

CREATING ADVENTURES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

'SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY'

Date Approved: January 2026

Review Date: January 2027

1. Policy Statement

Creating Adventures is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing and human rights of all adults who use our services. We recognise that adults with autism and learning disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

We believe that every person has the right to live free from harm, abuse, and fear — and to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

We believe that safeguarding is personal and our policy reflects a person-centred ethos

We will provide a safe, appropriate and secure environment.

All trustees, staff, and volunteers share responsibility for ensuring that safeguarding is embedded in all aspects of our work.

2. Purpose of this Policy

This policy outlines how Creating Adventures will:

- Prevent abuse and neglect through safe practices, awareness, and education.
- Identify and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns.
- Support and empower adults to make informed choices while recognising their right to take risks.
- Work in partnership with local authorities, safeguarding boards, and other agencies.

3. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- **Care Act 2014**

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- **Mental Capacity Act 2005**
- **Human Rights Act 1998**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Charity Commission Guidance: Safeguarding and protecting people (CC30)**
- **Warrington Borough Council Safeguarding Adults Board Procedures**
- **North West Safeguarding**
- **Making Safeguarding Personal**

4. Definitions

Adult at Risk:

An adult (18 or over) who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs),
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves.

Abuse can include (but is not limited to):

- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Discriminatory abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Self-neglect
- Exploitation (including online abuse, coercion, or “mate crime”)

5. Recognising Signs of Abuse

Adults with autism or learning disabilities may show signs of abuse through:

- Changes in behaviour, communication, or mood
- Increased anxiety or withdrawal
- Unexplained injuries or changes in appearance
- Fear or avoidance of certain people or situations
- Sudden changes in financial circumstances
- Deterioration in health or wellbeing

Staff and volunteers must never assume such changes are “part of the disability” and must explore safeguarding concerns appropriately.

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6. Roles and Responsibilities

All Trustees:

- Hold ultimate accountability for safeguarding within the charity.
- Ensure policies and training are in place and regularly reviewed.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

- Jenny Allcock
- Responsible for managing safeguarding concerns, liaising with local authorities, and supporting staff.

Deputy DSL:

- Susan Totton

All Staff and Volunteers:

- Must read, understand, and adhere to this policy.
- Must attend safeguarding training.
- Must report any concerns immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, the Deputy DSL.

7. Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

If you believe an adult is at immediate risk of harm — **call 999**.

Otherwise:

1. **Recognise:** Be alert to signs of abuse or neglect.
2. **Respond:** Stay calm and listen; do not promise confidentiality.
3. **Report:** Share concerns promptly with the DSL.
4. **Record:** Write a factual account as soon as possible, using the charity's Safeguarding Concern Form.

The DSL will assess the information and, if appropriate, refer to the **Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Team** under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014.

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8. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information will be shared strictly on a **need-to-know basis** and in line with the **Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR)**. Safeguarding concerns override confidentiality when necessary to protect someone from harm.

9. Safer Recruitment and Training for Staff, Volunteers, Contracted Sessional Workers

Creating Adventures ensures that:

- All staff, volunteers and contracted sessional workers undergo **enhanced DBS checks** (with barred list checks if applicable).
- References are obtained and verified.
- All staff and volunteers receive safeguarding induction and ongoing refresher training.
- All staff, volunteers and subcontracted sessional workers have a copy of the Safeguarding policy which they must sign.
- Trustees receive safeguarding training appropriate to their governance role.

10. Empowerment and Inclusion – Making Safeguarding Personal

This policy is in line with Warrington Borough Council’s principle of “no decision about me without me” and means that Creating Adventures places its members needs first and foremost in any decisions with or about our members, their families and carers will be as inclusive as possible.

We work to empower adults with autism and learning disabilities by:

- Promoting independence and informed choice.
- Communicating in accessible ways (visual aids, easy-read formats, or communication aids).
- Supporting advocacy and self-advocacy.
- Respecting individual rights and preferences.

11. Whistleblowing

Creating Adventures encourages a culture of openness.

Anyone who raises a safeguarding concern in good faith will be supported and protected from victimisation.

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Concerns about malpractice can be raised using our **Whistleblowing Policy** or directly with the **Charity Commission**.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or sooner if legislation, best practice, or operational needs change.

13. Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Jenny Allcock, Founder & CEO 07736 473550

Deputy DSL: Susan Totton, Community Wellbeing & Life Skills Facilitator, 07468 246924

Local Authority Safeguarding Adults: 0192 544 4239

Emergency (Police): 999

Non-Emergency (Police): 101

Supporting documents:

Creating Adventures Report form – Safeguarding Incident/Concern

Creating Adventures Volunteer Safeguarding Policy

North West Safeguarding Policy

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