

Stafford North End Community Association

Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Stafford North End Community Association operates to safeguard children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises including children, young people and adults at risk involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and staff.

2. Definitions

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 as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

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 Section 42 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.

Persons affected

- All trustees, volunteers, and staff.
- All those attending any activity or service that is being delivered from the community centre property.
- All visitors and contractors.

3. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age, or illness.

Stafford North End Community Association has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Stafford North End Community Association 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 also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004, and is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Stafford North End Community Association is aware of the work of their local safeguarding Board/Partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Stafford North End Community Association Committee is committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

4. Procedures

All members of the committee will:

- Sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for trustees that includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- Familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities and where appropriate and necessary undertake training and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy.
- Will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- Follow safe recruitment practices.
- Will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless they have been appropriately vetted.

The centre management committee will:

- Ensure that all hirers of the hall have signed a hiring agreement. This will require all hirers who wish to use the centre for activities which include children and adults at risk, other than for hire for private parties arranged for invited friends and family, to either produce a copy of their Safeguarding Policy and evidence that they have carried out relevant checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) when requested to do so or, confirm that they have understood and will adhere to the centre’s principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding.
- Ensure that all suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk which are reported to the committee will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
- Ensure that it has up to date contact information regarding who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. (See page 3 of this policy)
- Promptly report all safeguarding issues, that it is made aware of, to the relevant safeguarding agency as a matter of urgency.
- Carry out an annual review of this policy

Signed

Name:

Position: Chairman

Date:

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DETAILS

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)

Call Staffordshire County Council's First Response Service:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 5:00pm Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm Phone:
0800 1313 126

Emergency Duty Service: (Out of Hours)

Telephone: **0345 604 2886** Mobile: **07815 492613**

<https://www.staffsscb.org.uk/>

Staffordshire and Stoke Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB)

If you have a concern that an adult is being abused or neglected or is at
risk

Emergency

If the adult is seriously hurt or the abuser is still with the adult, and
they are in immediate danger ring the

Police on 999

Non-emergency

If the adult lives in Staffordshire:

0345 604 2719

Please visit the SSASPB website for more ways to report a concern

www.SSASPB.org.uk/reporting-abuse