

SLACC-tt Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to SLACC Charity Number 1202875 and 1139474)

Date created	Reviewed and Agreed	Review
August 2018	October 2023 Note: phone numbers for Westmorland and Furness safeguarding teams updated April 2024	ANNUAL October 2024

1 Introduction

SLACC-tt charity number 1202875 was formed in 2007. It is a registered charity and its objects are:

- 1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
- 2) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

SLACC-tt charity number 1139474 was established as a CIO in April 2023.

The objects of the CIO are for the benefit of the public in South Lakeland:

1. To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment by:

- a) Facilitating and undertaking practical projects to reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resilience.
- b) Raising awareness of and promoting a just climate transition that addresses wellbeing, equity and inclusion.

2. To educate the public about climate change and environmental conservation.

We have a constitution, an elected committee of 6 Trustees (including Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), and audited accounts. Our members pay a subscription to the organisation. We have a regular newsletter and also regularly update our website. The website includes provides information on our Trustees, constitution and relevant policies including this Safeguarding policy.

Our main activities are heading up campaigns relating to the climate crisis and running locally delivered projects. A current programme which engages most of our volunteers is Kendal- based “Waste into Wellbeing” which involves distribution of waste food and the provision of a weekly cafe. These activities are open to all, and are always delivered in a group or community setting. We do not work with any individuals on a one-to one-basis. We do not go into people’s homes. We run some family activities which include children who are always accompanied by a responsible adult. Any children attending our activities will be under the supervision of, and remain the responsibility of, a parent or guardian. Projects involving students with Kendal college are under development and usually conducted in the presence of a tutor, and exceptions to this are closely monitored. Where necessary, DBS checks for volunteers working with under 18 year olds are a requirement. Specific additional arrangements will be established as required in line with this policy.

All our activities are delivered by volunteers, and we have no paid staff, although we offer contract work to self-employed people. Volunteers are supported by a volunteer co-ordinator who works closely with specific Trustees. Our activities are led by one or more Trustees, at least one of whom will always be directly involved in the planning and/or delivery of any activity. Volunteers are given full induction, which includes an awareness of the Safeguarding policy.

2 Policy statement

SLACC recognises that safeguarding means protecting a child’s or vulnerable adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This policy exists to ensure that SLACC implements appropriate arrangements, systems and procedures to ensure that the organisation has the right skills, means and resources to protect and safeguard everyone involved in the organisation. The scope of safeguarding concern includes our contracted self-employed

personnel, volunteers and trustees as well as those with whom we engage in delivering our activities.

Where SLACC documents any of the activities we undertake, including with photographs, we will always seek a child or young person's consent before taking any photographs of them, and obtain consent from their parent or guardian if we wish to use photographs of those under 18 years old.

SLACC *tt* recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk by developing and implementing good practice. All involved accept responsibility for safeguarding, with trustees having particular responsibility, as detailed in Section 5 below.

3 The Statutory Framework for Safeguarding

There is a duty to safeguard both children and young people and vulnerable adults. The term child has the specific legal meaning of anyone below the age of 18 years and the term adult refers to anyone aged 18 years or over. Children and young people (under 18 years of age).

The legal framework to protect children and young people is contained in Working together to safeguard children (2018). This applies to all children and young people.

Vulnerable adults (aged 18 years and above) The Care Act (2014) introduced statutory safeguarding duties which apply to any adult who:

- Has needs for care and support;
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of their needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

The aims of safeguarding are to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible;
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect;
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect;
- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of a child or a vulnerable adult;
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect.

4 The Role of Volunteers in Identifying Abuse or Neglect

Volunteers may be particularly well placed to identify abuse and neglect - the child or vulnerable adult may say or do things that hint that all is not well. It

may come in the form of a complaint, or an expression of concern. Everyone within the organisation should understand what to do, and where to go locally to get help, support and advice.

It is vital that all volunteers are vigilant on behalf of those unable to protect themselves, including:

- Knowing about different types of abuse and neglect and their signs;
- Supporting children and adults to keep safe;
- Knowing who to tell about suspected abuse or neglect; and
- Supporting children and adults to think and weigh up the risks and benefits of different options when exercising choice and control.

