

Safeguarding Policy - Sutton Community Project

Sutton Community Project is committed to safeguarding the rights, well-being and safety of children and vulnerable adults who come into contact with us. This policy outlines the steps Sutton Community Project will take to ensure that vulnerable adults and children are protected. It will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Safeguarding Officers.

Definitions (for this document)

Safeguarding: Sutton Community Project follows the Charity Commission that defines Safeguarding as:

- protecting from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of health or development
- ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Vulnerable adult:

A person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Vulnerable adults are entitled to: privacy; be treated with dignity; lead an independent life and to be enabled to do so; be able to choose how they lead their lives; the protection of the law; have their rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background.

Child:

Describes a child aged 0-17 years old; For the purpose of packing a food parcel a child is considered to be anyone under the age of 16 as it is assumed that older children will require as much food as an adult. However, for legal purposes a child is anyone under the age of 18.

Policy Statement

As Sutton Community Project team, we want to restore dignity and revive hope to people from all walks of life. We are concerned with individuals and their circumstances and actively encourage an inclusive environment throughout all our projects.

We seek to ensure that all our team members are aware of what is required from them under the vulnerable adult and child protection policy and make sure that it is practised at all times.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to play our part in preventing the physical, sexual, spiritual, financial or emotional abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and children.

We commit ourselves to co-operate fully with the appropriate statutory services when they are conducting official investigation into the abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults, children or young people (by an adult or young person).

This statement is to be brought to the attention of all staff and volunteers when they join, as part of their induction programme. Any amendments will be brought to the attention of all team members. The statement will be displayed at all locations in which the foodbank operates and all team members will be asked to sign to say they have read it.

Designated Persons and their roles

Sutton Community Project has a Designated Safeguarding Persons who are responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of vulnerable adults or children. The Designated Safeguarding persons for Sutton Community Project are Andrew Ritchie and Stella Ho. They can be contacted at;

Andrew Ritchie: 0770 756 9310 / Stella Ho: 0776 736 6640

The Designated Safeguarding Persons will be available for vulnerable adults and children as well as volunteers to speak with, should they feel the need to talk with someone about an incident which has happened while working for or receiving assistance from Sutton Community project, particularly if they feel that a child or vulnerable adult has been physically, sexually, spiritually, financially or emotionally abused or neglected by an adult or another young person.

The Designated Safeguarding persons will treat all concerns with the utmost importance.

Criminal convictions

All volunteers must complete a volunteer application form before commencing work at Sutton Community Project. Details of criminal convictions (except those 'spent' under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) must be provided so an adequate risk assessment can be undertaken. (The foodbank project reserves the right to dismiss a volunteer and/or ban them from the property should they feel it is necessary.)

Training

All volunteers will be provided with safeguarding information at the time of their induction.

Training in the prevention of abuse and the action to take if abuse occurs is included as part of the Training Programme for Sutton Community Projects. Further guidelines concerning the safeguarding policies can also be obtained from Sutton Council.

Review

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed at least annually and whenever there are any legislative changes or amendments to guidance issued by relevant statutory bodies.