



Safeguarding Policy for Vulnerable Adults

Trigger Warning: This policy describes: types of abuse and harm and how vulnerable adults might become at risk in the garden. It might trigger unwelcome or distressing memories or thoughts.

This is our Safeguarding Policy for Vulnerable Adults. We also have a Safeguarding Policy for Children. Both policies are there to ensure we are proactively considering how we keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from abuse, harm or distress as a result when visiting our garden, in whatever capacity.

Trustees are responsible for ensuring that these policies are implemented. They should:

- Appoint a designated safeguarding lead
- Ensure that everyone identified in this policy as having a role in safeguarding understands their roles and that this is communicated in relevant policies. This includes- those organising or stewarding activities, events and workshops (whether management committee members, third party organisers or third party hirers) plotholders on duty, those taking photographs on behalf of the garden, and those responsible for data entry and management and parents of any children under 16 in the garden)
- Keep both policies under review
- Identifying actions that support the implementation of the policies

The two policies help us to create a safeguarding culture where everyone is focused on keeping children and vulnerable adults safe. This goes hand in hand with creating a safe physical environment by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

Purpose of the safeguarding policy for Vulnerable Adults

The Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden want to ensure that everyone visiting the garden can do so safely.

Vulnerable Adults should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to protect adults who have needs for care and support and those who are unable to take action to protect themselves and will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures. All vulnerable adults regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.



This policy sets out:

- **Background:** who we are, what we do and how we are run
- **The scope of this policy:** in terms of those at risk and those who might cause abuse or harm
- **Definitions:** the types of abuse that we need to be aware of when safeguarding
- **Safeguarding risks and preventative actions:** the risks we need to manage in the garden and actions we need to take to prevent these risks
- **Actions we will take if there is an allegation against a member, an employee, volunteer, visitor or contractor of the garden**
- **Our duty of care to act if we are concerned about a vulnerable adult being at risk outside of the garden because of something that is witnessed in the garden**
- **Embedding and learning:** how safeguarding is embedded across organisational policy and how it will be kept under review
- **Relevant policies** that support safeguarding
- **Key contacts and the designated safeguarding lead**
- **Legislation**

Background

Who we are:

The **The Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden** is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association). Our charitable objectives are about **supporting wellbeing through access to leisure and recreation, advancing education, managing community gardens and acting as a resource for young people up to 25**. We run King Henry's Walk Garden, a community garden, off King Henry's Walk in Islington. The Garden has a small annual income of about £15,000 and is run by volunteers, with support from Islington Council.

In delivering our objectives, sustainability and access run through all that we do. Our focus is on our local community, and we seek to maximise the contribution of Members to the running of, and maintenance of the garden.

How we are run:

Friends of King Henry's Walk Garden is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association) governed under its Constitution. Trustees up to a maximum of seven are elected by members at Annual General Meeting. Trustees are responsible for decision-making, legal compliance, the budget and financial performance, risk and mitigation. They delegate day to day tasks relating to running the garden to a management committee. Trustees and the Management Committee are generally drawn from our Members, although we may recruit from outside membership for specific skills set when needed. We have two types of Members:

- Plot Holders generally have to live within a catchment area (there are some exceptions). They pay a small annual fee and commit to carrying out specific duties during the year; the garden usually operates a waiting list of a few years.
- Key Holders do not have to live within a catchment but also pay a small annual fee



There is an Annual Members' Meeting (AGM) when the Management Committee and Board of Trustees are appointed.

The garden:

The garden contains **growing plots for cultivation by local residents, communal spaces and flower beds, a pond and a woodland**. There is an accessible toilet and a few small storage spaces, a toolshed (which is padlocked- ploholders have a code- and it may be open at times when there is high use of tools), a greenhouse and a hut. The woodland is only open when the garden is open to the public and for structured activities run by The Garden Classroom. Hirers can request use of the woodland.

People use the garden in a range of ways and these scenarios are fully considered in the section on safeguarding risks and actions needed.

The Garden is generally open to the public on Saturdays between 12pm and 4pm, and, from May to September, also on Sundays between 12pm and 4pm. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Ploholders staff the garden during the public open hours. The gate is propped open during this time. Noone is monitoring entry or exit. Anyone can enter or exit during this time.

Scope of this policy

Who we need to protect:

The Care Act 2014 identifies an adult at risk as an individual aged 18 years and over who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) AND;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, AND;
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Who could pose a risk in the garden:

The vulnerable adult could be at risk from any child or adult in the garden and - including (but not exhaustive) an adult who is responsible for them, a workshop facilitator, a visitor, a Member, a Member of the management committee or trustee board, a volunteer.

The scenarios where a vulnerable adult could be at risk:

The vulnerable adult could be at risk from a child or an adult who is in contact with them during an activity, or who is also in the garden at the same time, or who makes contact with them afterwards. The vulnerable adult could also be at risk if their data is breached.

Concerns about a vulnerable adult who might be at risk of abuse:

The policy also identifies the actions needed if trustees are concerned about a vulnerable adult who might be at risk of abuse outside of the garden.



