

Safeguarding Policy



1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Red Lion House Community Centre operates to safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and vulnerable adults involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Vulnerable Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, vulnerable adult refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- has care and support needs.
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be a vulnerable adult.

Persons affected

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the property managed by the Red Lion House Charity.
- All visitors and contractors.

3. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

Red Lion House charity has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Red Lion House Charity recognises that under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of vulnerable adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004. Red Lion House charity is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Red Lion House Charity is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

The Red Lion House Trustees are committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

4. Procedures

- A. All Trustees will sign the Declaration of Trustee Eligibility which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- B. All Trustees will familiarise themselves with their safeguarding responsibilities and ensure they understand the principles set out above. Training will be undertaken where appropriate on safeguarding issues including whistleblowing as offered by Support Staffordshire, the local support organisation.
- C. All Trustees will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- D. All Trustees, helpers or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- E. The Trustees have a Safer Recruitment Policy.
- F. A Trustee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.
- G. The named person will undertake the Designated Safeguarding Lead Training.
- H. The named person is Margaret Collier.
- I. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know whom to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or vulnerable adults who has:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed or may harm a child or vulnerable adult.
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or vulnerable adult.
 - Behaved towards a child (or children) or vulnerable adult in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or vulnerable adults.
- J. The Bookings Manager will ensure that all hirers of the community centre have signed a hiring agreement. This will require all hirers who wish to use the community centre for activities which include children and vulnerable adults, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
- K. The Trustees will carry out an annual review of this policy.

Reporting Concerns

Staffordshire County Council –Staffordshire Children’s Advice & Support (SCAS)
formerly known as First Response Team.

Telephone: 0300 111 8007 (Mon – Thurs 8.30am – 5.00pm) (Fri 8.30am-4.30pm)

Email: firstr@staffordshire.gov.uk

To report a concern outside of these hours, please contact the

Emergency Duty Service (Out of Hours Service)

Telephone: 0345 604 2886

Mobile: 07815 492613

Staffordshire County Council Social Services for Adults

Phone: 0345 604 2719

Email: vastaffordshire@staffordshire.gov.uk

A trained member of staff will be available to help you between 8:30am - 5:00pm, Monday-Thursday (excluding Bank Holidays) and 08:30am - 4:30pm Fridays

To report a concern outside of these hours, please contact the

Emergency Duty Service

Phone: 0345 604 2886

Fax: 01785 277321

Text: 07815 492613

Other numbers

Staffordshire Police, non Emergency	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
Action on Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141
Care Quality Commission (CQC)	03000 616 161

If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm you should call the emergency services on 999

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with:

ACRE's Information Sheet No. 5 on Safeguarding

Safer Recruitment Policy

Lettings Policy

Bookings Agreement

Agreed by the Red Lion House Charity

Date September 2023

Review Date September 2024

Signed*CDean*.....