

East Sussex Community Voice

Data Protection and Information Security Policy

Policy Schedule

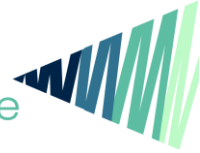
Version	Date of next review by ESCV Board	Date of adoption by ESCV Board
1	n/a	28 th September 2020
2	28 th September 2022	March 2024
3	March 2026	28 th May 2026
4	May 2028	
5		

1 Introduction

- 1.1 East Sussex Community Voice CIC collects and uses personal information about staff, volunteers, board members, enquirers, service users and others whom we come into contact with.
- 1.2 This information is gathered to enable us to provide our core and commissioned activities efficiently and effectively. There is also a legal requirement for companies to collect and use information to ensure they comply with their statutory obligations.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 This policy is intended to ensure personal information is dealt with correctly and securely and in accordance with contemporary data protection and related legislation. It applies to information held and processed by ESCV regardless of the way it is collected, used, recorded, stored and destroyed, and irrespective of whether it is held in paper files or electronically.
- 2.2 All staff, volunteers, board members and commissioned representatives involved with the collection, processing and disclosure of personal data will be aware of their duties and responsibilities around data protection legislation, this policy and ESCV's other policies. Hereafter, all parties will be referred to as 'employees' in this policy.
- 2.3 ESCV will ensure all employees involved directly and indirectly in processing personal data and information are aware of their responsibilities, complete appropriate training or refreshers and have access to support and resources.



3 Definitions

3.1 Data Protection legislation places obligations on all those who process personal data and defines the following roles:

- *Data Controller* - the person or organisation that determines the purpose of processing i.e. decides how and why data is used. East Sussex Community Voice CIC is therefore a data controller.
- *Data Processors* - the person or organisation that processes data on behalf of the controller. East Sussex Community Voice CIC is sometimes a data processor.
- *Data Subjects* - the individuals whose information is collected and processed (for example, members of staff, volunteers, board members, enquirers and service users).
- *ICO* - [The Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO), the UK's independent body set up to uphold information rights.

4 Registration

4.1 East Sussex Community Voice CIC, as a data controller, is registered with the ICO and maintains a record of the information it holds and the purposes for which it obtains and uses personal data (including disclosure in any form to third parties).

4.2 These details must be kept up to date and available for inspection by the Information Commissioner's Office.

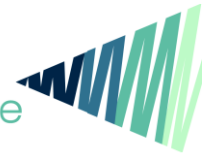
5 The Information Commissioner

5.1 The Information Commissioner is the body that oversees compliance with Data Protection legislation and has powers to force organisations to process personal data lawfully.

5.2 Where a data subject is unhappy with some aspect of the processing of their personal information, they have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. However, ESCV will seek to resolve these locally wherever possible with support from our Data Protection Officer.

6 Policy statement:

6.1 East Sussex Community Voice CIC is committed to ensuring all information is collected, processed, maintained and disclosed in accordance with the principles that personal data will be:



- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- collected and used for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in an incompatible way (*'purpose limitation'*)
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose for processing (*'data minimisation'*)
- accurate and where required, rectified without delay (*'accuracy'*)
- not be kept in an identifiable form for longer than necessary (*'storage limitation'*) i.e. in line with the ESCVs Record Keeping and Retention Policy.

6.2 Information must be appropriately secured/protected against unauthorised or unlawful processing, accidental loss, destruction or damage using appropriate technical or organisational measures (*'integrity and confidentiality'*). This includes:

- using appropriate means of transmitting data
- secure storage / disposal of personal information
- where processing is sub-contracted or outsourced (e.g. payroll, disposal of confidential waste paper) there must be suitable Data Protection clauses in the contract

See East Sussex Community Voice CIC's Data in Transit Policy for more information on securing personal data.

