George’s Trust

Safeguarding Policy

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children (under 18), young adults and vulnerable adults, from any harm that may be caused due to their encountering George’s Trust. This includes harm arising from:

* The conduct of trustees and volunteers.
* The design and implementation of George’s Trust events and activities

The policy lays out the commitments made by George’s Trust and informs Trustees and volunteers of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

* Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by George’s Trust or associated volunteers.

## What is safeguarding?

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect[[1]](#footnote-1)

In our sector, we understand it to mean protecting people, including children, young adults and vulnerable adults, from harm that arises from encountering our Trustees and events.

## Policy Statement

George’s Trust believes that everyone we encounter, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. George’s Trust will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by Trustees or volunteers.

This policy will address the following areas of safeguarding: child safeguarding, adult safeguarding, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

George’s Trust commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

Prevention

### George’s Trust responsibilities

George’s Trust will:

* Ensure all Trustees have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
* Design and undertake all its fundraising and events in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their encountering George’s Trust.
* Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting Trustees and volunteers.
* Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process.

### Trustee responsibilities

**Child safeguarding**

George’s Trust Trustees and volunteers must not:

* Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18
* Sexually abuse or exploit children
* Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
* Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking

**Adult safeguarding**

George’s Trust Trustees and volunteers must not:

* Sexually abuse or exploit at young or vulnerable adults.
* Subject a young or vulnerable adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect

George’s Trust Trustees and volunteers must not:

* Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity.

Additionally, George’s Trust Trustees and volunteers are obliged to:

* Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
* Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a George’s Trust Trustee or volunteer to the Chair of George’s Trust.

## Enabling reports

George’s Trust will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to Trustees and the communities we work with.

George’s Trust will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

### How to report a safeguarding concern

Trustees or volunteers who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately (within 24 hours) to the Chair. If Trustees or volunteers do not feel comfortable reporting to the Chair (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other appropriate Trustee.

Mrs Jane O’Brien (Chair)

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## Response

George’s Trust will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations.

George’s Trust will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to trustees and volunteers found in breach of policy.

George’s Trust will offer support to survivors of harm caused by Trustees or volunteers. Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

## Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need-to-know basis only and should be always kept secure.

**Revised October 2024.**

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)