



Market Harborough
& The Bowdens Charity

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number: 1157787

Principal Office: 10 Fairfield Road ♦ Market Harborough ♦ Leicestershire ♦ LE16 9QQ

Telephone: 01858 419128

Email: jedwards@mhbcharity.co.uk or srobinson@mhbcharity.co.uk
www.mhbcharity.co.uk

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

INDEX

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Policy Statement.....	4
3. Definition of Safeguarding.....	4
4. Definitions of Terms	4
5. Our Policy.....	5
6. Working with partner organisations	6
7. Implementation.....	6
8. Monitoring and Review	6

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Introduction

This document outlines Market Harbourough and The Bowdens Charity's ("the Charity") policy on identifying and responding to concerns regarding the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. This policy, together with the associated procedures, provides guidance for all Trustees, staff and volunteers who may come across concerns of this nature within the context of their work for the charity.

2. Policy Statement

The Charity has a legal and moral responsibility to implement procedures to ensure a duty of care is provided for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Charity is aware that it has a duty to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse. Abuse can be defined as any behaviour which knowingly or unwittingly causes harm, endangers life or violates rights. Abuse may be physical, sexual, psychological, financial or material, or neglect.

It is possible that the Charity will become aware of actual or potential abuse when carrying out its work, and this Policy sets out the Charity's commitment to protecting these groups from harm.

3. Definition of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a relatively new term which is broader than 'child protection' or 'adult protection' as it also includes prevention. Safeguarding has been defined as:

- 3.1 All agencies working with children, young people and their families or vulnerable adults, taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised and
- 3.2 Where there are concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult's welfare, all agencies taking appropriate actions to address those concerns.

4. Definitions of Terms

- 4.1 Child or young person – anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday
- 4.2 Vulnerable Adult – a person aged 18 and over who is or may be in need of community care services because of:-
 - A physical disability
 - A physical or mental illness
 - A learning difficulty
 - A reduced physical or mental capacity due to older age
 - A dependency on alcohol, illegal drugs or medication
 - A vulnerable adult may also be somebody who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to safeguard themselves against significant harm or exploitation
- 4.3 Abuse – a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Friends, strangers, family members and professional staff can all be guilty of abuse.

5. Our Policy

This policy applies to all personnel including the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers or anyone working for or on behalf of the Charity.

The purpose of this policy is:-

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who come into contact with the Charity. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- To provide Trustees, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

The Charity believes that a child, young person or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults and to keep them safe. We are committed to work in a way that protects them.

5.1 We recognise that:-

- The welfare of the child is paramount as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnic or national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation or gender identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse.
- Some children, young people and vulnerable adults 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, vulnerable adults, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

5.2 We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:-

- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Raising the awareness of the duty of care responsibilities relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults throughout the Charity.
- Adopting child, young person and vulnerable adult protection practices through procedures and a code of conduct for Trustees, staff and volunteers to safeguard the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults to protect them from harm.
- Requiring Trustees, staff and volunteers to abide by the Charity's Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Procedures.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within all our services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Recruiting, training, supporting and supervising staff, Trustees and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse and minimise risk to themselves.
- Using the Charity's procedures to manage any allegations against staff, Trustees and Volunteers appropriately
- Responding to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children, young people or vulnerable adults in line with this Policy and associated procedures.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely
- Sharing information about child, young person and vulnerable adult protection and good practice with children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Sharing concerns with agencies that need to know
- Reviewing and evaluating this Policy and Procedures Documents on a regular basis or when a change in legislation dictates.

6. Working with partner organisations

- Sometimes the Charity may work with partner organisations. When this involves an agreement for another organisation to provide services on its behalf, the Charity will ensure that the organisation has appropriate safeguarding policies in place.
- Where the Charity is working in partnership with other organisations, agreement must be reached with regard to the responsibilities, procedures and practices contained within this document. The written contract, agreement or protocol dealing with the services to be provided will include the procedure to be followed in the event of concerns of child, young person or vulnerable adult abuse, to ensure clarity about which organisation is responsible for taking action in specific circumstances. Failure to reach agreement, or a situation arising that causes concern with regard to the partner organisation's practice, may lead to the cessation of that partnership.
- Where the partner organisation is responsible for taking action under these procedures, the partner organisation must inform the Charity of all incidents. If a staff member, Trustee or volunteer becomes aware of allegations of abuse relating to a partner organisation, this should be discussed in the first instance with the Charity's Steward.

7. Implementation

To implement this Policy the Charity will:-

- Brief Trustees, staff and volunteers on this Policy and related procedures.
- Develop guidelines and procedures which will be available to Trustees, staff and volunteers
- Provide training on this Policy and related procedures as required
- Work within the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Board protocols
- Promote the Policy to other stakeholders
- Identify a lead staff member with responsibility for implementing this policy and overseeing the management of individual cases

8. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it complies with legislative and regulatory requirements and best practice. It is subject to approval by the Charity Trustees and will be put to the Trustees for approval after each review.