6.3 Personal information must also:

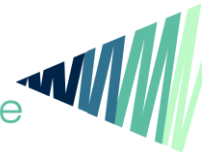
- be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects e.g. right of access, right of erasure, rectification, restriction, portability and the right to object to certain processing (see section 11)
- not be transferred to countries outside the UK without adequate protection

7 General Statement

7.1 East Sussex Community Voice CIC is committed to always maintaining the above principles.

The organisation will:

- Inform individuals why their information is being collected
- Inform individuals when their information is shared, and why and with whom
- Check the quality and accuracy of the information it holds
- Ensure information is not retained for longer than is necessary
- Ensure when obsolete information is destroyed it is done so appropriately and securely



- Ensure clear and robust safeguards are in place to protect personal information from loss, theft and unauthorised disclosure, irrespective of the format in which it is recorded
- Share information with others only when it is legally appropriate to do so
- Set out procedures to ensure compliance with the duty to respond to requests for access to personal information, known as [Subject Access Requests](#)
- Ensure our staff are aware of and understand our policies and procedures

8 The legal basis

8.1 East Sussex Community Voice CIC must comply with all relevant UK legislation, including:

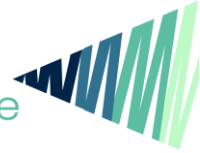
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Protection Legislation (Data Protection Act 2018)
- Data Use and Access Act 2025
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Common law duty of confidence
- Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- Computer Misuse Act 1990
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003

9 Information and data definitions

9.1 Information is the product of a collection of data and expressed views and opinions based upon it. It can be held and used in many forms including, but not limited to, electronic records, hard copy (paper, fiche) phone calls and conversations. For this policy, information and data are regarded as being the same.

9.2 This policy relates primarily to any personal data i.e. data relating to individuals or personally identifiable data.

- **Personally Identifiable data** is any data relating to an individual ('data subject) who can be identified directly or indirectly by an identifier such as name, ID number, unique case number, location data (e.g. address), online identifier (e.g. IP address) or one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.
- **Special Category Data** is sensitive personal data (which requires extra protection) and includes any information that may identify an individual's:



- racial or ethnic origin
- political opinions
- religious or philosophical beliefs
- trade union membership
- health
- sex life/orientation
- genetic/biometric identifier

Information that is **confidential** but does not relate to an individual or individuals may include the following:

- Business or corporate records containing organisationally or publicly sensitive information
- Any commercially sensitive information such as information relating to commercial proposals or current negotiations
- Politically sensitive information
- Information relating to security, investigations and proceedings
- Any information which, if released, could cause problems or damage to individuals, the public, the company or another organisation. This could be personal, financial, reputation or legal damage.

10 Data Protection by Design

10.1 Whenever a new policy, procedure, system or database involving personal data is proposed a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) may be developed. This will identify and reduce any risks to privacy and potential risks of harm to individuals through the misuse of their personal information.

10.2 East Sussex Community Voice CIC recognises in some circumstances it will be mandatory to conduct a DPIA where processing is likely to result in a high risk to individuals.

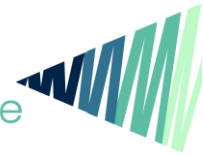
11 Data Subject Rights

Any person wishing to exercise their rights under data protection legislation can do so by emailing or writing to ESCV and requesting a Data Subject Access Request application form. This aligns with the ESCV Data Subject Access procedure.

11.1 Requests will be processed within 1 month of receipt of the request unless the request is complex (or if multiple requests are received from the same person).

11.2 Examples of when a request may be considered complex:

- it involves retrieval and appraisal of information from multiple sources



- it involves the retrieval of large volumes of information for one data subject which are difficult to separate from information relating to other data subjects
- it is one in a series of requests from the same individual
- it involves the release of third-party data for which consent has been refused or cannot be obtained

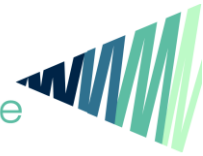
In these cases, a 3-month deadline for responding to the request will apply. For complex requests likely to take over 1 month, the applicant will be notified of this within the initial 1-month period.

Right of Access

- 11.3** Under data protection legislation every individual has the right of access to information relating to them. This right is called Subject Access. Any person wishing to make a Subject Access request can do so by following the instructions above. Personal information will never be disclosed verbally in response to a request.
- 11.4** Written consent will always be required from any person nominating a third party to request information on their behalf. Parents may make requests on behalf of their children but if the child is 13 years or older, the child must also provide written consent for the parent to make the application on their behalf.
- 11.5** A nominated person may make an application on behalf of anyone lacking mental capacity who would otherwise have the right to request access to their records. In these circumstances, the person making the application must have proof of a valid Lasting Power of Attorney or an Enduring Power of Attorney or proof of Court-appointed Deputyship.
- 11.6** No information relating to any other person (other than the individual requesting the information) will be disclosed as part of a subject access disclosure.
- 11.7** Any information that may prejudice the prevention and detection of crime may be exempted from disclosure. There are also several other exemptions which may be applied, and these will be explained on an individual basis.

