

# Canterbury & District Neighbourhood Watch Association

## Safeguarding Policy

### Introduction & Purpose

Canterbury & District Neighbourhood Watch Association (C&DNHWA) is a registered charity working with and for members of the public to improve security and safety in (principally) domestic residential premises. All personnel working for C&DNHWA are volunteers. In the course of their work they come into contact with neighbours and the general public, in community environments and sometimes within the confines of private residential premises. C&DNHWA does not conduct Regulated Activity i.e. close and unsupervised contact with vulnerable adults and children as defined by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. Volunteers are not, therefore, required to provide evidence of Disclosure and Barring Service checks prior to performing their role. C&DNHWA does, however, believe that everyone with whom we come into contact (including Beneficiaries of Assistance), 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. Consequently C&DNHWA has adopted this Safeguarding Policy to formalise the approach taken to protect volunteers, and any vulnerable persons that NHW members might assist / meet in the course of their work.

### Safeguarding Procedures and Responsibilities

#### 1. Organisational Responsibilities

C&DNHWA will:

- Ensure all volunteers have access to and are advised of their responsibilities within this policy;
- Design and undertake its activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with C&DNHWA. This includes the way in which information about individuals is gathered and communicated;
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly in accordance with our complaints procedure and will inform regulatory bodies and/or the police where appropriate;
- Review this policy regularly to ensure that it remains valid and compliant with the law and best practice.
- C&DNHWA will publish information about the number of any Safeguarding complaints received, and the percentage of complaints upheld, in its Trustees Annual Report.

## 2. Volunteer Responsibilities

Child safeguarding – C&DNHWA 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 – C&DNHWA volunteers must not:

- Sexually abuse or exploit at risk adults
- Subject an at risk adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect

Protection from sexual exploitation / abuse – C&DNHWA volunteers must not:

- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

C&DNHWA volunteers are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations;
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a C&DNHWA volunteer to an appropriate member of the Association's Committee;
- Report to the appropriate authorities any concerns or suspicions regarding possible safeguarding violations by third parties that become evident whilst undertaking C&DNHWA volunteering activity.

## Glossary of Terms

### **Beneficiary of Assistance**

Someone who directly receives goods or services from the C&DNHWA. Note that misuse of power can also apply to the wider community that the C&DNHWA serves, and also can include exploitation by giving the perception of being in a position of power.

### **Child**

A person below the age of 18

### **Harm**

Psychological, physical and any other infringement of an individual's rights

## **Psychological harm**

Emotional or psychological abuse, including (but not limited to) humiliating and degrading treatment such as bad name calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation

## **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**

The term used by the humanitarian and development community to refer to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of affected populations by staff or associated personnel. The term derives from the United Nations Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)

## **Safeguarding**

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

In our sector, we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our staff or programmes. One donor definition is as follows:

Safeguarding means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, particularly sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur.

This definition draws from our values and principles and shapes our culture. It pays specific attention to preventing and responding to harm from any potential, actual or attempted abuse of power, trust, or vulnerability, especially for sexual purposes.

Safeguarding applies consistently and without exception across our programmes, partners and staff. It requires proactively identifying, preventing and guarding against all risks of harm, exploitation and abuse and having mature, accountable and transparent systems for response, reporting and learning when risks materialise. Those systems must be survivor-centred and also protect those accused until proven guilty.

Safeguarding puts beneficiaries and affected persons at the centre of all we do.

## **Sexual abuse**

The term 'sexual abuse' means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

## **Sexual exploitation**

The term 'sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. This definition includes human trafficking and modern slavery.

## **Survivor**

The person who has been abused or exploited. The term 'survivor' is often used in preference to 'victim' as it implies strength, resilience and the capacity to survive, however it is the individual's choice how they wish to identify themselves.

**At risk adult**

Sometimes also referred to as vulnerable adult. A person who is or may be in need of care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.