



## **Safeguarding at Squires Field Community Centre**

**It is essential to remember that SFCC depends on each of its committee members to work together for the good of the Centre. We won't agree all of the time, but a disagreement does not excuse disrespectful behaviour, personal attacks or harassment – verbal or non-verbal (on line & text). Safeguarding starts with us all.**

The Directors, Management Committee, and volunteers at SFCC need to be aware of the Centre's commitment to this policy, understand and observe the principles & procedures within it.

Squires Field Community Centre recognizes that:

- The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do & the decisions we make.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, vulnerable adults, carers & other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.
- All who use SFCC regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some attendees of SFCC may be additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, or communication needs. Extra safe guards may be required to keep these individuals safe.

Squires Field Community Centre will seek to keep all its attendees safe by:

- Valuing and listening to them.

- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children & young people & a deputy child protection lead.
- Appointing a nominated lead for adult safeguarding.
- Recruiting & selecting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made e.g., DBS checks.
- Having the correct adult to child supervision ratios.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice via posters and leaflets.
- Ensuring we have effective complaints & whistleblowing measures in place.
- Managing any allegations against volunteers appropriately.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for the users of SFCC by applying Health & Safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance. Including guidance on photography & sharing images at SFCC.
- Building a safeguarding culture where volunteers, users of SFCC and their families treat each other with respect & are comfortable about sharing concerns.

The policy has been drawn up based on legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and adults in accordance with the principles set out in the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004 and the Care Act 2014.

**The purpose of the policy is:**

1. to provide a safe environment for children, young people and adults who use SFCC's facilities
2. to provide volunteers with guidance on how to respond to a child, young person, vulnerable adult who discloses abuse, or for whom they have a concern,
3. to know the procedure to be followed in appropriately sharing a concern of possible abuse or a disclosure of abuse.
4. to draw attention to the responsibility of groups using the centre to have their own safeguarding policy in place especially in relation to children and young people. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
5. to assure users of SFCC that any information sharing regarding safeguarding will involve the necessary individual, and the safeguarding agencies, on a need to know basis.

**What is abuse?**

Abuse is the actual harm or exploitation of a person, including the maltreatment of a child. A child is anyone between the ages of unborn to 18years. Abuse can be a single act or repeated acts. It can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to/ exploitation of the individual exposed to it.

The categories of abuse are defined as follows and defined in the Care Act (2014) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018):

- **Physical Abuse:** includes assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, restraint, inappropriate sanctions, and mis-use of medicine.
- **Psychological/Emotional Abuse:** includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation, humiliation, blaming, coercion, cyber bullying, isolation, verbal abuse, controlling, and intimidation; as well as 'county lines' (drug distribution from city to country using children & vulnerable people).
- **Sexual Abuse:** includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking/touching, sexual innuendo, teasing, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the individual has not consented or was coerced into. Sexual abuse also includes CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).
- **Neglect including acts of Omission:** includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, the failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support, educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life e.g. medication, adequate heating and nutrition. **Self -neglect** too – personal hygiene, appearance, and any behaviour that can cause risk of harm e.g. hoarding.
- **Domestic Abuse:** includes: controlling and coercive behaviour, psychological, physical, sexual, financial abuse and 'honour – based' violence.
- **Financial/Material Abuse:** Includes coercion to take extortionate loans and threats to recover debt, theft, fraud, internet scamming; coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements. This includes wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the mis-use or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Modern Slavery:** includes human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- **Discriminatory Abuse:** includes forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment due to race, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Organisational Abuse:** includes neglect and poor care practice within a specific care setting e.g. hospital, care home or in relation to the care given in one's own home. It can range from neglect to poor professional practice.
- **Radicalisation**
- **Peer on Peer Abuse.**

### **Confidentiality and Information Sharing.**

All matters relating to safeguarding are confidential. **However, no guarantees that information will remain confidential should be made to the individual making a disclosure.**

- Volunteers cannot promise confidentiality/keep secrets which might compromise an individual's safety or wellbeing.
- Information Sharing is very important in safeguarding.
- Share with informed consent where appropriate. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is good reason to do so.
- Consider capacity.
- Volunteers at SFCC are aware that they have a responsibility to share information with other agencies on a 'need to know' basis in order to safeguard individuals.

### **Dealing With Disclosures.**

If a disclosure of alleged abuse is made to a volunteer at SFCC, it is not their responsibility to investigate the allegation. Other agencies are trained to do this. However, it would be helpful to obtain the following information:

1. The details of the person making the disclosure e.g. name, address, age.
2. The person they allege to be the abuser.
3. The type of abuse.
4. Where the abuse has taken place?
5. When did the abuse take place?
6. Whether or not consent has been obtained from the individual at risk.
7. Make contact with a Safeguarding Lead Person within SFCC who will help them take the matter forward in contacting the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) on 0300 1231 116.
8. An Inter-Agency Safeguarding Referral Form will be required to follow up the phone call. These can be found in the cupboard in the main room of the Centre.
9. The Safeguarding Lead Persons are:
  - Maggie Blake
  - Angela Cottrell
  - Annie Stuart
  - Sophie Burt
  - Julie Day

The information provided by a SFCC volunteer to the MARU (Multi Agency Referral Unit) will be acted upon in accordance with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults and Children's Policy in Cornwall.

SFCC volunteers must agree to apply this procedure in practice and is a condition of service with SFCC that volunteers understand and operate the policy fully.

## **Out of Hours**

If there is a need to make a safeguarding alert **out of normal operating hours** then the alert needs to be made direct to the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU). Telephone: **01208 251 300 (Emergency Duty Service)** and **0300 1231 116** during the working day.

**N.B. Safeguarding is everyone's business. Anyone can make a referral to MARU if they have safeguarding concerns about an individual.**

**This policy was updated August 2023.**

