

Friends of Bennerley Viaduct – Safeguarding Policy

We aim to have Safeguarding at the heart of all our work with children, young people and Adults at Risk.

1. Safeguarding Policy Scope, Purpose and Control.

This policy establishes the direction of the organisation for appropriate safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and provides guidance to volunteers and employees interacting with vulnerable people.

2. Definitions.

Safeguarding children is defined in statutory guidance as:

- i) Protecting children from maltreatment.
- ii) Preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- iii) Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- iv) Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults is defined in statutory guidance as:

- i) Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- ii) People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.
- iii) People and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including where appropriate taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding any action.
- iv) Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being.

Neglect is when people who support children or vulnerable adults do not look after their needs. This may be failure to ensure they have enough food to stay healthy; sufficient clothing to keep warm; enough help to keep clean, or a lack of attention to ensure that vulnerable people are safe from danger. It can also be neglect of the person's emotional needs for support.

Abuse is when someone causes intentional pain, distress, or harm to another person. Abuse can be by someone known to the vulnerable person, even a carer or family member, as well as someone unknown to the victim. Abuse can happen anywhere. It can happen at any time of the day and in private and public places. It can take several different forms:

- i) Physical abuse is when someone is violent towards another person.
- ii) Sexual abuse is when someone touches inappropriately, encourages inappropriate touching of them, or forces unwanted intimacy.

- iii) Emotional abuse is saying or doing hurtful things to cause distress or upset.
- iv) Discriminatory abuse is when people treat others badly because they perceive them as different.
- v) Financial abuse is when people take money or property without asking, or force gifts from the owner.

Individuals is used in this policy to refer to either volunteers or employees who are undertaking work within the remit and responsibilities of the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct.

3. Friends of Bennerley Viaduct Principles for Safeguarding.

Any questioning of how one human being treats or mistreats another needs to be handled with respect and sensitivity. Where we suspect mistreatment, we cannot turn a blind eye, but we do have to ensure that our response is proportionate, evidence based and focussed on protecting the victim.

As a community based organisation the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct takes its responsibilities to safeguard the well being of children and adults, with whom it has contact, seriously. This means that it will play its part in making sure that where it has contact with vulnerable people it will report any serious concerns of neglect or abuse to the appropriate organisations responsible for safeguarding for investigation.

Should any complaint of abuse be made against any volunteer or employee, whilst carrying out Friends of Bennerley Viaduct activities then if necessary action will be taken in accordance with the disciplinary procedure.

4. Responsibilities for Safeguarding.

The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct organises work parties, guided walks and exhibits at various local events where individuals may witness behaviour that may appear to be neglectful or abusive, and for the wellbeing of the vulnerable person needs some form of intervention.

If an individual sees someone behaving inappropriately towards a vulnerable person, they should discreetly bring the behaviour of the leader of the activity on behalf of the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct.

If the behaviour is overtly violent or sexual in nature our first responsibility is to ensure the safety of the vulnerable person and other people whilst not putting anyone's safety in jeopardy. Decisions will need to be made about how to intervene discreetly but assertively to ask the perpetrator to stop the behaviour. If the situation continues or escalates then the activity leader has to decide whether to involve the police.

If the behaviour suggests emotional, discriminatory or financial abuse, it may be more appropriate to take careful note of what is happening and make a report later, asking other members/individuals to witness and record events. The activity leader shall take

responsibility after the event on the need for any subsequent reporting.

Any safeguarding incident shall be promptly reported to chairperson of the trustees .

Where there are concerns about potential abuse, it is the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct responsibility to report the facts to the appropriate body – the police or the safeguarding team at the local authority. It is then the responsibility of the Safeguarding body to investigate and reach a considered opinion about what needs to be done.

5. Interacting with Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct does not work directly with children and vulnerable adults. The primary responsibility for the care of children and vulnerable adults rests with the responsible adult. The Friends of Bennerley Viaduct however, seeks to ensure that its activities and policies also afford as much protection as is reasonably practicable. Volunteers and employees may need to interact with children and vulnerable adults whilst engaged in activities organised by the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct. In these situations individuals should take care to avoid any risk of a perception of inappropriate behaviour.

Good practice guidelines are:

- i) Treat all people with equal care and with respect and dignity.
- ii) Always refer to the carer before interacting directly with children or vulnerable adults.
- iii) Work in an open environment, avoid unobserved locations or situations.
- iv) Be a good role model, avoid offensive language, inappropriate comments, smoking or drinking alcohol in the presence of safeguarded visitors.

6. Appropriate Reporting and Management.

Any safeguarding incident should be promptly reported to the chairperson of the trustees.

Where concerns are about potential abuse it is the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct's responsibility to report the facts to the appropriate authority.

Safeguarding Policy adopted by FoBV Committee 23rd September 2019

Signed (Chair of Committee) _____(Jeff Wynch)

Safeguarding Policy adopted at FoBV Trustees Meeting 27th April 2020

Signed (Chair of Trustees)_____ (Phillip Ellis)