

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Crick Woodlands Management Committee aims to provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults who may from time to time visit the woodlands, volunteer or join the management committee.

Children and Vulnerable People

Vulnerable volunteers or visitors may include the following:

- Elderly people
- Children or young persons under the age of eighteen years old
- The mentally and or physically disabled or those with sensory problems
- Volunteers or visitors with learning difficulties
- People who have had periods in long stay institutional establishments e.g. prisons, children's homes, care homes
- Victims of racial or other forms of harassment

Meaning of Abuse

Abuse, which is an abuse of power, can take many forms including the following:

- Physical abuse, including actual or threatened physical attacks or verbal assault
- Sexual abuse, including rape, other sexual assault, threatened touching, inappropriate sexual remarks
- Emotional abuse, including any actions or comments which fail to show dignity and respect for the individual
- Financial abuse, including misappropriation of the personal finances of volunteers or visitors using our site
- Discriminatory abuse, including that based on a person's race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion and social status

Statutory Obligations

Crick Woodlands Management Committee will discharge its obligations under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Members of the Committee are reminded that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, activities of a sexual nature between a child and someone who is in a 'position of trust' constitute an offence, even though the child is capable of giving consent (that is, is 16 or over).

Confidentiality

Crick Woodlands Management Committee will respect the privacy confidentiality of any child or vulnerable adult in as far as this is consistent with its obligation to discharge its duty of care and statutory obligations.

Complaint of abuse against committee members or volunteers

Where an accusation of abuse (as defined at 3 above) of a volunteer is made against a committee member or volunteer it will be our policy to ask the person against whom such a complaint is made to refrain from further volunteering on site pending the outcome of an investigation into the complaint.

Crick Woodland Management Committee will appoint a panel of at least three committee members to investigate the complaint.

The panel will be chaired by the Committee's Vice-Chairman, provided he/she is independent of any association with the complaint. Otherwise the Committee will appoint the most senior member available.

Where an investigation considers that there has been abuse then the volunteer in question will be asked to stay away from the site and refrain from further volunteering.

An allegation of such abuse may be reported to the Police and may therefore result in police investigation and criminal proceedings.

Malicious Allegations

We take the making of a malicious allegation against a member of our committee or volunteers very seriously and will take all reasonable steps to safeguard our reputation and that of any individual committee members or volunteers against whom such a false allegation is made.

Equality & Diversity

Crick Woodland Management Committee would hope that their policies and procedures do not create an unfair disadvantage for anyone, directly or indirectly.

Communication

The principles in this Policy will be brought to the attention of all committee members.

Monitoring

The effectiveness of the Policy will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.