

Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd. Safeguarding Policy

1 Safeguarding Policy Scope, Purpose, and Control

This Policy establishes the direction of the organisation for appropriate safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and provides guidance to Volunteers and Employees in handling.

The defined owner is the Chair of the Trust.

The authorisation date of this version is 13th May 2019

This document is designated as public domain.

2 Definitions

Safeguarding children is defined in statutory guidance as:

1. Protecting children from maltreatment
2. Preventing impairment of children's health or development
3. Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
4. Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Safeguarding vulnerable adults is in statutory guidance as:

1. Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
2. People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect
3. People and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action
4. Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being

Neglect is when people who support children or vulnerable adults don't look after their needs. This may be failure to ensure that they have enough food to stay healthy; sufficient clothing to keep warm; enough help to keep clean, or a lack of attention to ensure that vulnerable people are safe from danger. It can also be neglect of the person's emotional needs for support.

Abuse is when someone causes intentional pain, distress, or harm to another person. Abuse can be by someone known to the vulnerable person, even a carer or family member, as well as by someone unknown to the victim. Abuse can happen anywhere. It can happen at any time of the day, and in private and public places. It can take several different forms:

1. Physical abuse is when someone hits another person
2. Sexual abuse is when someone touches inappropriately, encourages inappropriate touching of them, or forces unwanted intimacy.
3. Emotional abuse is saying or doing hurtful things to cause upset and distress
4. Discriminatory abuse is when people treat others badly because they perceive them as different.
5. Financial abuse is when people take money or property from without asking, or force gifts from the owner

'Individuals' is used in this policy to refer to either Volunteers or Employees who are undertaking work within the remit and responsibilities of the Trust.

3 CCT Principles for Safeguarding

Any questioning of how one human being treats or mistreats another needs to be handled with respect and sensitivity. Where we suspect mistreatment, we cannot turn a blind eye, but we do have to ensure that our response is proportionate, evidence based and focussed on protecting the victim.

As a charitable, community-based organisation, the Trust takes its responsibilities to safeguard the well-being of children and adults with whom it has contact, seriously. This means that it will play its part in making sure that where it has contact with vulnerable members of the public it will report any serious concerns of neglect or abuse to the appropriate organisations responsible for safeguarding for investigation.

Should any complaint of abuse be made against any volunteer, whilst carrying out Trust activities, it will be treated as set out in the Volunteer Personal Conduct Procedure. Should any complaint of abuse be made against any employee, whilst carrying out Trust activities, it will be treated as set out in the Employee Disciplinary Procedure.

4 Responsibilities for Safeguarding

The Trust organises boat trips, work parties, walks and other events where individuals may witness behaviour that may appear to be neglectful or abusive, and for the wellbeing of the vulnerable person needs some form of intervention.

If an individual sees someone behaving inappropriately towards a vulnerable person, they should discreetly bring the behaviour to the attention of the leader of the activity/event on behalf of the Trust.

If the behaviour is overtly violent or sexual in nature, our first responsibility is to ensure the safety of the vulnerable person and other members of the public whilst not putting anyone's safety in jeopardy. Decide how to intervene discreetly but assertively to ask the perpetrator to stop the behaviour. If the situation escalates, the activity/event leader has to decide whether to involve the Police.

If the behaviour suggests emotional, discriminatory or financial abuse, it may be more appropriate to take careful note of what is happening to make a report later, asking other Trust individuals to also witness and record. The activity/event leader shall take responsibility after the activity/event for the decision on the need for any subsequent reporting

Any safeguarding incident shall be promptly reported to one of the Trust Officers by the activity/event leader.

Where there are concerns about potential abuse, it is the Trust's responsibility to report the facts to the appropriate body – the Police or Safeguarding team of the local authority. It is then the responsibility of the Safeguarding body to investigate and reach a considered opinion about what needs to be done.

5 Interacting with Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Trust does not work directly with children and vulnerable adults. The primary responsibility for the care of children and vulnerable adults using the Trust's facilities rests with the adult carer. The Trust, however, seeks to ensure that its activities and policies also afford as much protection as is reasonably practicable. As part of events and activities within the remit of the Trust, volunteers and employees may need to interact with children and vulnerable adults. Individuals in this situation shall take care in their interactions to avoid any risk of perception of inappropriate behaviour.

Good practice guidelines are:

1. Treat all visitors with equal care and with respect and dignity
2. Always refer to the carer before interacting directly with children and vulnerable adults
3. Work in an open environment, avoid unobserved locations or situations
4. Be a good role model, avoid offensive language, inappropriate comments, smoking or drinking alcohol in the presence of safeguarded visitors

5. Personal care tasks and any first aid treatment is the responsibility of the responsible carer
6. Ensure that no child or young person takes part in its Santa Special trips unless accompanied by a responsible carer and visits Santa in full view of the carer
7. Avoid spending excessive time with individual safeguarded visitors
8. Refrain from physical restraint, other than exceptional circumstances to prevent danger to the person or others, damage to property, or to prevent a criminal offence or serious anti-social behaviour.

6 Appropriate Reporting and Management

Any safeguarding concern or incident shall be promptly reported to one of the Trust Officers by the activity/event leader.

Where there are concerns about potential abuse, it is the Trust's responsibility to report the facts to the appropriate body – the Police or Safeguarding team of the local authority. It is then the responsibility of the Safeguarding body to investigate and reach a considered opinion about what needs to be done.