

Guildford Health Walks Safeguarding Policy

POLICY COVER SHEET

Policy title:	Safeguarding policy
Purpose / scope:	This policy sets out Guildford Health Walks' approach to safeguarding for volunteers, walkers, supporters and anyone who attends our events or activities.
Related policies:	Complaints policy Whistleblowing policy Disciplinary policy Grievance policy Problem solving policy Volunteering policy
Staff policy owner:	Safeguarding Manager
Approved by:	Guildford Health Walks committee
Date approved:	
Next review due: (every 3 years)	
Document version:	1
Applies to:	Committee members, volunteers, members
Version control and date	Activity
1 dated 30 March 2023	New policy, reviewed by the Committee, changes?

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Policy statement

Guildford Health Walks is committed to following good practice, which includes having clear, consistent policies, procedures, and processes that everyone can follow. We take our responsibilities for safeguarding extremely seriously and have a duty of care to our volunteers, walkers, and supporters.

We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accept our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of anyone who attends and participates in our events and activities, in accordance with current legislation.

We are committed to ensuring the well-being of everyone, including children, young people, and vulnerable adults, who participate in our Guildford Health Walks activities. We will take every practical step to minimise the risk of harm, paying particular attention to the needs of those who are most vulnerable, including children and vulnerable adults.

Aims and scope

This policy aims to provide everyone involved with Guildford Health Walks with the fundamental values that guide our approach to safeguarding. It also aims to be proportionate and appropriate to the level of risk involved.

This policy applies to all individuals involved in delivering our charitable aims and goals - volunteers, members, supporters.

Principles

Why do we need safeguarding?

- Abuse, harassment, and harm can happen to anyone – it's not always visible and often not spoken about.
- Abuse, harm, and neglect are wrong. We have a duty to take action.
- When everyone understands safeguarding and their right to be safe, people who have nowhere else to turn are protected.
- An organisation that does safeguarding well is an organisation that is trusted.
- The welfare of vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work, events, activities, and programmes carried out, as well as the decisions made by Guildford Health Walks.
- It is important to value, listen to, and respect all views and opinions.
- All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status, have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice, and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- We will seek to ensure that we are inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability, or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review.
- The rights, dignity, and worth of all children and adults will always be respected.

- We recognise that ability and disability can change over time and that some children and adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, in particular those with care and support needs.
- We all have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all, and will act appropriately and report concerns, whether these concerns arise within Guildford Health Walks or in the wider community.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with our Safeguarding Policy and Procedure documents.
- Guildford Health Walks recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding and is committed to complying with their procedures.

Good practice, poor practice, and abuse

It can be difficult to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental. It is not the responsibility of any individual involved to make judgments regarding whether or not abuse is taking place, but everyone is responsible for recognising and identifying poor practice and potential abuse, and to act on this if they have concerns.

Training

Everyone at Guildford Health Walks will have access to the Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Procedure and is expected to help implement this across all the walk groups. All volunteers should undertake some form of safeguarding training that is relevant to their role.

Accessibility and inclusion

Guildford Health Walks is built on the belief that everyone deserves the right to experience the joy of walking outdoors. We strive to be diverse, inclusive, and accessible in how we offer and promote our activities.

Legislation

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within GB legislation and Government guidance, taking the following into consideration:

- The Care Act 2014
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1998
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Definitions

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding children means protecting children from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to children's health or development, and ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.
Safeguarding adults means protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons.
- Children and young people: For the purposes of this policy document and practice within Guildford Health Walks, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.
- An adult at risk is anyone aged 18 or over who has care and support needs, is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk of abuse or neglect.
- An adult in need of care and support is determined by a range of factors, including personal characteristics, factors associated with their situation or environment, and social factors.
- Capacity means having the ability to make a decision about your own life on your own and is sometimes referred to as 'mental capacity'. This can be affected either temporarily or permanently. Some people have the capacity to make simple decisions but struggle with major ones, such as financial decisions.

Further information

Related policies, procedures, and supporting information are available.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the [Safeguarding Procedure](#).

Write to Safeguarding@guildfordhealthwalks.org.uk