Definitions - Understanding types of abuse and harm

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance (updated October 2023) identifies the following types of abuse.

Physical abuse. This could include physical assault, rough handling, physical punishment, unlawful use of restraint, making someone purposefully uncomfortable, involuntary isolation or confinement or misuse of medication (e.g. over-sedation)
Domestic violence or abuse. This can include psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.
Sexual abuse - this could be rape, attempted rape or sexual assault, inappropriate touch anywhere, any sexual activity that the person lacks the capacity to consent to, inappropriate looking, sexual teasing or innuendo or sexual harassment, sexual photography or forced use of pornography or witnessing of sexual acts and indecent exposure.
Financial abuse includes: theft, fraud, restricting access to funds, borrowing money without permission, pressure to influence loans or wills, arranging less care than there is means for, refusing to assist with financial affairs.
Emotional abuse. This could include enforced social isolation, removing mobility or communication aids, failing to respect privacy, preventing stimulation.
Modern slavery and Human trafficking. This covers: Forced labour, Domestic servitude, Sexual exploitation and debt bondage (forcing someone to work to pay back loans)
Discrimination abuse. This is unequal treatment based on any protected characteristic such as verbal abuse, denying access to mobility or communication aids, harassment on the grounds of any protected characteristic.
Institutional abuse. This covers discouraging visits, rigid regimes, lack of dignity and privacy, not providing choice or enabling independence.
Self Neglect. This is when someone is not able to care for themselves to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety, leads to neglect of one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings, failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs and an inability or unwillingness to manage one's personal affairs
Neglect. This is when someone is neglected by those offering care and support and could include failure to provide or allow access to food, shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity, personal or medical care or providing care in a way that the person dislikes.



This abuse could take place online- online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, facilitated through technology like computers, tablets, mobile phones and other internet-enabled devices

Take action to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse and harm in the garden

Adult safeguarding is about preventing and responding to concerns of abuse, harm or neglect of adults. The aims of Adult Safeguarding are to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible.
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making informed choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.
- 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 adults 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 an adult; and
- Address what has caused the abuse.

Any safeguarding action needs to keep the vulnerable person at the centre of decision-making and to keep their best interests paramount – it should not be a process imposed on them.

The Care Act 2014 identifies 6 principles for safeguarding vulnerable adults:

1. Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent
2. Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. Partnership: Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. Accountability: Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

The main actions we will take to prevent harm to vulnerable adults in the garden is to:

- Undertake risk assessments for activities
- Ensure any activities run specifically for vulnerable adults are delivered by qualified organisations and professionals with their own safeguarding policy
- Ensure data protection is adhered to

The Garden Classroom (TGC) is a key partner who run activities for schools and members of



the community in the garden all year. They have full safeguarding policies which The Garden keeps under review.

Our duty of care to act if we are concerned about a vulnerable adult being at risk outside of the garden

We have a duty of care to look out for any signs of harm in those visiting the garden. However, the garden is run by volunteers rather than being “staffed” and so the role of members, the management committee or trustees is very limited.

If anyone is worried about someone in the garden who may be at risk of abuse or harm, they should contact Islington’s Adult Social Care First Point of Contact Team on 020 7527 2299. With adults there is an assumption that informed consent has been requested from the person or guardian/carer. If this is not acquired, an explanation will be needed as to why that person does not have the mental capacity to have understood the concern.

If there are specific immediate concerns the police should be contacted on 999.

Actions we will take if there is an allegation against a member, employee, volunteer, visitor or contractor of the garden

All concerns about anyone working with the garden in a paid or voluntary capacity should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead via the garden email. It is the responsibility of this Designated Safeguarding Lead to report allegations to Islington’s Adult Social Care First Point of Contact Team on 020 7527 2299.

The Safeguarding Lead will also report the incident in writing to the Trustees, and all reports will be reviewed in trustee meetings.

Embedding and learning

Trustees will agree actions to support the embedding and implementation of this policy and the following types of actions which will be required:

- Training - the designated lead will attend training and trustees will decide who else attends and how often
- Review of other policies that need to reference safeguarding - it will be the role
- Continuous improvement of practices
- Ensuring oversight in trustee and management committee meetings

This policy will be reviewed annually



Relevant policies that this policy is aligned to:

- Trustees Code of Conduct
- Garden Rules
- Membership policy
- Privacy Notice
- Child protection policy
- Complaints procedure
- Conflict of interest policy
- Volunteer policy statement
- Health and safety policy
- Equality & Diversity policy

Key contacts

Designated safeguarding lead - Sonia Khan

Local police non-emergency number - 101

Legislation

Safeguarding adults comes under the Care Act 2014.

Resources

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/abuse/working-with-adults-at-risk>

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/healthandsocialcare/information/adviceandinformation/20192020/20190610panlo ndonsafeguardingadultsproceduresmay2019.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees#safeguarding-children-or-adults-at-risk>

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/safeguarding/specialist-guides/specific-aspects/talking-about-safeguarding/common-terminology/a-b/>