

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Version 1.5 - July 2022

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

The Friends of Hedgemead Park (HPF) works with families as part of its activities. These include community events such as litter picking, gardening, cleaning and renovating infrastructure within Hedgemead Park, and entertainments such as live music and fetes.

At no time will HPF accept children at activities or events where they are not accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who participate in such activities and events organised by HPF;
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working with or on behalf of HPF, including B&NES staff, contractors, advisors and volunteers.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk>

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind;
- we have a responsibility to be vigilant, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount;
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

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We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- ensuring that all children under the age of 18 are always accompanied by parent or nominated responsible adult when attending HPF activities and events;
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for adults and accompanying children, and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance;
- being vigilant in monitoring the child's activities and contact with adults;
- ensuring that no photography is undertaken by HPF volunteers without permission from parents or responsible adults; if permission is granted then it should be made clear where and how the pictures are to be used; if permission is refused this will always be respected;
- recording and storing any relevant information professionally and securely.

We will respond to concerns by:

- ensuring that the person raising the concern is listened to and supported;
- notifying the designated safeguarding lead about the concerns;
- documenting a clear account of the incident(s) giving rise to the concern;
- initiating an immediate investigation conducted by the safeguarding lead;

We will act on our findings:

Depending on the nature and severity of the findings, we will:

- call the police, or
- notify the Council's safeguarding team, or
- speak with the subject (complainant) and their family or guardian to provide support and/or mitigation measures, or
- in the case the allegations concern a third-party organisation, raise the matter with an appropriate authority within that organization

We will keep records:

The HPF Safeguarding Lead will be responsible for keeping a record of all stages of the process from notification to final outcome, documenting actions taken, persons contacted, dates, and all material information. The case will be reviewed by HPF's Committee to determine whether lessons can be learned.

Designated HPF Safeguarding Lead

Name: Caroline Groom, HPF Secretary

Phone: 07791 745604

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We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice **annually**.

This policy was updated on: 10th July 2022.

Signed:



Name: Graham Groom

Position: HPF Chair

Date: 10th July 2022