

Great Ouse Valley Trust Safeguarding Policy

General Policy Statement

Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the dignity, wellbeing and safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults, (Vulnerable adults could include: adults with learning difficulties or physical disability, frail, elderly people and carers).

GOVT believes that all children, young people and vulnerable adults have the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from violence and the fear of abuse, maltreatment, neglect and exploitation. Individuals also have the right to make informed decisions about their own lifestyle, which may involve a degree of risk.

We are committed to:

- ensuring that abuse is taken seriously and acted upon promptly;
- ensuring that staff, and volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities, and are provided with appropriate information and training, in respect of safeguarding;
- ensuring that the welfare of all vulnerable users is paramount, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, and that everyone is aware that they have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff, volunteers, who are involved with the Trust, in relation to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse, maltreatment and neglect.

The key objectives of this policy are to:

- provide an overview of protection issues;
- explain the responsibilities of staff, volunteers, trustees in respect of the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- ensure adequate processes are followed in the recruitment of staff including the taking up of references;
- enable staff, volunteers who receive disclosures of, or who observe, abuse to make informed and confident responses to specific protection issues;
- ensure that prompt action is taken to minimise the risk of harm occurring from any further abuse, maltreatment or neglect;
- provide a clear procedure for reporting and responding to suspicions, concerns or incidents of abuse, maltreatment or neglect.

Scope

This policy relates to all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved with the Trust and who may be at risk of abuse (including exploitation, neglect, physical and mental abuse). Some people, including those with physical, sensory and mental impairments and learning disabilities, are less able to protect themselves than others, and some have difficulty making their wishes and feelings known. This may make them vulnerable to abuse.

Safeguarding is more than just protection; it is about protecting the safety, independence and wellbeing of vulnerable people.

Date for Review : AGM 2020