



VICTORIA NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM SAFEGUARDING POLICY V2

VNF Safeguarding Policy v2: approved by the VNF Steering Group on 27 November 2024

1. Policy Statement:

The Victoria Neighbourhood Forum (hereafter referred to as the VNF) was constituted to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and direct Community Infrastructure Levy Funds to local infrastructure projects.

Whilst the Forum does not regularly work with children or vulnerable adults, we aim to create a safe environment in which no child or adult experiences harm during their contact with us. We will follow relevant UK laws and standards, as well as ensure local legal compliance.

The VNF is comprised of resident members and business members; referring to individuals who work in the Forum area. Business members join the Forum as individuals and not as representatives of their business, so any Safeguarding Policies held by their employer are not relevant to this policy.

We ask any VNF members working with children or vulnerable adults whilst representing the VNF to ensure their behaviour is consistent with this policy. We also require that relevant VNF partners (such as consultants working on behalf of the VNF) are made aware of this policy and operate within it.

2. Definitions:

In the context of this policy, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 (as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹, 1989).

An adult at risk is defined as any person aged 18 years or over who:

- identifies themselves as unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm, exploitation, or neglect; or
- are understood to be at risk, which may be due to frailty, homelessness, mental or physical health problems, learning or physical impairments, and/or impacted by disasters or conflicts.

3. The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children or adults at risk who engage with the VNF
- Provide VNF members and partners with the overarching principles that guide its approach to safeguarding. The VNF have a responsibility to protect community welfare and keep children, or adults at risk, safe from harm while in receipt of its services. It is committed to practice in a way that protects them.

4. Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up based on law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- Child Protection Policy
- Confidentiality Policy



- Data Protection Act 1998
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

5. We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the UN Rights of the Child 1989
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. Some children or adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

6. The VNF is committed to keep children and adults at risk safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to, and respecting them.
- Maintaining strong protection protocols, minimising, and managing situations where abuse could occur through planning, risk assessment.
- Sharing concerns with organisations or agencies who need to know (e.g. Local Safeguarding Children Partnership) and involving parents and children appropriately.
- Providing adequate resources to implement this policy and ensure it is communicated and understood by relevant members.
- Ensuring the recruitment of agencies or consultants take the need to protect children and young people into account, requiring an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check where appropriate.

7. Reporting suspected abuse

When acting on behalf of the VNF, all members are required to report instances of actual or suspected child abuse or neglect to the designated safeguarding officer.

The designated safeguarding officer is Nigel Hughes, Victoria Neighbourhood Forum (VNF) Chairman and can be reached on nigel.hughes@london-hq.co.uk. VNF will review this policy statement on a two-yearly basis to reflect new legal and regulatory developments and to ensure good practice.

This policy was last reviewed on: 27 November 2024



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