

Chesterfield Canal Trust Ltd

Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

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 member of the Trust, whilst carrying out Trust activities, it will be treated as set out in the Grievance and Disciplinary Policy.

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

The Trust will organise training for volunteers on safeguarding, and will identify a Trustee to oversee safeguarding responsibilities.

The risk of abuse or neglect.

Most people you meet in the course of working with the Trust will not be abusers or neglecters. Very occasionally, you may see behaviour that you feel is serious and inappropriate, and this policy is designed to offer guidance to you on those rare occasions.

Definitions.

Neglect is when people who support children or vulnerable adults don't look after their needs. This may be failure to ensure that 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 pain or other types of harm to another person. It can take several different forms:

Physical abuse is when someone hits you or your body;

Sexual abuse is when someone touches you in a place that you would like to keep private; or they want you to touch them, or they want you to have sex with them and you don't want to.

Emotional abuse is when people say hurtful things to upset you

Discriminatory abuse is when people treat you badly because they think you are different.

Financial abuse is when someone takes money or belongings from you without asking, or forces you to give them things or money when you don't want to.

Please remember:

Trust members need to be aware that anyone can be neglected or abused at any time in their life.

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.

Some people need extra help to stop abuse.

What to do:

If you see someone behaving inappropriately towards a vulnerable person discreetly bring the behaviour to the attention of the skipper, team leader or organiser of the event on behalf of the Trust.

Get someone else's opinion of what is going on.

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 the safety of Trust members in jeopardy. Decide how to intervene discreetly but assertively to ask the perpetrator to stop the behaviour. If the actions are such that other passengers or participants are aware of what is happening, the skipper or activity leader may have to decide whether the police should be called.

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. Try to get accurate names of victim and perpetrator, any details of where they live, telephone numbers etc. Ask other crew or volunteers to pay particular attention to what is happening.

It is not always easy to assess whether actions are abusive or neglectful, so it is useful to try to talk through what happened at the end of the activity when members of the public have departed. Are you and colleagues agreed that the behaviours appear abusive and need reporting? If so, talk to the skipper/team leader and jot down as much information as possible about what happened, who was involved and who witnessed what happened.

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 –NOT the Trust.

Team leaders or skippers need to report any incident initially by phone and then backed up in writing to one of the Trust Officers – the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer without delay, and wherever possible within 24 hours. The Officers will then quickly discuss the matter together and make the referral to the appropriate safeguarding body. All Trustees will be informed that an incident has taken place, but not the names of those involved.

Trust members are asked not to speak to the Press about safeguarding matters, but to refer any enquiries to the Chair of the Trust. It is the Trust's policy not to comment on any ongoing safeguarding issue, and to refer journalists to the Safeguarding body who **may** be investigating any incident

Witnessing potential abuse can be upsetting and troubling – and reporting such matters even more so. Trust members can expect support from colleagues, section leaders and Trustees in dealing with such matters.

Unless we act in the interests of vulnerable people, it would be unreasonable to expect others to speak up on our behalf were we ever to suffer neglect or abuse.

Policy revised May 2015

For review May 2016

Approved by CCT Board of Trustees _____