

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

This policy applies to all paid staff, the board of trustees, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of The Ancholme Valley Heritage Trust.

The Ancholme Valley Heritage Trust Ltd (trading as Brigg Heritage Centre) believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to practices that which protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount as enshrined in the Children Act 1989.
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and their agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for the children and young people who receive The Ancholme Valley Heritage Trust's services, including the children of adult volunteers, staff or users.
- To provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk, of harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Safeguarding Procedures and Responsibilities - Reporting a Concern

Your level of concern will vary depending on the severity of the harm but if you think a child's health or development is being significantly affected then contact:

**Children's Services Referral Management Team at Church Square House,
Church, Scunthorpe DN15 6XQ**

or **by telephone 01724 296500** (9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Thursday, 9:00am to 4.30pm Friday)
08081 689667 (Freephone)

or **The Duty Suite telephone 01724 296555** (Out of office hours - answerphone)

or **telephone the Police 101 or 999 if it is an emergency!**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

Make sure all the information you need is to report your concern is ready!

- What have you seen and/or been told?
- Who is the child?
- What is the nature of the harm?
- What action do you think is necessary to safeguard the child?
- Does the child or family know about the referral?

Children's Social Care will clarify with you:

- The nature of the concerns, how and why they have arisen.
- What appear to be the needs of the child and family.
- Whether there are any concerns about significant harm.
- What the foundation of the concerns is.
- Whether the children may need urgent action to make them safe from harm.

It is essential that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is informed as soon as possible in the case of any fears that a child's health or development is being significantly harmed or where a referral to one of the above agencies has had to be made.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

The policy was last reviewed on 28th June 2023

Signed _____

Trevor Richardson - AVTH Ltd Chair