Abuse includes:

- Physical abuse may result in bruises at different stages of healing, burns, bite marks or unexplained injuries;
- Sexual abuse;
- Financial abuse including theft, fraud, coercive control of finances or the
- Misappropriation of possessions;
- Psychological or emotional abuse which can involve intimidation, threats of harm, verbal abuse or a restriction of freedom;
- Domestic abuse includes behaviour which is controlling, coercive, threatening or violent by a partner or ex-partner or a family member.

Neglect includes:

- Self-neglect of hygiene, health or surroundings;
- Neglect by those with caring responsibilities who may withhold the
- necessities of life, fail to intervene if the adult is at risk, or deny access to services.

5 Promoting Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding in SLACC

All SLACC Trustees will:

- Be provided with a copy of this Safeguarding Policy;
- Be made aware of the importance of their role in promoting safeguarding;
- Understand how they might recognise a child or vulnerable adult who may be at risk;
- Be aware of the procedures and what action they should take if they have any concerns about safeguarding.

The following key procedures will be followed in all work with children and vulnerable adults:

1 When beginning any project, the trustees will assess safeguarding risk and consider whether Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are appropriate, using the DBS eligibility check, and will insist upon them if necessary. A record of volunteers who are DBS checked will be kept will be kept on the DBS check provider website (community action suffolk).

2 Recruitment to projects and subsequent work with those recruited will always be carried out in the presence of others, with the knowledge of trustees in SLACC tt and those identified as responsible for the care of children or vulnerable adults involved. Protection of children and adults will be a part of any risk assessment carried out both formally and informally.

3 All those involved with SLACC tt will contact trustees if they have any concerns about the well being of children or vulnerable adults they encounter through SLACC tt activity. Privacy and confidentiality will be respected, but in all cases the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult will take priority. Contact details included in the next section. In the event of any reported concerns records of all conversations including dates and times will be kept. Trustees will immediately convene a meeting and take advice from professionals.

6 Reporting Procedures

Anyone who is concerned that a child or vulnerable adult might have safeguarding needs should raise the matter immediately with the volunteer supervisor if appropriate in the first instance. All concerns should be reported to the nominated Trustees, either the SLACC Chair or Secretary 1st Point of Contact: Carole Wood Chair 07968043616 ecarole.wood@hotmail.com) or slacctt.sec@gmail.com

- 2nd Point of Contact: Chris Rowley slacc@slacc.org.uk

Early sharing of information is the key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns. No-one should assume that someone else will pass on information which they think may be critical to safety and/or wellbeing.

Concerns about **Child or Young Person** Safeguarding should be reported to:

- Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub 0300 3732724

Concerns about **Adult** Safeguarding should be reported to:

- The local Safeguarding Adults helpline (Westmorland and Furness)

Tel: 0300 373 3301

There are some cases that may require a very urgent response:

- If you suspect a serious criminal act has taken place, telephone 999. Tell them if you think it might be the result of abuse.

- If the individual is injured or acutely ill seek immediate medical treatment, telephone 999. Tell the ambulance personnel or A&E staff if you suspect abuse.

7 Recording a concern

A written record must be kept in regard to any concern about safeguarding. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken. The written note should be made as soon as possible after the matter is raised detailing what has happened. The note should include verbatim reporting from the individual who has reported the issue.

The record must be signed and dated, and will be reviewed and securely and confidentially filed by the Chair.

8. Training

We will offer training for up to 10% of our volunteers and a trustee via the online offer at High Speed Training.

<https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-vulnerable-adults-training-course/>

Those trained will subsequently meet and become “safeguarding champions” who will be the first line of reporting via our trustee safeguarding lead.

9. Policy governance

SLACC is committed to continual review and improvement of this policy. The trustees welcome contact from anyone with concerns or suggestions either verbally or in writing by contacting any trustee.

The SLACC Safeguarding Policy will be published on our website, and copies will be available to all our supporters, as well as to potential funding bodies, on request.

Signed by: Carole Wood Chair

ecarole.wood@hotmail.com) or slacctt.sec@gmail.com