



Safeguarding Policy

Policy Statement

It is our policy to:

- protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who participate in our activities from harm. This includes the children of adults who participate; and
- provide trustees and members of our management committee and volunteers, as well as children, young people and vulnerable adults and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This Policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the Trust, including the board of trustees, the management committee and volunteers.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults in England.

Our aims

We aim to enhance the environment for both people and wildlife by:

- promoting public access to the countryside by means of a programme of events, including walks and talks
- involving people in their Valley and the wildlife on their doorstep
- identifying improvement ideas, creating projects and raising funds to progress them
- encouraging a sense of belonging in the Blackwater Valley.

We do this by managing pockets of the Valley's countryside and preserve its wildlife habitats by making conservation projects happen. We provide consultancy and advice and deliver projects to benefit wildlife and are constantly looking for opportunities to create more in the Blackwater Valley. We provide grants to third parties for projects consistent with the aims of the Trust. We seek to enhance our relationships with businesses to assist them with environmental aspects of their corporate social responsibility plans and aim to develop these over time. We educate the public about the natural world and the local environment.

We believe that:

- children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind; and
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- all children, young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children, young people and vulnerable adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- where appropriate, working in partnership with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- ensuring that no-one acting on our behalf works alone with children, young people and vulnerable adults, who must be accompanied on our activities by a parent, other responsible adult or carer;
- valuing, listening to and respecting them;
- appointing a lead trustee for safeguarding;
- adopting child, young people and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding good practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct;
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures;
- where appropriate, providing effective management of volunteers through supervision, support, and training so that, all volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently;
- recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring, where appropriate, that checks are made;
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance;
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, young people and vulnerable adults and their families on our website where appropriate;
- making sure that children, young people and vulnerable adults and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern;
- using our safeguarding and child, young people and vulnerable adult protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, families and carers appropriately;
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against volunteers appropriately;
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment;
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place;
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for event participants including children, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance; and
- building a safeguarding culture where volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Supporting documents

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures and other related documents.

Contact details

Trustee for safeguarding and child protection

Name: Colin Richard Wilson

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This Policy came into force on 10 December 2019

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice **annually**.

This Policy and accompanying procedures were last reviewed on 10 December 2019

Signed: Colin Wilson

Child protection trustee.