Right of erasure

- 11.8** This right allows individuals to request that their personal data is deleted where there is no justification for its continued use. It only applies, however, when:
1. The data is no longer necessary for the reason(s) for which it was originally collected



2. The data subject provided consent for the organisation to process their data but has subsequently withdrawn this consent
3. That data subject has objected to the organisation processing their data and there are no overriding grounds for continuing to process it
4. The data was processed in breach of the GDPR i.e. it was unlawfully processed
5. There is a legal requirement to erase the data
6. The data was collected with parental consent when the data subject was a child and they no longer wish for their data to be held

The organisation will also decline a request for erasure:

- When we have a legal obligation or it is part of our official authority to process the data
- For public health reasons
- For certain archiving activities
- When we need the data in connection with a legal claim

Right to rectification

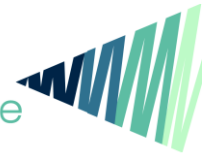
11.9 If data subjects believe that any of the personal data ESCV holds about them is inaccurate or incomplete they are entitled to ask for it to be rectified. This will be looked at in the context of why ESCV is processing the information, and any necessary steps will be taken to supplement the information held in order to make it complete.

Right to restriction

11.10 In certain circumstances data subjects have a right to request that we temporarily restrict processing and access to their data. This will apply:

- Whilst establishing accuracy of data, if a data subject has contested this.
- Whilst we follow up any objection raised by a data subject to the organisation processing their data.
- When data has been processed unlawfully but the data subject does not want us to erase it and have asked, instead, for us to restrict processing of the data.
- When we no longer need the data but the data subject has advised us that they need it in connection with a legal claim.

The right to restrict data does not apply if:



- The processing is necessary for ESCV in connection with a legal claim
- It is necessary for the protection of another person
- There are substantial public interest reasons for continuing to process the data

Right to portability

11.11 Data subjects have a right to request their data be transferred electronically to another organisation.

This only applies when:

- The data subject themselves supplied the information and provided consent for the processing; or
- The data is being processed as part of a contract to which the data subject is party; and
- The data is held electronically (not in paper files)

Right to object

11.12 Data subjects have the right to object to their information being processed in the following circumstances:

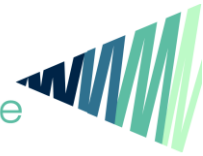
- If the organisation has decided that processing is necessary either to
 - a) perform a task carried out in the public interest or
 - b) as part of the organisations official authority or legitimate interest and the data subject feels this is not applicable.

Information about why ESCV is processing information (the legal justification) can be found in our privacy notice.
- If ESCV retains information in defence or potential defence of a legal claim but the data subject believes there are insufficient grounds to do so.

11.13 Data subjects also have a right to object to their data being used for direct marketing purposes at any time and ESCV will cease processing for this purpose if an objection is raised.

11.14 If ESCV uses IT systems to make automatic decisions based on personal data individuals have a right to object and:

- request human intervention in the decision making
- be able to express their point of view



- obtain an explanation of how a decision has been reached
- challenge the decision

This right does not exist if the automated decision making:

- is necessary to fulfil a contract to which they are party
- is authorised by law
- the data subject has consented to the processing

11.15 Individuals also have the right to object to data being used for research purposes unless the research is being undertaken in the wider public interest which outweighs a data subject's right to privacy.

Right to be Informed

11.16 ESCV issues a privacy policy which explains what information the organisation is processing, the legal basis for this, the purpose of processing, who the information is shared with and other information required by data protection legislation.

The current privacy policy is available on the organisation's websites (www.escv.org.uk/ ; www.healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk; www.esvcsealliance.org.uk/) or on request.

