



The Friends of Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT AND POLICY

Policy Purpose

Our activities sometimes include working with vulnerable people. The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to protect children and vulnerable adults and provide overarching principles that guide our approach in doing so.

Safeguarding Principles

We believe that:

- Nobody who is involved in our work should ever experience abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation.
- We all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all of our volunteers to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.
- We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which people not only feel safe, but also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

Safeguarding Policy Applicability

This safeguarding policy applies to anyone working as a volunteer on our behalf.

Partner organisations will be required to have their own safeguarding procedures that must, as a minimum, meet the standards outlined below, and include any additional legal or regulatory requirements specific to their work.

Safeguarding should be appropriately reflected in other relevant policies and procedures.



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**Winner of Community Organisation 2021 with
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**Winner of the Big Tidy Award at the Keep Britain
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Winner of Gold & Silver RCC Village achievement awards 2010

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and Community Groups 2009, finalists 2011 and 2013**



Types of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, such as physical, psychological or emotional, financial, sexual or institutional abuse, including neglect and exploitation.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Child safeguarding

Anybody working with us must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18
- Sexually abuse or exploit children
- Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking

Adult safeguarding

Anybody working with us must not:

- Sexually abuse or exploit at risk adults
- Subject an at risk adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Nobody in our team should:

- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics



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We should all

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy

Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

If a crime is in progress, or an individual in immediate danger, call the police, as you would in any other circumstances.

If you are a volunteer or member of the public, make your concerns known to a member of our team, who will alert our chairman.

We will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

Those who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to the Chairman. If someone does not feel comfortable reporting this way (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other member of the committee whose details are given in our AGM bulletin.

We will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations and deal accordingly with any breaches of policy. We will offer support to survivors of harm caused regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation). Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only, and should be kept secure at all times.

July 2024



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