

# Dorset Lake Community

Dorset Lake Community took the decision in 2024 to prepare a safeguarding policy for its members. Please see our Policy below:

## Safeguarding Policy

### Introduction

Dorset Lake Community believes that every child, young person, and vulnerable adult participating in any activity organised by the group, should be able to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment, protected from any form of abuse.

Dorset Lake Community recognises that safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

We expect members of Dorset Lake Community who wish to be involved in our activities to be committed to safeguarding all participants in any activities they undertake.

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard people, especially children and vulnerable adults, from harm resulting from their interactions with Dorset Lake Community. This includes harm arising from:

1. The behavior of members, and volunteers, as well as individuals associated with the group.
2. The planning and execution of events and activities organised by Dorset Lake Community.

This policy does not address sexual harassment or bullying. It also excludes protection concerns in the broader community that are unrelated to the group's activities.

The policy applies to all aspects of Dorset Lake Community and provides guidance to members, volunteers, and any other individuals or organisations in contact with the group.

### Definitions

Common understandings are crucial to ensure a shared commitment to keeping people safe within Dorset Lake Community. We apply the following definitions for key terms used in this policy and our broader activities:

1. **Child:** Refers to any young person under the age of eighteen, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

2. **Vulnerable adult:** A person aged eighteen or older who, by reason of mental or other disabilities, age, or illness, is or might be, unable to care for themselves, or is or might be unable to protect him or herself against significant harm, abuse, or exploitation.
3. **Safeguarding:** We understand safeguarding to be about ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone involved with Dorset Lake Community and with whom we associate, and as a means of preventing them from experiencing harm.

### **Policy Statement**

We believe that everyone, regardless of age, gender, disability, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, has the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults is embedded in our culture and practices.

### **Key Principles**

1. **Prevention:** We will provide an environment where children, young people, and vulnerable adults feel safe and valued.
2. **Protection:** We will take action to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm.
3. **Partnership:** Where relevant to our activities, we will work in partnership with other organizations, agencies, and the community to promote safeguarding.

### **Procedures**

1. **Reporting Concerns:** Any concerns about the welfare of a child, young person, or vulnerable adult should be reported to the designated safeguarding officer immediately.
2. **Responding to Allegations:** All allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to promptly and appropriately.

### **Suspension During Investigation**

Any member of Dorset Lake Community alleged to be the perpetrator will be suspended from Dorset Lake Community during investigations to protect both the member and the alleged victim.

Examples of unacceptable behaviors from members include:

1. **Persistent Verbal Abuse:** Including expletives directed at any child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
2. **Inappropriate Relationships:** Any inappropriate relationship with a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
3. **Financial Abuse:** Exploitation of a vulnerable adult financially.

We affirm our commitment to this policy and to safeguarding any child, young person, or vulnerable adult involved in our community activities.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

**Designated Safeguarding Officer**

Name: Graham Whitehall

Contact Information: [dorsetlakecommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:dorsetlakecommunity@yahoo.com)

**Signed**

**Position:** Chairperson Dorset Lake Community

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024