12 Breaches of Data Protection

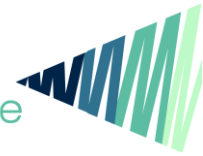
12.1 ESCV has a data breach management process which employees are aware of and have received appropriate guidance to help them recognise and react appropriately to data breaches. All breaches or suspected breaches of Data Protection legislation will be reported to the organisations Chief Executive and Data Protection Lead/Officer who will ensure the process is adhered to and ensure breaches are reported to the ICO where necessary.

13 Information security

13.1 ESCVs Data and Information Security Policy covers the creation, acquisition, retention, transit, use, and disposal of all forms of information.

13.2 It applies to all employees and board members; it also applies to volunteers, work experience candidates, and all staff of service delivery partners and other organisations who handle information for which the organisation is responsible. It will form the basis of contractual responsibilities in contracts with Data Processors where reference is made to the organisation's Data Protection and Information Security Policy.

13.3 It is the policy of ESCV that:



We will protect information from a loss of:

- confidentiality (ensuring that information is accessible only to authorised individuals)
- integrity (safeguarding the accuracy and completeness of information)
- availability (ensuring that authorised users have access to relevant information when required)
- relevance (only keeping what we need for as long as it is needed)
 - we will meet all regulatory and legislative information management requirements
 - we will maintain business continuity plans
 - we will deliver appropriate information security training to all staff
 - we will make available appropriate and secure tools to all staff
 - we will report and follow-up all breaches of information security, actual or suspected

13.4 Guidance and procedures will be maintained to support this policy. These will include procedural standards for individuals with access to information.

13.5 System operating procedures will be developed and maintained to ensure compliance with this policy.

13.6 Information systems are checked regularly for technical compliance with relevant security implementation standards.

13.7 Operational systems are subjected to technical examination to ensure that hardware and software controls have been correctly implemented.

15. Management of Information

15.1 ESCV will manage information in accordance with the principles and procedures within this policy and other relevant policies and standards. The following principles apply to how we handle information in the organisation:

- All identifiable personal information is treated as confidential and will be handled in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory protocols.
- All identifiable information relating to staff is confidential except where national policy on accountability and openness requires otherwise.
- Procedures will be maintained to ensure compliance with Data Protection legislation, The Human Rights Act 1998, the common law duty of confidentiality, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any other relevant legislation or statutory obligation.
- Information is recorded, used and stored to protect integrity so that it remains accurate and relevant at all times.

16 Organisational records

16.1 We will create and maintain adequate staff, board member, volunteer and other records to meet ESCVs business needs and to account fully and transparently for all actions and decisions. Such records can be used to provide credible and authoritative evidence where required; protect legal and other rights of the organisation, its staff and those who have dealings with the organisation; facilitate audit; and fulfil the organisation’s legal and statutory obligations.

16.2 Records will be managed and controlled effectively to fulfil legal, operational and information needs and obligations in the most cost-effective manner.

17 Contacts

Data Protection Officer

Information Governance Team, Children’s Services, ESCC	Schools.DPO@eastsussex.gov.uk	01273 337610
---	--	--------------

Office of the Information Commissioner

The Information Commissioners
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

website: www.ico.gov.uk


18 Compliance, monitoring and review

- 18.1** The Board of East Sussex Community Voice CIC has the ultimate responsibility for implementing and reviewing this policy. The board will scrutinise our work on data protection to ensure that we meet our legal, ethical and operational commitments. A non-executive director will be nominated bi-annually as the Board's lead on data protection and information governance.
- 18.2** The East Sussex Community Voice Chief Executive holds the day-to-day responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented. The Business Support Officer is the staff lead for data protection and information governance.
- 18.3** This policy will be reviewed and updated on a two-year rolling basis by the East Sussex Community Voice Board.
- 18.4** This policy may be revised sooner if there is a change in working premises, conditions or laws directly affecting data protection or any other aspect embedded in the document.

19 Approval and Adoption

Author/Reviewer	Simon Kiley, Deputy Chief Executive
Sponsor	Veronica Kirwan, Chief Executive
Date of approval and adoption	28 th May 2026
Date of next scheduled review	May 2028

Signature of East Sussex Community Voice CIC Board Chair

Name	Vanessa Taylor
Signature	
Date	23.06.26