

# Heron Hall & Playing Fields, Storth

## Safeguarding Policy

(Reg Charity - Storth Playing Field - No. 503690)

### **Important**

Urgent safeguarding should be addressed immediately if it arises. Any real risk of criminal acts should mean a 999 call. The numbers of care agencies and help lines are displayed in the hall. Please contact the named person, currently Andrew Skinner on 07362 593076 or [safeguarding@heronhall.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@heronhall.co.uk) if you have to do any of this.

Other events, issues and potential risks should be reported promptly to the named person, above. They can be by phone, email or using the form available on [www.heronhall.co.uk/Safeguarding](http://www.heronhall.co.uk/Safeguarding) or as paper forms in a folder in the kitchen. Look for Safeguarding Report Form which indicates what is needed for a full and useful report. Contact numbers are also downloadable.

### I. Purpose

This policy defines how Storth Playing Field (the charity) seeks to ensure safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

There is a duty of care and all users and volunteers must be committed to the protection and safety of everyone who enters our premises involved as visitors and/or as participants in all activities and events.

There is also a duty to safeguard and support our trustees, volunteers, and any staff.

Users of the premises do so without direct supervision by the charity. Users must take all reasonable steps to discharge these duties themselves and it is condition of using any part of the premises that all such steps are taken. This will include but not be limited to having a safeguarding policy (or adopting this policy) and safe recruitment, training and DBS checking of staff both paid and unpaid as needed in accordance with their own policies, the law and good practice guidance.

The charity reserves the right to examine policies and records of any user.

This policy will apply to all who are on the charity's premises.

## 2. Definitions

Children are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023* as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health and development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Adults at risk of abuse or neglect according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 may:

- Have care and support needs.
- Be experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- Be unable to protect himself or herself against abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
- Someone who is not currently receiving care or support may still be an adult at risk.
- Adults at risk are not likely to be obvious to others.
- Risk may be short term from life events or long term.

## 3. Policy principles

The charity is committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility; for services to be effective all must play their full part.
- Any suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- Keep in mind that volunteers in the charity are exposed to risks of criticism and ill founded accusations and all must act to protect each other as well as users.

#### 4. Procedures

- 1) All members of the committee will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which includes a declaration that they have no convictions or cautions in relation to abuse or other offences against the person.
- 2) All members of the committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities. The committee will ensure that a sufficient number of members will be appropriately safeguarding trained to ensure all activities have the benefit of sufficient advice and supervision.
- 3) All members of the committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- 4) No members of the committee, helpers or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- 5) A member of the committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This named person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise to any relevant agency.
- 6) The named person is currently Andrew Skinner 07778839497 or [safeguarding@heronhall.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@heronhall.co.uk)
- 7) Reporting: Reports should be made promptly to the named person, above. They can be by phone, email or using the form available on [www.heronhall.co.uk/Safeguarding](http://www.heronhall.co.uk/Safeguarding) or as paper forms in a folder in the kitchen. Look for Reporting Form which indicates what is needed for a full and useful report.
- 8) The most likely and most useful need for reporting is of a potential risk that can be dealt with to prevent harm. Please report these too.
- 9) All fears, suspicions or allegations of abuse or risk of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately as reported.
- 10) Any event or circumstances must be reported that lead to or might lead to:
  - Harm to a person at risk or have the potential for such harm
  - Any criminal offence against persons at risk
  - Behaviour that raises concerns about harm or criminal events or circumstances that might facilitate such behaviours
- 11) The charity will ensure that all hirers of the hall have agreed to the conditions of hire.
- 12) A list of keyholders will be maintained.
- 13) This policy will be reviewed annually in preparation for the AGM and adopted anew by each year's new committee.

Andrew Skinner      16<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Secretary to and on behalf of the charity committee