

Safeguarding

Safeguarding adults and children is the multi-agency procedure used to protect people from abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding is about making sure that you have a clear understanding of your responsibilities with regards to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Core policy values:

- Always ensure that there is another adult nearby, within sight and hearing when working with children.
- Work in an open environment.
- Don't engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact e.g. physical, verbal, sexual, including rough and tumble/messing around.
- If children/ young people are with their parents/carers etc they are primarily responsible for them.

Volunteers should never:

- engage in or permit or accept abusive and discriminatory behaviour or peer-led activities (eg initiation ceremonies, bullying, taunting or behaviour) that frightens, embarrasses or demoralises or reduces to tears as a form of control
- Engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact (eg physical, verbal or sexual, including rough and tumble/messing around)
- Allow or encourage others to engage in inappropriate behaviour and contact
- Use inappropriate or demeaning language
- Engage in sexual relationships with young people or personal friendships including outside of the workplace
- Make sexually suggestive comments to anyone
- Give or lend personal money to young people
- Invite young people to individual homes
- Share a dressing room or a bedroom with a young person (unless deemed appropriate)
- Show favouritism to anyone
- Jump to conclusions without checking facts
- Use alcohol, drugs or other substances prior to or when working with young people, or buy it for or supply it to young people
- Deliberately put them self or others in compromising or potentially dangerous situations or situations which could be misinterpreted by young people or others, eg when supporting or comforting a young person under distress, make sure it is an open environment whilst also balancing their right to privacy
- Promote your religious or political ideas or beliefs
- Rely on just your good name to protect you
- Allow allegations to go unrecorded or not acted upon
- Give out personal contact details including mobile telephone numbers (unless deemed appropriate) and email addresses or become friends on social networking sites or gather personal contact details of young people for personal use