

**Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group
Vulnerable Persons Policy; Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults
Updated February 22nd, 2023**

Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group members, staff and volunteers have a duty to safeguard vulnerable users of the hall and its premises and those who may come into contact with vulnerable users. They should respond to any concerns they may have regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a vulnerable person or concerns relating to discriminatory or financial violation or exploitation of a vulnerable person. This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children will not be permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

1. No member of Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental *Group* or other volunteers will have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults unless they have been through the safe recruitment procedure* and introductory Child Protection or Vulnerable Adults Protection training.
2. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
3. All Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental *Group members* need to be aware of this policy, child protection, and vulnerable adult issues, and should be offered introductory training. A copy of the appendices will be provided to all who request it.
4. There will be a nominated and named Vulnerable Users representative to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported**. **This person isuntil February 2024. Deputies shouldnot be available are**
5. Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by children and vulnerable adults. The group recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices and physically disabled adults.
6. These policies and procedures will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate in the interim periods.

*** Safe Recruitment**

All CEG working directly with children or young people or vulnerable adults should be checked under the **Disclosure & Banning Service** and a copy of the **DBS** form kept on the secretary's file.
Any volunteers working for CEG and having unsupervised access to vulnerable users (e.g. running children's environmental activities) may also be required to go through these procedures.

**** Reporting Incidents**

The nominated Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults representativewill have the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the local authority Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults lead agency. The representative may choose to have a confidential discussion with others in order to clear up any misunderstandings or to corroborate and support any suspicions before reporting a concern to the lead agency. The nominated person should:

Since 2019 telephone a general helpline of 01670 536 400

When making a report **use the language** of the victim or the person making the concern. Do not change this to your language otherwise it may not stand up in the courts – a case can be dismissed when it is proven that the child or vulnerable adult would not have said particular words or a certain phrase.

Policy Procedures to be followed.

1. All CEG, volunteers and staff will be given information about child protection and should attend introductory level Child Protection Training and Protection of Vulnerable Adults training where possible.
2. An annual review will take place following the AGM to allow for any required up-date of policies and or procedures. New CEG, volunteers and staff must be given an induction to this policy and understand their responsibilities.
3. A copy of the policy will be made available on request.

Guide to Appendices

The Dark Web; Suicide in children & young people; Online Radicalisation; Adolescent to Parents Violence & Abuse; Northumbria Police Force Intelligence mailbox; Raising Awareness of County Lines.

Chairman