



Hackbridge and Beddington Corner  
Neighbourhood Development Group

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS (2025)**

### **Our Commitment**

The Hackbridge and Beddington Corner Neighbourhood Development Group (NDG) is committed to protecting **children** (under 18) and **vulnerable adults** (over 18 with care and support needs as per The Care Act 2014) from harm. We recognise our duty of care to safeguard everyone who interacts with our group, including visitors and participants, and to support our volunteers. This policy is key to ensuring a safe environment and preventing abuse or mistreatment. We adhere to all relevant legislation, including the Children Act 1989 & 2004, Working Together 2023, Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Terrorism Act (2000), and Modern Slavery Act 2015. We will report all serious safeguarding incidents.

### **What is "Safeguarding"?**

Safeguarding involves:

- Providing early help and support.
- Protecting individuals from maltreatment (in person and online).
- Preventing harm to mental and physical health/development.
- Ensuring safe and effective care.
- Promoting the best outcomes for all individuals.

### **Who This Policy Applies To**

This policy applies to **everyone working or volunteering** on behalf of the NDG.

### **Our Safeguarding Principles**

- **Everyone's Responsibility:** All volunteers and contractors must know how to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.
- **Zero Tolerance:** We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

- **Equal Rights to Protection:** All children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, ability, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief, and/or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection.
- **Collaboration:** We will work with other agencies and share information appropriately to safeguard individuals.
- **Online Safety:** We protect individuals from both in-person and online risks.

## **How We Keep People Safe**

We keep children and vulnerable adults safe by:

- **Valuing and Respecting Them:** We listen to and respect every individual.
- **Key Principles:** We recognise that the individual's welfare is paramount, everyone has the right to protection, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, professional curiosity is important, and following information-sharing procedures is crucial.
- **Volunteer Support:** We provide effective support for volunteers to understand and follow our safeguarding procedures.
- **Reporting Concerns:** We use our procedures to swiftly report all safeguarding concerns to the relevant authorities.
- **Managing Allegations:** We have clear procedures for managing allegations of harm against volunteers or paid workers, using the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) process. We distinguish between an allegation (behavior that harmed or may have harmed, a criminal offense, or indicates a risk of harm), a concern about care quality, or a complaint.
- **Preventing Extremism:** We actively work to prevent and report concerns related to extremism and radicalisation.
- **Safe Recruitment:** We safely recruit volunteers and paid workers, ensuring necessary checks, including DBS, are made when required.
- **Data Protection:** We professionally and securely handle all information in line with data protection laws.
- **Open Culture:** We foster an environment where safeguarding concerns can be raised and volunteers feel supported.
- **Accessible Policy:** Our safeguarding policy is available on our website or on demand.

## **Policy Review**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the NDG at least annually.