NVCA (Newchurch Village Community Association)

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This policy is reviewed annually by NVCA's Safeguarding Lead prior to discussion and adoption by meetings of NVCA's trustees and officers.

Our policy states that children and vulnerable adults (CVA) should be kept safe from all forms of abuse, neglect or harm.

Definitions for the purpose of this policy : a child is anyone under the age of 18 ; a vulnerable adult is one who has increased risk of abuse, neglect or harm as a consequence of any special educational need or disability.

The relevant legislations, easily available online to all, are :-

- Keeping Children Safe in Education Act 2024
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- The Children Act 2006
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 plus amendments (2007/2014)
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Practical aspects for NVCA volunteers :

- It is acknowledged that NVCA volunteers have neither Safeguarding training nor DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. Due to the context in which NVCA works, it is not possible to have either the training or those checks in place for all volunteers.
- NVCA's role in this context is as facilitator for the wider community's involvement in our core purpose activities (see NVCA Constitution). This can include providing opportunities for the wider community's CVA to work with us. The CVA should be accompanied by the relevant person from this list : (a) CVA's parent/legal guardian/approved carer (b) CVA's support worker (c) CVA's accredited representative from the group or organisation with whom NVCA is working : eg teacher or leader, from a school or uniformed organisation.
- The NVCA volunteer leading the session must make a judgement as to whether any CVA's presence at that session is appropriate, taking into account the presence or

otherwise of the relevant person (see previous paragraph). If need be, the volunteer leading the session can consult NVCA's Safeguarding lead (see below).

- Notwithstanding these practical aspects, it is everyone's responsibility to keep CVA safe. Thus, any NVCA volunteer might become aware during a working session of CVA abuse/neglect/risk of harm. This could arise from observation of an incident or from something the CVA says or does. This must be reported immediately to (a) the NVCA volunteer leading the session (b) the NVCA Safeguarding contact (see below) who will record the concern (c) Lancashire Safeguarding Team (see below).

NVCA Safeguarding contacts :

NVCA's Safeguarding lead is Fiona Heppleston fionaheppleston@yahoo.co.uk

If she is unavailable, NVCA Vice Chair Danny Allen dannysallen@yahoo.co.uk

Thereafter contact admin@newchurch-village.co.uk

Lancashire Safeguarding Team : 0300 123 6720 (8am to 8pm) or 0300 123 6722 at other times.

Footnote : if you have any uncertainties pertaining to Safeguarding, please ask NVCA's contacts.

Fiona Heppleston January 2026.