

WALBERSWICK COMMON LANDS CHARITY
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction:

This policy will enable Walberswick Common Lands Charity to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe the vulnerable adults or children with whom it may work. The Charity acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

This policy statement and procedures have been drawn up in order to enable Walberswick Common Lands Charity to:

1. Promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse or coercion occurring
2. Ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is fully supported
3. Where possible, to stop that abuse occurring in the first place

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children and adults from deliberate harm.

We have to ensure the safety and protection of any vulnerable child or adult from, bullying, racist abuse and harassment, online abuse etc. The witnessing of abuse can have a damaging effect on those who are party to it, as well as the person subjected to the abuse itself. This can have a significant impact on the health and emotional well-being of those involved.

- Abuse can take place in any family, institution or community setting, by telephone or on the internet.
- Abuse can often be difficult to recognise
- Adults or children may behave differently or seem unhappy

Guidelines:

- **Do not** investigate by asking leading questions. (However, you may be asked to gather enough information to contribute to good decision making and an assessment of risk).
- **Do** let them know that you will need to tell someone else.
- **Do not** promise to keep what they have told you a secret.
- **Do** inform your Designated Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.
- **Do** make a written record of the allegation, disclosure or incident which you must sign, date and record your position.
- **Do not** include your opinion without stating it is **your opinion**.
- **Do** refer without delay

It is important to know the indicators of abuse and to be alert to the need to consult further with the Safeguarding Officer any information that could contribute to good decision making and an assessment of risk. Anyone volunteering with children or adults under the Walberswick Common Lands Charity must have a Safeguarding Certificate.

The WCLC Designated Safeguarding Officer: Rita Woodcraft. *Trustee*

Holders of safeguarding certificates: Amanda Erlenbach. Brian Fisher. *Trustees*

Contact: The Clerk, Matthew Wetmore. Email: clerkwclc@gmail.com