

	<b>Document Title</b>	Safeguarding Policy		
	<b>Document Number</b>	SCRS P007	<b>Version</b>	1
	<b>Issue Date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024	<b>Next Review Due</b>	1st April 2027
	<b>Author</b>	P Romanko	<b>Authorised By</b>	S Davies

## Sankey Canal Restoration Society

### Safeguarding Policy

#### 1. Policy Administration

The Society's policy:

- Is valid from the Issue Date until such time as an updated version is published.
- Will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required by changes to the Society's activities, to legislation or to best practice guidance.
- Applies to all SCRS Members and Non-Members who are carrying out activities for, or on behalf of the Society, paid or unpaid. The Society does not currently employ any staff.

#### 2. Safeguarding Definitions

**Safeguarding Children** is defined in statutory guidance as:

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

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults** is defined in statutory guidance as:

- e) Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect.
- f) People and organisations working together to stop the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.
- g) Making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including taking in to account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.
- h) Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent or unrealistic about their circumstances and therefore the potential risks to their safety or wellbeing.

**Neglect** is when people who support children or vulnerable adults do not look after their needs. This could be a failure to ensure that 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), or by someone unknown to the victim. Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time and in private and public places.

It can take several different forms:

- Physical abuse is when someone hits another person.
- Sexual abuse is when someone touches inappropriately, encourages inappropriate touching of them, or forces unwanted intimacy.
- Emotional abuse is saying or doing hurtful things to cause upset and distress.
- Discriminatory abuse is when people treat others badly because they perceive them as different.
- Financial abuse is when people take money or property without asking, or force gifts from the owner.

**'Individuals'** (or any other similar term) is used in this policy to refer to Members or Non-Members who are undertaking activities on behalf of the Society.

### **3. Principles for Safeguarding**

The questioning of how a person treats or mistreats another person must be handled with respect and sensitivity. Where mistreatment is suspected our response should be proportionate, evidence based and focused on protecting the victim.

As a charitable, community based organisation the Society takes its responsibilities seriously for safeguarding the well-being of any children or adults that it has contact with. The Society will play its part in notifying any serious concerns of neglect or abuse to an appropriate safeguarding organisation(s) for investigation.

Should any complaint be made against a Member or Non Member whilst carrying out activities on behalf of the Society, it will be dealt with as set out in the Volunteers and Grievance Policy P008.

### **4. Responsibilities for Safeguarding**

The Society arranges work parties, walks and meetings and it attends events and venues where behaviour might be witnessed that appears to be neglectful or abusive and it requires some form of intervention to protect the wellbeing of the vulnerable person:

- If an individual witnesses somebody talking or behaving inappropriately towards a vulnerable person, they should discreetly bring the behaviour to the attention of the Society's activity / event leader.
- If the behaviour is overtly violent or sexual in nature our first responsibility is to ensure the safety of the vulnerable person and Others whilst not putting anyone's safety in jeopardy. Decide how to intervene to ask the perpetrator to stop the behaviour (discreetly but assertively). If the situation escalates, the activity / event leader might need to involve the Police.
- If the behaviour suggests emotional, discriminatory or financial abuse, it might be more appropriate to carefully note what is happening, ask other individuals to also witness the behaviour and to report it afterwards to the activity / event leader.
- The activity / event leader should notify a Committee Member as soon as is reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours of the incident to decide the action to be taken including notifying any serious concerns of neglect or abuse to the appropriate safeguarding organisation(s) for investigation.

### **5. Interacting with Children and Vulnerable Adults**

The Society does not work directly with children and vulnerable adults. Primary responsibility for the care of children and vulnerable adults rests with their adult carers but the Society seeks to ensure that its activities and policies afford as much protection as is reasonably practicable.

The Society's Members and Non-Members might need to interact with children and vulnerable adults during events and activities. Care must be taken to avoid any actual or perceived inappropriate behaviour.

Good practice guidelines are:

- Treat everybody with equal care, respect and dignity.
- Refer to the responsible adult / carer before interacting directly with children and vulnerable adults.
- Work in an open environment and avoid un-observed situations or locations.
- Be a good role model and consider your audience and your surroundings, for example avoid offensive language, inappropriate comments, smoking or drinking alcohol. Be aware that other people might be upset or take recordings of what they perceive to be inappropriate behaviour.
- Personal care tasks and minor first aid treatments should be undertaken by the responsible adult / carer but you can offer to provide help (direct action should be taken in an emergency situation though).
- Avoid spending excessive time with individual safeguarded visitors.
- Refrain from physical restraint other than in exceptional circumstances, for example to prevent harm to the person or Others or significant damage to property.
- Do not share or use any images that clearly identify children without the permission of each responsible adult / carer.

## **6. Appropriate Reporting and Management**

Any safeguarding concern or incident must be reported to a Committee Member as soon as is reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours of the incident.

Where there are concerns about potential abuse it is the Society's responsibility to report the facts to the appropriate body, for example the local authority Safeguarding Team or the Police. It is then the responsibility of the Safeguarding body to investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

- St Helens Central Safeguarding Unit, 01744 671809 [safeguardingunit@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingunit@sthelens.gov.uk)
- St Helens Carers, 01744 676767 [contactcares@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:contactcares@sthelens.gov.uk)
- Warrington Safeguarding Partnerships, 01925 443126 [www.warringtonsafeguardingpartnerships.org.uk](http://www.warringtonsafeguardingpartnerships.org.uk)
- Warrington Borough Council, 01925 443322 [www.warrington.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families)
- Halton Adult Safeguarding, 0151 907 8306 [adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/](http://adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/)
- Halton Children & Young People Safeguarding, 0151 907 8305 <https://hcypsp.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/>

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