

Falcon Meadow Community Trust



Safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect policy and procedures

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm (Appendix 1), whilst volunteering for Falcon Meadow Community Trust (FMCT) or engaging in any activities or events organised by FMCT.
- to provide trustees and volunteers, as well as other users of Falcon Meadow, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of FMCT, including the board of trustees, volunteers and contractors.

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 is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning.

FMCT 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, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately
- Arrangements for sharing information procedures with other professionals and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adult Board (Appendix 2)

We will seek to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe by:

- appointing two trustees, with appropriate child and adult safeguarding training, to the roles of designated safeguarding lead and deputy safeguarding lead (Appendix 3)
- providing effective supervision at volunteer working parties and other FMCT events
- advocating, and endeavouring to ensure, that all children under 16 years old are accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian when attending working party and other FMCT organised events
- recording, storing, sharing, and using information appropriately and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance (See Appendix 2)
- making sure that children, young people, adults at risk and their families know to contact a designated safeguarding lead if they have a concern

- using our safeguarding policy and procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involving children, young people, adults at risk, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our policy and procedures to manage any allegations against trustees and volunteers (working on behalf of FMCT as staff) appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where trustees, volunteers, and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Definitions

- **Children and young people** are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.
- **Adults at risk:** For the purposes of this policy, an adult at risk is defined as any person aged 18 years and over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental health issues, learning or physical disability, sensory impairment, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.

Contact details

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Allan Myatt

Telephone: 07766706260 email: safeguarding@falconmeadow.org.uk

Designated Deputy Safeguarding lead – Katie Utting

Telephone: 07966510605 email: safeguarding@falconmeadow.org.uk

Alternative numbers to report concerns:

Suffolk Children's Social Care - Customer First: 0808 800 4005

Suffolk Adult Social Care - Customer First: 0800 917 1109

Norfolk Children's Advice and Duty Service: 0344 800 8021

Norfolk Adult Social Care: 0344 800 8020

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy statement and procedures were last reviewed and approved by trustees on 23rd June 2020.



Signed:

Allan Myatt

Date: 23rd June 2020

CHILD ABUSE TYPES AND INDICATORS

The following behavioural signs *may* be indicators of child/young person abuse, but care should be taken in interpreting them in isolation.

Physical signs

- Injuries (e.g. bruises, bites) which are not consistent with the explanation given for them.
- Injuries to the body in places which are not normally exposed to falls, rough games, etc.
- Injuries which appear to have been caused by a weapon e.g. cuts, welts, etc.
- Injuries which have not received medical attention.
- Self-mutilation or self-harming e.g. cutting, slashing, drug abuse.

Emotional signs

- Changes or regression in mood and behaviour, particularly where a child/young person withdraws or becomes clinging. Also, can present as depression or aggression.
- Nervousness or inappropriate fear of particular adults.
- Inappropriate relationships with peers and/or adults; excessive dependence attention-seeking behaviour.

Signs of neglect

- Regular poor hygiene
- Persistent tiredness
- Inadequate clothing
- Excessive appetite
- Consistently being left alone and unsupervised

Indicators of possible sexual abuse

- Any direct disclosure made by a child/young person concerning sexual abuse.
- Child/Young person with excessive preoccupation with sexual matters.
- Adult sexual behaviour, or who regularly engages in age-inappropriate sexual play.
- Preoccupation with sexual activity through words, play or drawing.
- Child/Young person who is sexually provocative or seductive with adults.
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home.
- Other emotional signs (see above) may be indicative of sexual abuse.

ADULT ABUSE TYPES

Adult Abuse can generally be viewed in terms of the following categories: Physical, Domestic, Sexual, Psychological, Financial/ material, Modern Slavery, Discriminatory, Neglect and acts of omission, and Self-neglect.

Physical Abuse

Physical injuries which have no satisfactory explanation or where there is a definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted with intent, or through lack

of care, by the person having custody, charge or care of that person, including hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of or lack of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Domestic Abuse

The Government definition of domestic abuse is: 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over (Safeguarding Adults applies from age 18) who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual acts which might be abusive include non-contact abuse such as looking, pornographic photography, indecent exposure, harassment, unwanted teasing or innuendo, or contact such as touching breasts, genitals, or anus, masturbation, penetration or attempted penetration of vagina, anus, and mouth with or by penis, fingers or other objects (rape).

Psychological Abuse

Psychological, or emotional abuse, includes the use of threats, fears or bribes to negate an adult at risk's choices, independent wishes and self-esteem; cause isolation or overdependence; or prevent an adult at risk from using services, which would provide help.

Financial Abuse

This usually involves an individual's funds or resources being inappropriately used by a third person (i.e. theft) It includes the withholding of money or the inappropriate or unsanctioned use of a person's money or property or the entry of the adult at risk into financial contracts or transactions that they do not understand, to their disadvantage.

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking, domestic servitude and forced labour. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Discriminatory Abuse

This is abuse targeted at a perceived vulnerability or on the basis of prejudice including racism or sexism, or based on a person's impairment, origin, colour, disability, age, illness, sexual orientation or gender. It can take any of the other forms of abuse, oppressive treatment, harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Neglect / Acts of Omission

Neglect can be both physical and emotional. It is about the failure to keep an adult at risk clean, warm and promote optimum health, or to provide adequate nutrition, medication, being prevented from making choices.

Self-neglect

Self-neglect differs from the other forms of abuse listed here because it does not involve a perpetrator. Self-neglect is failing to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings in such a way that causes, or is reasonably likely to cause significant physical, mental or emotional harm or substantial damage to or loss of assets.

Role description for the designated safeguarding and deputy leads

The designated safeguarding leads are responsible for:

- receiving disclosures and concerns about the safety and welfare of children, young people and adults at risk and for making decisions about what action needs to be taken
- managing any complaints that may directly or indirectly relate to a safeguarding matter
- liaising with the appropriate Local Authority MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) or Adult Social Care Team and following statutory procedures if there is a safeguarding concern about a child, young person or adult at risk
- liaising with the appropriate Local Area Designated Officer (LADO) if there is an allegation against a FMCT trustee or volunteer working on behalf of FMCT as a member of staff
- undertaking regular and appropriate training in child and adult protection and safeguarding
- ensuring all trustees are aware of, understand, and are confident in, the implementation of the safeguarding policy as part of their induction process
- ensuring that all records of safeguarding concerns and subsequent actions are clear, factual, concise, and are maintained appropriately and stored securely
- ensuring that working party and other event risk assessments consider and mitigate for any safeguarding risks, including the setting of any adult to child supervision ratios that may be deemed appropriate.