics;
- religion;
- trade union membership;
- genetics;
- biometrics (where used for ID purposes);
- health;
- sex life; or
- sexual orientation.

Declaration

I confirm I have read and understood Salford CVS's Data Protection Policy and will act in accordance with it.

I am connected with this organisation in my capacity as a

- ☐ Member of staff
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Trustee

Signature:

Print name:

Date:

Please return this form to Kirsten Robinson