

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY REVIEWED ON 15th OCTOBER 2024

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding means ensuring that your group or organisation is run in a way that ACTIVELY prevents harm, harassment, bullying, abuse or neglect

ABUSE is a violation of a persons human and civil rights that may be perpetrated by another person or persons

Types of abuse

Physical

Sexual

Emotional and psychological

Neglect and acts of omission

Financial

Organisational/institutional

Self neglect

Domestic abuse in all of its manifestations

Modern Slavery

The above list is by no means exhaustive as there may be other aspects of abusive that may come to light when working with vulnerable adults

Keeping people safe when they are taking part in activities

Knowing how to recognise when someone is affected by abuse or neglect

To have sufficient knowledge/training to respond appropriately to intervene and take action

Every group or organisation must have a written safeguarding policies matched with very clear procedures as to when appropriate action is necessitated

If your group or organisation works with children or vulnerable adults then all volunteers must be fully versed in the safeguarding policies

An adult at risk is any one over the age of 18 and who is vulnerable due to experiencing neglect, abuse or indeed a multitude of factors that render them in need of support and protection.

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL is committed to safeguarding practises that help to ensure the safety of any child or any adult at risk whilst taking part in our group activities.

This policy assists all members of the organisation to:

Be aware of our legal responsibilities

Understand the safeguarding risks in TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Know what to do if they have a concern about the wellbeing and welfare of any child or adult at risk that has contact with the group

The safeguarding policy applies to all individuals involved in TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL, including trustees, members and volunteers

When working with children or vulnerable adults we are acting in a position of trust and it is therefore the responsibility of everyone to behave to certain unwavering values

All children and all adults at risk have an equal right to protection from abuse and to be kept safe from harm regardless of their age, disability, gender ,marriage and or civil partnership, race, religion or faith, sex and sexual orientation

Some children and adults may be additionally vulnerable due to the impact of previous life experiences, communication needs or any aspect of their lives that render them in need of extra support

We must listen and respect everyone in the group

We use language that is appropriate for age and ability, and do not use any words that are offensive or discriminatory

We encourage a culture of honesty, where everyone feels comfortable and safe to raise attitudes or behaviours that are not in keeping with the values of the group

All allegations and suspicions of neglect and or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to speedily and appropriately

This means that when working with children or adults we will NEVER

Promise to keep secrets safeguarding relies on sharing concerns with the relevant agencies

Allow suspicions or allegations of abuse and or neglect to go unreported

Behave in any manner that is threatening, abusive or bullying

Enter into a sexual or intimate relationship with a child or adult who is vulnerable

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL acknowledges that the relevant Local Authority has the overriding legal duty to safeguard adults at risk and we therefore commit to work with the local Safeguarding Adults Board

The policies and practices are based on the relevant legislation

The Care Act 2014

The Mental Capacity Act 2005

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL will base our practices on the principles laid out in the Care Act 2014

Empowerment....people will be encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent

Prevention.... To take action before harm occurs

ProportionalityTo give the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk that is presented

Protection....Support and representation to those in the greatest need

Partnership..... To seek solutions through services in the local community as they play a significant role in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse

Accountability.... Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL has a designated safeguarding lead whose contact details are: Geoff Smith, Clerk, Tow Law Town Council. E Mail towlawtc@hotmail.com

It is recognised that it can be difficult for numerous reasons to articulate concerns if you feel someone is at risk for whatever reason

However, we expect our volunteers, trustees and all members to take immediate action if they have any concerns about a child or vulnerable adult

The safeguarding lead will give full and undiluted support to the person raising the concern and to the vulnerable person who is at risk.

This policy will be reviewed at the Town Council's Annual General Meeting which is held in May each year, commencing May 2025.