



The Citizens' Trust Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

The Citizens' Trust is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all its members. This safeguarding policy outlines our approach to protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, and exploitation, including at Trust organised activities and events and within Committees. The Trust fosters a collaborative approach to ensure that safeguarding is embedded in everyday practices, creating a culture of accountability and care. We recognise that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults who are members of, or engage with, The Citizens' Trust.
- Ensure all Members are aware of the principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Trust members, volunteers, and anyone working on behalf of The Citizens' Trust at organised events. This policy will be widely promoted and failure to comply will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in exclusion from the Trust. Under these circumstances membership fees will NOT be refunded.

4. Legal Framework

This policy is based on legislation and statutory guidance that aims to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults, including:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Care Act 2014
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

5. Definitions

- **Child/Young Person:** Anyone under the age of 18.
- **Vulnerable Adult:** Anyone aged 18 or over who is, or may be, in need or care or support because of factors such as age, disability or ill health. They may be unable to protect themselves from significant harm or abuse because of their circumstances or to report abuse.

For definitions of safeguarding children, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

For definitions of safeguarding adults, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1>

Different forms of abuse are listed for reference in Appendix A.

6. Safeguarding Principles

The Citizens' Trust is committed to the following safeguarding principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person, or vulnerable adult is always paramount.
- All individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

7. Designated Safeguarding Officer

The Citizens' Trust will appoint a designated safeguarding officer who will be responsible for:

- Implementing and promoting this safeguarding policy.
- Ensuring that all Members are aware of and follow safeguarding procedures.
- Acting as the main point of contact where any safeguarding concerns arise.
- Keeping detailed, accurate, and secure written records of safeguarding concerns and where necessary making timely referrals to Adult or Children's Social Care. The DSO will ensure swift and appropriate action is taken in the event of any disclosures, allegations, suspicions, or concerns of abuse raised at any time by any of its Members.

8. Safeguarding Procedures

Safeguarding procedures will be enacted if a Member (adult or child) reports that they, or someone they know, are at risk of harm, including:

They are being abused, or know of a child or vulnerable adult who is currently being abused

They are living in fear, or we recognise the vulnerability of a situation

They themselves are currently abusing a child or vulnerable adult, or have done so in the past

They report a case of historical abuse (either to themselves or to another) where the abuser is still at large and in a position to abuse others. In cases of historical abuse, it's important to know if the abuse has been reported previously and has already been investigated in the past.

They or someone they know has accessed, produced, or distributed images of child sexual abuse.

If there is an immediate safeguarding concern:

- Contact Emergency Services if safety is at immediate risk
- Contact the local authority safeguarding team to report the concern
- Ensure Safety - If it's unsafe for the child/vulnerable adult to return home, keep them safe until alternative arrangements are made.
- Inform the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- Document all actions, conversations, and decisions

If there is no immediate threat:

- Follow safeguarding procedures as outlined in policy.
- Keep accurate and timely records of actions taken.
- Report internally to the DSO to clarify details, determine actions taken and next steps. Decide whether to report externally to the local authority or other agencies..

External reporting is always required when:

- Abuse is disclosed, and the perpetrator is still at large or poses a threat.
- The Member discloses they are abusing someone.
- There are disclosures of access to, distribution, or production of child abuse images.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually by the Board to ensure it remains up-to-date and effective in relation to changes in national guidance and legislation.

Appendix A - Forms of Abuse

Emotional/Psychological	→ Persistent emotional maltreatment or neglect such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on emotional health and development. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment, though it may occur alone.
Neglect	→ Persistent failure to meet the basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in impairment of health or development.
Physical Including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	→ Inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm. Can be caused when a parent or carer fabricates or causes illness and symptoms. FGM is the ritual removal of some or all female external genitalia.
Sexual Including Child Sexual Exploitation	→ Forcing or enticing a child/vulnerable adult to partake in inappropriate sexual activities either in person or online. → Sexual exploitation is where sex is exchanged for attention / accommodation / gifts etc and includes grooming behaviours.
Domestic	→ Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 or over in a relationship. It can encompass the following abuses; emotional, financial, physical.
Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines	→ Occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. Can also happen through technology. County lines is a term used to describe gangs / organised criminal networks exporting illegal drugs across county boundaries.
Modern Slavery	→ Human trafficking involves recruiting, moving, harboring, or receiving people through force, coercion, or deception for exploitation. This includes slavery, forced labour, or facilitating travel for personal or commercial gain.
Radicalisation	→ A person who has been groomed in person or online to adopt radical views in opposition to a political, social or religious status quo, with the aim of exploiting them. There is an intolerance of diversity which can lead to extremist and terrorist behaviours.
Economic or Financial	→ Unauthorised, fraudulent access to an improper use of, funds, property or any resources of the person at risk. Economic abuse is where a person has control over finances meaning the person cannot support themselves.
Discriminatory	→ Unequal treatment of, or harassment and/or deliberate exclusion of a person based on their age, disability, gender and gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religious beliefs, sex or sexual orientation. This list is not exhaustive.
Organisational	→ Mistreatment brought about by inadequate care or support, systematic poor practice in a care setting. This can be a one off incident but also repeated incidents and ongoing ill-treatment.
Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence	→ An abuse carried out to uphold the honour of an individual, family, or community due to perceived breaches of their code of behaviour. It involves violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, or various forms of abuse, including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional.