



Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Land of Oak & Iron Trust (LOIT) accepts that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we are fully committed to ensuring the health, welfare and safety of children and vulnerable adults we interact with. Definitions of abuse and neglect are set out in Annex A.
- 1.2 Child and vulnerable adult protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific persons who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm. As adults and/or professionals or volunteers, everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and promote their welfare. This depends upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise.
- 1.3 LOIT is committed to ensuring that all volunteers are suitably checked for the roles they are volunteering for, including any safeguarding issues that may arise when working with children and/or vulnerable adults.

2 Policy

- 2.1 LOIT Trustees and Young Persons' Group volunteers shall undertake Safeguarding Training.
- 2.2 LOIT volunteers will not in usual circumstances be expected to be responsible for the unaccompanied supervision of children or vulnerable adults.
- 2.3 LOIT shall ensure that where we interact with children or vulnerable adults, supervision by persons appropriately trained and authorised will be ensured and confirmed prior to the activity taking place, (e.g. teachers, youth leaders, carers etc.)
- 2.4 If circumstances arise where LOIT volunteers may be placed in a situation whereby they are deemed as partaking in a regulated activity in relation to children or vulnerable adults they shall have the appropriate training, education and clearance prior to the activity taking place (e.g. DBS checks)

- 2.5 If any LOIT volunteer has concerns about a child or vulnerable adult because of something they have seen or heard, they should not promise confidentiality as they have a duty to share this information and refer to the appropriate authority without delay and inform the Trustees immediately. Contact details for Trustees is made available to all volunteers and Sub-Group Leaders.
- 2.6 LOIT Volunteers should:
- be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect;
 - be alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children and/or vulnerable adults;
 - share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the needs and circumstances;
 - contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote welfare;
- 2.7 Any complaint or allegation against a volunteer shall be reported to the Trustees immediately. Trustees shall take the appropriate action with immediate effect.
- 2.8 All volunteers will be made aware of this policy as part of their initial induction process and there will be regular briefings and updates for all volunteers.

Annex A

Definitions of abuse and neglect:

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child or vulnerable adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children or vulnerable adults may be abused in a family, or in an institutional or community, setting; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children or vulnerable adults that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing children or vulnerable adults frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children or vulnerable adults. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child, young person or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the individual is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (eg: rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts.

They may include non-contact activities, such as looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or the encouragement to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's or vulnerable adult's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the person's health or development. Failing to protect a child or vulnerable adult from physical and emotional harm or danger, failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate care-takers, or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's or vulnerable adult's basic emotional needs.

Adopted: September 2019

Reviewed: April 2024

Next Review: April 2025