

LUMPHANAN PATHS GROUP SAFEGUARDING POLICY

PURPOSE OF POLICY AND COMMITMENT

Lumphanan Paths Group believes that every person has the right to be protected from harm and is fully committed to safeguarding the safety and welfare of all members, visitors and volunteers, including children and vulnerable adults.

This Policy therefore applies to all members, visitors and volunteers and provides guidance on procedures to be followed so we can protect everyone from harm and also the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation or incident of harm or a concern being raised.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND RELATION TO OTHER POLICIES

In formulating this Policy we have referred to relevant Legislation that generates an obligation to have this Policy and been guided in our approach by:

- i. The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
- ii. National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014)
- iii. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

This document should be read in addition to our Policies on Data protection and Health and Safety.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Safeguarding: this means protecting others from harm and includes protecting children and vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect.

Six principles of Safeguarding underpin our commitment to our Community and volunteers:

- I. Empowerment: people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- II. Prevention: it is better to take action before harm occurs
- III. Proportionality: the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- IV. Protection: support and representation for those in greatest need.
- V. Partnership: Offer local solutions through working closely with our community
- VI. Accountability: Accountability and transparency in delivering Safeguarding.

Harm: this can mean physical or psychological abuse; emotional hurt; sexual abuse; neglect; exploitation and forms of discrimination.

Vulnerable adult: The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 defines adults at risk as individuals over the age of 16 who are unable to safeguard themselves, are at risk of harm, or are more vulnerable to being harmed because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or mental infirmity.

HOW WE WILL KEEP PEOPLE SAFE.

“We believe everyone has the right to be safe no matter who they are or what their circumstances”

Safeguarding that right is holistically embedded in all our activities including:

- i. Activity and event planning
- ii. Use of facilities building and equipment
- iii. Recruitment of volunteers
- iv. Risk assessment
- v. Induction and information distribution

To minimise risk it is our policy that children and vulnerable adults volunteering or attending activities should be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

The Committee will have a nominated representative to oversee the Safeguarding Policy, and to raise awareness of the Policy with members, volunteers and the public. Training will be sought if required.

We will provide practical guidance to Members and Volunteers on acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and actions at events and during volunteer activities as required. (See also Health and Safety Policy)

The Safeguarding representative will be responsible for dealing with any allegation or incident of harm.

GUIDANCE ON THE PROCESS FOR MANAGING ALLEGATIONS, CONCERNS OR ACTUAL INCIDENTS

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

Immediate action will be taken if an allegation is made, an incident occurs, or a concern is raised and the named Safeguarding representative informed.

Police (if an alleged offence has occurred) and/or Social Work Services (welfare concerns) will be informed as appropriate.

Evidence will be protected.

Support for alleged victims and witnesses as required.

DATES AND SIGNATURES

Chairperson: Linda Gray

Safeguarding Representative: Janet Liversidge 07702204934

Review Date September 2024