

POLICY 011

Adopted on 29th March 2019

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

Peak and Northern Footpaths Society provides activities for its own members and volunteers. Membership is available to those over the age of 18.

We are committed to ensuring the well-being of members and volunteers who take part in our activities. We will take every practical step to minimise the risk of harm, paying attention to the needs of those who are most vulnerable.

We are fully committed to supporting our volunteers in their work to deliver our charitable aims and strategic objectives, including protecting them from potential liabilities and false suspicions and allegations of abuse.

Definition

For the purpose of this document a child is anyone aged 0-18 years old, as defined by relevant child protection legislation in England, Scotland and Wales.

A vulnerable adult is someone of 18 years or older who is unable to care independently for themselves.

This might include people who:

- have a physical disability, illness or injury, or have become severely frail, though old age
- are experiencing mental health issues including dementia, or have learning disabilities
- need community care
- are unable to protect themselves from harm, through domestic violence or substance addiction.

Welcoming vulnerable adults

We welcome vulnerable adults on all activities that are suitable for them as individuals. We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and aim to treat everyone with dignity and respect, and not to discriminate on grounds of age, disability, ethnicity, race, sex (gender), sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief or non-belief, marriage or civil partnership, or pregnancy or maternity.

Whilst we provide walks, we are not able to provide specialist care and support for people who have special needs or who are unable to care independently for themselves.

We only accept adults who cannot care for themselves independently when they are accompanied by a carer or support worker to assist with their everyday needs. In the case of activities for Peak and Northern members, if a person with special needs is a member, we do not expect their carer or support worker to be a member too.

Participation in all activities is subject to their suitability for individual participants. Walk leaders have a duty of care towards participants, and sometimes need to make judgements that consider the safety and enjoyment of everyone involved (see Walks Safety policy). They have a right to refuse a participant if in the leader's opinion this would result in danger to the individual or danger or major disruption to the rest of the group. We will strive to make such judgements on a fair and practical basis and without making stereotypical or unwarranted assumptions.

Who is responsible?

Where a volunteer is leading an activity, they are responsible for providing vulnerable adults with appropriate safety and protection.

Trustees are expected to ensure that Peak and Northern Footpath Society complies with the law and that our policies are implemented as effectively as possible.

What we will do

We will take all reasonable measures to protect the welfare of vulnerable adults involved in our activities and minimise their risk of harm by:

- Having appropriate safeguarding procedures and practices in place and ensuring they are implemented.
- Working closely with appropriate partner agencies.
- Referring any concerns promptly to the appropriate authorities

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.