

Ryedale Environment Group

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Ryedale Environment Group values and encourages the involvement of people of all ages and circumstances, and we are committed to promoting their engagement, enjoyment, and well-being in a safe and welcoming environment where everyone is respected and valued. We are also committed to doing everything possible to minimise the risk of harm to others using the approach of compliance, curiosity and courageous decision making.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is protecting members of the public who attend our events, group members and volunteers from harm, harassment, bullying, abuse, discrimination, radicalisation, and neglect.

In addition, there is an extra duty of care set out in law in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 to protect children under the age of 18 from harm. At REG they may be junior volunteers (Under 16s) and school aged children who attend our events

How do we protect?

By doing the following:

- Appointing Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Having a Behaviour Code for Volunteers working with children under 16 years
- Providing effective management for volunteers through supervision, support, training, and quality assurance measures so that they all know about and follow our policies, procedures, and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- Recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- Providing relevant safeguarding training or safeguarding information related to a volunteer's role
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place and that we respond swiftly to any concerns raised
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, visitors and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance in the form of safe working practices and risk assessment procedures

• Building a safeguarding culture where volunteers, children, young people and visitors, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns

Who is responsible for safeguarding?
Everyone at REG is responsible for safeguarding by being vigilant about Safeguarding issues and reporting any Safeguarding concerns **immediately** to the Designated Safeguarding Leads
If you come across a situation where a child is in immediate danger you should call the Police, stay with the child until they arrive and contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for informing the necessary authorities. Their contact details are detailed below. If they are not available please contact Lisa Holden or REG Secretary
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Chris Dowie
Name: Phone:07548534802
Email: chris.dowieuk@gmail.com
Trustee Lisa Holden
REG Secretary Peter Winter

Do you have any safeguarding concerns?
Recognising signs of harm, harassment, bullying, abuse, discrimination, radicalisation, and neglect
These can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial. If you have not seen any incidents but have noticed out of the ordinary or unusual changes in behaviour listed below, please report your concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

• becoming clingy, attention seeking, needing to please

• becoming aggressive, mood swings

• being withdrawn, depressed or anxious

• changes in eating habits

• displaying obsessive behaviour

• finding it hard to concentrate or take part in activities

• showing signs of self-harm

Responding to safeguarding concerns raised with you
• Always make sure the person speaking up feels they're being listened to and supported
• Don't promise to keep information confidential between you and them. Follow the reporting process to make sure information is only shared with people who need and have the right to know

• Ask for their consent to share the information – if they refuse and you are still worried that they or someone else is at risk of harm, you cannot wait for this consent. You must share this information with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Reporting safeguarding concerns

• Tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately about any concerns that you have seen, suspect, been told about or heard about, so they can decide what the next steps are
• Write a clear statement of what you have seen, suspect, been told about or heard about
• When you've been told something is wrong, don't go to the person that's been reported. Instead, tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead

What REG will do

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:
• Respond immediately to reported concerns
• Inform the relevant safeguarding partnerships
• Act on advice from the relevant safeguarding partnerships
• Complete any necessary paperwork

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership 0300 131 2151
If already open to Children's Social Care 01609 797280

Signature **Date:**