



## **Child Protection Policy**

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this policy, where 'child' or 'children' are referred to, this will also be taken to mean 'young person' and/or 'vulnerable adult'.

### **Child**

A child is defined by section 105 Children Act 1989, as any person under the age of 18 years.

### **Young Person**

For the purposes of this document, means a person who has attained the age of 14 years and is under the age of 18 years;

### **Vulnerable Adult**

Means a person aged 16 or over:

Who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability.

Or who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself against significant harm or exploitation;

Or whose ability to protect himself from violence, abuse or neglect is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, through old age or otherwise. (This includes temporary vulnerability as well as one which is permanent).<sup>1</sup>

### **Responsible Person**

The organisation will appoint one person or more, to be the main contact for issues in connection with the aforementioned vulnerable persons. The Responsible Person(s) will

1. Keep up to date with current legislation and policies regarding such issues.
2. Be available to offer advice, support and guidance where required.
3. Advise the group where necessary.

### **Statement of Intent**

FOSP is committed to the prevention of physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect of all children with whom the organisation and its members come into contact with. This policy seeks to ensure that a safe environment is provided and all necessary steps are taken to reduce the risk of accidents.

FOSP is committed to creating an environment in which people of all ages are safe and can engage in diversionary activities in secure and stimulating surroundings. Any projects will operate in accordance with this policy.

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<sup>1</sup> The above definitions are derived from either PNLDDB or Guidance on Investigating Child Abuse and Safeguarding Children 2005. Produced on behalf of ACPO by Centrex. For further information on defining child abuse the following may be of use: - Working Together to Safeguard Children. What to do if You're Worried a Child is Being Abused. Working Together for Positive Outcomes.

**Code of Conduct**

FOSP is committed to practices which protect our children from harm. Volunteers will recognise and accept their responsibilities.

Members will:

1. Avoid a situation where they are alone with a child.
2. Avoid inappropriate physical or verbal contact with a child.
3. Create an environment where a child can be safe from fire, falling, inappropriate or dangerous objects or situations.
4. Only ever touch, or hug a child when it is appropriate to the age of the child and to the circumstances.
5. Treat all children, young people and vulnerable adults with respect.
6. Provide an example of good conduct you wish others to follow.
7. Respect another persons right to personal privacy.
8. Encourage others to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
9. Challenge unacceptable behaviour.
10. Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.
11. Be aware that physical contact with a child may be misinterpreted.
12. Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with a child.
13. Not rely on the good name of the organisation to protect you.
14. Believe it 'could never happen to you'.

FOSP will provide training in child protection issues for volunteers who request it.

**Definition of Child Abuse**

(The term child abuse includes neglect)

Child abuse is the ill treatment or neglect of a child by an adult or young person resulting in the child suffering significant harm. Abuse of a child can be sexual, physical, emotional or neglect. Child abuse and neglect occurs to children of both sexes, of all ages and in all cultures and social classes.

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 community setting. This can be by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

Act includes a course of conduct and also includes omission.

FOSP will work to ensure that child abuse in any of its forms does not take place. If at any point concerns are raised as to the welfare of a child, FOSP will take appropriate action.

**Voluntary Indemnity Form**

FOSP will request all members to voluntarily complete a Child and Vulnerable Person Protection Policy form which will be retained by FOSP. By also signing *this* form which they will retain, the volunteer is confirming that they are aware of the issues involved and will agree to abide by the principles.

**Reporting Procedure**

All volunteers are encouraged to share concerns with the Responsible Person within FOSP, who will take the appropriate action.

I ..... have read the Child Protection Policy and confirm my agreement to abide by these at all times whilst undertaking duties for the Friends of Sandall Park group.

Signature ..... Date .....

Witnessed by .....