



## **Child protection and vulnerable adult safeguarding policy Sustainable Living Initiative (SLI)**

### **Who is this aimed at?**

This policy applies to 'all staff', volunteers, the board of trustees, and sessional workers or anyone working on behalf of the Sustainable Living Initiative.

### **What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is defined as:

- Protecting children and vulnerable adults from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children and vulnerable adults' health or development
- Ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are living in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

*Working together to safeguard children 2015*

### **Those whom we are protecting**

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare of children up to the age of 18. This refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

The terms child, children, young person and young people are used interchangeably to represent anyone who has not yet reached the age of 18.

A vulnerable adult or adult at risk can be defined as any person aged 18 or over who:

- has needs for care and support, either on a long term or temporary basis (including for substance misuse, mental ill health or domestic abuse)
- is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

*Care Act 2014*

The Sustainable Living Initiative believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practice that protects them. It is recognised by the organisation that the children who participate in the activities of Grow- Our-own schemes at Bluebell South Allotments and Marlpit Community Garden are never unaccompanied and are either with parents/guardians or a member of staff

from the local schools (who rent plots) who have responsibility for their safeguarding.

**We recognise that:**

All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

All children and vulnerable adults should have appropriate protection safeguards in place.

The SLI should provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary formal checks are made
- Sharing information and signposting advice to parents, staff and volunteers
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving parents and children
- Providing effective management for volunteers through supervision, support and training where appropriate
- Being curious if there is a concern and to share your concern by either discussing this with a relevant agency or by contacting the multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH). General advice can be obtained by contacting the safeguarding trustee via the SLI project manager.

Trustees or employees should avoid situations involving contact with children and vulnerable adults that might expose them to the risk of an allegation of inappropriate behaviour

We all have a responsibility to report concerns about a child or vulnerable adult to the appropriate organisation or responsible body.

**Operational Guidance**

No member, trustee or member of staff will be alone with a child without the permission of a parent.

Safeguarding Trustee will have a DBS check and have sufficient training to be able to provide basic advice on request.

Any organisation that brings children into touch with the SLI will be a recognised institution such as a school, early years provider or organisation recognised by the SLI as having an up to date and county council recognised safeguarding policy.

Photographs: When taking photographs of people on our gardens or other SLI events, please make sure that those people are aware and happy for the photos

to be used for our publicity. Avoid all photos where an under 18 can be identified or ensure that we have guardian/parents written permission. Groups are welcome to take their own photographs but any concerns should be raised with the SLI programme manager.

All contractors will have a relevant safeguarding policy if they come into contact with children or vulnerable adults.

### **Concerns**

Any concerns you have regarding child protection and safeguarding issues should be directed to the following agencies and to the safeguarding trustee of the Board of the SLI

All safeguarding concerns should be reported to the multi agency-safeguarding hub (MASH).

### **Contacts:**

In an emergency, call: 999.

If you suspect that abuse is occurring or there has been a disclosure of abuse this

matter must be prioritised and responded to by reporting immediately to the Norfolk Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0344 800 8020 who will investigate and take appropriate action.

#### **Out-of-hours emergencies**

Concerns regarding children and vulnerable adults out of office hours can be reported to the MASH on 0344 800 8020.

Police non-emergency number: 101

*This policy was reviewed in January 2019 and will be reviewed annually.*