

Spring Vale Rambling Class Darwen SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Policy statement

Spring Vale Rambling Class (also known as Spring Vale Ramblers or the Club) is committed to following good practice and this includes having clear, consistent policies, procedures and processes for everyone to follow.

The Spring Vale Rambling Class takes its responsibilities for safeguarding extremely seriously. We have a duty of care to our members, volunteers, and members of the public. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accept our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of anyone who attends and participates in our events and activities, in accordance with current legislation.

Aims and scope

This policy aims to provide everyone involved with the Spring Vale Rambling Class with the fundamental values that guide our approach to safeguarding. It also aims to be proportionate and appropriate to the level of risk involved.

This policy applies to all individuals involved in delivering our aims and goals.

Principles

Why do we need safeguarding?

- Abuse, harassment and harm can happen to anyone. It's not always visible and often not spoken about.
- Abuse, harm and neglect are wrong. We have a duty to do something about it.
- When everyone understands safeguarding and their right to be safe, people who have nowhere else to turn are protected.
- A walking group that does safeguarding well is a group that is trusted.

The guidance given in the policy is based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children and adults is paramount in all we undertake as the Spring Vale Rambling Class.
- We recognise that it is important to value, listen to and respect all views and opinions.
- All children and adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- We will seek to ensure that we are inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment.
- The rights, dignity and worth of all children and adults will always be respected.
- We recognise that ability and disability can change over time and that some children and adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, in particular those with care and support needs.
- We all have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all and will act appropriately and report concerns whether these concerns arise within Spring Vale Rambling Class or in the wider community.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with our Safeguarding policy and procedure documents.
- The Spring Vale Rambling Class recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding and is committed to complying with their procedures.

Good practice, poor practice and abuse

It can be difficult to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental. It is not the responsibility of any individual involved to make judgements regarding whether or not abuse is taking place, but everyone is responsible for recognising and identifying poor practice and potential abuse, and to act on this if they have concerns.

Training

Everyone at the Spring Vale Rambling Class will have access to the Safeguarding policy and Safeguarding procedure and is expected to help implement this across the Group. All Spring Vale Rambling Class members should make themselves aware of this policy and procedure.

Accessibility and inclusion

The Spring Vale Rambling Class believe that everyone deserves the right to experience the joy of walking outdoors. We strive to be diverse, inclusive and accessible in how we offer and promote our walks.

Legislation

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within the GB legislation and Government guidance, taking the following into consideration:

- The Care Act 2014
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1998
- Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Definitions

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children means protecting children from abuse and maltreatment, preventing harm to children's health or development, and ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.

Safeguarding adults means protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person or persons.

Children and young people: for this policy document and practice within Spring Vale Rambling Class, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

Adult is anyone aged 18 or over.

Adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who has care and support needs, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk of abuse or neglect.

Adult in need of care and support is determined by a range of factors including personal characteristics, factors associated with their situation or environment and social factors.

Capacity means having the ability to make a decision about your own life on your own and is sometimes referred to as 'mental capacity'. This can be affected either temporarily or permanently. Some people have the capacity to make simple decisions but not major ones, for example financial.

Further information

Related policies, procedures and supporting information are available.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding procedure.

Adopted 16th March 2024