



Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

BACKGROUND

As an inclusive community group, Denton Holme and Longsowerby Community Engagement will be open to vulnerable people, including children and vulnerable adults. Our organisation abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

DEFINITIONS

The Children Act 1989 definition of a **child** is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, are a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

A **vulnerable adult** is an adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of **abuse**, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect.

SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

We believe that:

- Nobody who is involved in our activities should ever experience abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation.
- We all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all of our beneficiaries, staff and volunteers, to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.
- We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which our people not only feel safe, but also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

POLICY APPLICABILITY

This safeguarding policy applies to anyone working on our behalf, including our charity trustees, group members, and other volunteers.

SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

Our organisation will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its trustees, group members, and other volunteers, and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors).

CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING

We expect all trustees, group members, and other volunteers to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if a child or vulnerable adult is deemed to be at risk of harm or contact the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed.

WHISTLEBLOWING

It is important that trustees, group members, and other volunteers have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistleblowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong-doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another trustee, group member, or other volunteer. There is a requirement for our organisation to protect whistle-blowers.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy should be reviewed every two years. It is next due for review in August 2024.