

GEORGE FORMBY SOCIETY

Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy.

Policy Statement

The George Formby Society is committed to safeguarding children taking part in its activities from physical, sexual or emotional harm, neglect or bullying. We recognise that the safety, welfare and needs of the child or vulnerable adult are paramount and that any child, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual or gender identity or social status, has a right to protection from discrimination and abuse.

The George Formby Society takes all reasonable steps to ensure thorough, appropriate operating procedures and training, it offers an environment for all members to take part in its events and activities. The George Formby Society recognises the Society and its venues are safe places for all irrespective of members sex, gender, race, or religion.

For the purposes of this policy anyone under the age of 18 should be considered as a child. All members should be aware of the policy.

GFS Members and Volunteers

Members and volunteers whose role brings them into contact with young/vulnerable people will be asked to conduct themselves appropriately.

Concerns

Anyone who is concerned about a young member's or participant's welfare, either outside the society or within the Society, should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately, in strict confidence: President Andrew Poppleton and/or Vice President Summer Valentine.

The DSL/President will follow the attached procedures.

Any member of the Society failing to comply with the Safeguarding Policy or any relevant Codes of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action under GFS Rules Section 11.

PROCEDURES

Designated Person

Although everyone has a role to play in ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are safe, it is recommended that a designated individual has specific responsibility for implementing your policy.

In a club it could be a volunteer, ideally someone with relevant knowledge and experience, who is perceived as being approachable and having a child-centred approach. They don't need to be an expert – that is the role of Children's Services and the Police.

The designated person's role description could include:

- Maintaining up-to-date policy and procedures.
- Ensuring that relevant staff and/or volunteers are aware of and follow the procedures, including implementing safe recruitment procedures.
- Advising the committee on safeguarding and child protection issues.
- Be the first point of contact for any concerns or allegations, from children or adults, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained in all cases.

Good practice guidelines

Culture

It is important to develop a culture within your organisation where both children and adults feel able to raise concerns, knowing that they will be taken seriously, treated confidentially and will not make the situation worse for themselves or others.

Additional vulnerability

Some children/young adults may be more vulnerable to abuse or find it more difficult to express their concerns. For example:

- a disabled child/adult who relies on a
- a deaf child may not be able to express themselves or speak confidentially.
- a child/young adult who has specific special/physical needs
- children/adults with low self-esteem or mental health problems can be more vulnerable to bullying or abuse, as can gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender young people, or any child who has a characteristic that marks them out in others' eyes as 'different'.

Grooming/Bullying/Domestic Violence/Neglect

For more information see <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/grooming/>

Responsibilities of members, volunteers and committee members

GFS members and volunteers are given clear roles and responsibilities and are aware of their organisation's safeguarding policy and procedures and are issued with guidelines on:

Communication and Images

The world of the internet, social media and apps is constantly and rapidly evolving and it is hard to keep up to date, but it is important for parents and for anyone working with young people to develop some understanding of how they use technology, the risks involved and how to keep them safe. Suggested sources of information, mainly intended for parents but useful for anyone, are:

www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware

www.net-aware.org.uk

www.internetmatters.org

www.saferinternet.org.uk

Handling concerns, reports or allegations

This section is primarily for the organisation's DSL/President, but everyone should be aware of the procedures to follow if there are concerns).

A complaint, concern or allegation may come from a number of sources: the child/adult, their parents or carers, someone else within your organisation, a member of the public, or the statutory authorities (Police or Children's Social Care).

An allegation may range from mild verbal bullying to physical or sexual abuse. If you are concerned that a child/vulnerable adult may be being abused, it is NOT your responsibility to investigate further BUT it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and report them to the appropriate statutory authorities.

Under certain circumstances the DSL's would not give undertakings of absolute confidentiality, individuals should feel secure that any information they give will only be used to improve their circumstances and that as few people as possible are involved in the procedure.

Any conversations between the discloser of abuse and (if different) the young or vulnerable person are to be recorded immediately by the DSL/President. These records will be stored securely.

For guidance on recognising abuse see Appendix A.

If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk or is being abused contact the [children's social care team at their local council](#).

You'll be asked for your details, but you can choose not to share them.

Call 999 if the child is at immediate risk.

If it's not an emergency, you can [report the crime online](#) or call 101.

Calls to 999 or 101 are free.

Recording and handling information

If you suspect that a child/adult may have been the subject of any form of physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect, the allegation must be referred as soon as possible to Children's Social Care or the Police who have trained experts to handle such cases. Do not start asking leading questions which may jeopardise any formal investigation.

All information must be treated as confidential and only shared with those who need to know.

Useful Contacts

NSPCC 24 hour free helpline

For advice on any aspect of children's welfare

0808 800 5000

E-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline 24 hour free helpline

NHS England Safeguarding App

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/>

<https://sgfw.org.uk/>

Statutory Legislation:

Children's Act 2004

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Care Act 2014

Children and Social Work Act 2017

Working Together To Safeguarding Children 2023

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

Signed _____

Andrew Poppleton President and Safeguard Lead

Date _____

Signed _____

Summer Valentine Vice President Safeguard Lead

Date _____

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually.

Safeguarding and Child Protection referral form

Date and time of incident	
Name and position of person about whom report, complaint or allegation is made	
Name and age of child involved	
Nature of incident, complaint or allegation (continue on separate page if necessary).	
Action taken by organisation	
If Police or Children's Social Care Services contacted, name, position and telephone number of person handling case	
Name, organisation and position of person completing form	
Contact telephone number and e-mail address	
Signature of person completing form	
Date and time form completed	
Name and position of organisation's child protection/welfare officer or person in charge	
Contact telephone number and e-mail address	

Appendix A – What is child abuse?

Statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2018

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child/vulnerable adults. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (including via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse may involve adults or other children inflicting physical harm:

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve:

Sexual abuse. Sexual abuse involves an individual (male or female, or another child) forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening, to gratify their own sexual needs. The activities may involve:

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs.

Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable - including the young - by seeking to: sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination; justify discrimination.

Recognising Abuse

It is not always easy, even for the most experienced carers, to spot when a child has been abused. However, some of the more typical symptoms which should trigger your suspicions would include:

- unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries
- sexually explicit language or actions
- a sudden change in behaviour (eg. becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper)
- the child describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her
- a change observed over a long period of time (eg. the child losing weight or becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt)
- a general distrust and avoidance of adults, especially those with whom a close relationship would be expected
- an unexpected reaction to normal physical contact