

Nature Recovery Teg Down Safeguarding policy and procedure

February 2024

1. Introduction and purpose

This policy sets out how Nature Recovery Teg Down operates to keep adults at risk of abuse or neglect and children safe from abuse.

The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

We have a Duty of Care to our volunteers and participants in our activities. We are committed to the protection and safety of adults at risk and children whether they are volunteers and/or participants in our activities. We will protect and support the volunteers who work with us as well as our participants.

All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. Children's legislation includes the Childrens' Act 1989 and 2004. We also follow [Working Together to safeguard children 2023](#).

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. For our safeguarding policy to be effective every volunteer, and supporter who assists us whatever their role, will play their part in keeping people safe.

2. Definitions

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 42.1 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 an adult at risk

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 in [Working Together 2023](#) as:

- providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- protecting children from maltreatment, whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care

- promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network through a kinship care arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interests of the children
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework.

3. Persons affected by this policy

This policy applies to everyone volunteering on behalf of Nature Recovery Teg Down, including the Steering Group, volunteers, group leaders, third party guides etc.

4. Our Policy

- Nature Recovery Teg Down, has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- There are no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk and children from abuse, exploitation, or mistreatment.
- Nature Recovery Teg Down, recognises that under the Care Act 2014 it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- The welfare of the child and/ or adult at risk is paramount and all adults have the right to protection from abuse. We follow Working Together to Safeguard children 2023
- We are committed to working with appropriate agencies to ensure the reporting of abuse is appropriate and in line with local, national and Charity Commission requirements and Information Sharing guidance.
- We will create an environment where volunteers and staff feel able to raise safeguarding concerns and feel supported with their safeguarding responsibilities
- All volunteers are given an induction to Nature Recovery Teg Down; which includes awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities and procedures to be followed if they have a safeguarding concern
- Appropriate Safeguarding training will be provided to volunteers and refresher courses will be offered as needed.
- All volunteers are required to report any suspected abuse and be aware of the appropriate reporting and support procedure for safeguarding.
- All Volunteers must be clear on appropriate behaviour and responses and follow our agreed Code of Conduct/ Behaviour.
- All volunteers who come into contact with adults at risk of abuse, and children and their families as part of their Nature Recovery Teg Down activities will be alert to possible signs of abuse and consider whether there may be safeguarding concerns.
- There is Designated Lead for safeguarding at Nature Recovery Teg Down.

- All volunteers will report any safeguarding concerns to the Nature Recovery Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance to get appropriate support and agree any follow up steps to be take in line with the flow chart for referral.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Nature Recovery Teg Down, will fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in a way that ensures that adults and children are safeguarded from harm. The Safeguarding Lead is responsible for following up and reporting any suspected reports of abuse.
- Appropriate recruitment of volunteers will be in place including policies on when to obtain a DBS check
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the steering committee

Date	Changes made	Review date

See it. Recognise it. Report it.

If the matter is urgent because a child or adult at risk of harm is in immediate danger phone 999 for the Police.

See it.

Are they safe? If you are concerned about a child or Adult at Risk of Harm you could help stop abuse if you follow the safeguarding policy and procedure (use this flowchart)

It is not your responsibility to decide if abuse has happened. It **IS** your responsibility to report it to the Safeguarding Lead and agree with them any follow up steps to be taken as sets out below



Recognise it.

Share your concerns or information with the Nature Recovery Teg Down **Safeguarding Lead**.

For concerns about an Adult at Risk of Harm: The Safeguarding Lead will use the Safeguarding Adults Framework to guide discussions on thresholds for safeguarding referrals.

Safeguarding Lead:

Concerns about a child

If you have any concerns because you think that a child might be being abused and you want to talk to someone or ask someone to find out what is going on, you should contact Children's Services:

- phone [0300 555 1384](tel:03005551384) during office hours 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday
- phone [0300 555 1373](tel:03005551373) at all other times to contact the Out of Hours service

Concerns about an adult

If you have concerns or want to report you should contact Hampshire Adult Services:

- phone [0300 555 1386](tel:03005551386) during office hours 8.30am to 5pm Monday, 9.30am to 5pm Tuesday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday

Further information about the Out of Hours service.

- If there is immediate danger to the child or Adult at Risk call 999 for the Police.



Report it

If you have a concern about a child or an Adult at Risk and need to make a safeguarding referral use the Hampshire MASH portal

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren/childprotection/mash>

Notes: reporting for CYP

- Parents/ carers should be advised that you are making a referral unless this might put the child at risk or cause any delay in referring

- **Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Referrals**
If you have concerns about an adult working with a child under the age of 18 that you would like to report, access the [Hampshire MASH portal](https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren/childprotection/mash)

Notes: reporting for Adults at Risk

It is essential that wherever possible it is the adult at risk who will decide on the chosen course of action, taking into account the impact of the adult at risk's mental capacity where relevant.

However, the people and organisations caring for, or assisting them, must do everything they can to identify and prevent abuse happening wherever possible and evidence their efforts

Remember ALL notes will be disclosable should a formal or criminal investigation occur. *Ensure that your notes are signed, dated, professional, separate opinion from fact, are recorded verbatim using the same words as were used during the disclosure.*