

Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

Natural World Fund is a UK-based environmental charity that organises events and activities—both in person and online—for people of all ages. Our volunteer community includes individuals from many different backgrounds and age groups.

We believe every child and vulnerable adult has the right to live free from abuse, harm, or neglect. We take our duty to protect them seriously and are committed to making sure everyone involved with our work understands their role in keeping people safe.

This policy explains how we identify, report, and handle safeguarding concerns. It also aims to make sure our staff and volunteers are confident and well-prepared to respond if something goes wrong.

Definitions

• Safeguarding

“Safeguarding means protecting a citizen’s health, wellbeing and human rights; enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.” – NHS England

• Vulnerable Adult

“A vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or above who may need community care services for reasons like mental health issues, disability, age or illness.” – Mencap

• Child

“England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland each have their own guidance setting out the duties and responsibilities of organizations to keep children safe, but they agree that a child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.” – NSPCC Safeguarding Information Service, August 2008

• Child safeguarding

“Child safeguarding is the protection of the health, well-being, and rights of children. For the purpose of this policy and procedures, the terms ‘child’ and ‘children’ refer to anyone up to the age of 18 years” – Child Protection Act 1989

• Safeguarding adults

“Safeguarding adults means protecting a person’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect” – Care Act 2014

Purpose of this policy

Our goal is to make safeguarding a shared responsibility—something everyone involved with Natural World Fund takes seriously and understands as part of their role. This includes staff, volunteers, trustees, partner organisations, and anyone working with children, families, or vulnerable adults. Safeguarding should be a normal and expected part of how we all work.

For this to happen, everyone connected to Natural World Fund needs to understand what safeguarding is, recognise the signs of harm or abuse, know where to go for advice and support, and feel confident taking action when needed.

This policy explains the practical steps we're taking to prevent harm, abuse, neglect, bullying, or harassment—and how we will respond if concerns do arise. It applies to everyone working with or for Natural World Fund, including staff, volunteers, students, trustees, partner organisations, and contractors.

Natural World Fund currently has an associated [Child Protection Policy](#) which outlines good practice to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed responses to child protection issues.

Natural World Fund will make this policy, as well as the Child Protection Policy, available to all relevant partners, staff, and volunteers.

Policy objectives

This policy has two main aims:

- To show how Natural World Fund works to keep children and vulnerable adults safe when they engage with us as volunteers, visitors, or donors.
- To give staff, volunteers, and partner organisations a clear understanding of the core principles behind our approach to safeguarding.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults, namely:

- Children Act 1989
- United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 1998

- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
- No Secrets, Department of Health Guidance 2002
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- The Care Act 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2018
- Adult Safeguarding Network, NHS England
- Data Protection Act 2018

Related policies and procedures

This policy should be used in conjunction with other policies developed by Natural World Fund:

- Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Policy

Guiding principles

Underpinning the safeguarding of children, the safeguarding policy and procedures are guided by the following principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 2004
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse and a right to equal opportunities
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting child welfare

Underpinning the safeguarding of safe adults, the safeguarding policy and procedures are underpinned by the following principles:

- Empowerment: people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent
- Prevention: it is better to take action before harm occurs
- Proportionality: the least intrusive response to the risk presented
- Protection: support and representation for those greatest in need
- Partnership: services offer local solutions through working closely with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
- Accountability: accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

Safeguarding actions

Natural World Fund will seek to keep children and vulnerable adults safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and vulnerable adults
- Adopting safeguarding practices through procedures and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Implementing an effective Online Safety Policy and related procedures
- Implementing an effective Child Protection Policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Sharing information about the protection of children and vulnerable adults and good practice with children, parents, vulnerable adults, carers, staff, and volunteers
- Ensuring our Safeguarding Policy is accessible to partner organisations involved directly with our work
- Ensuring that all concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by trustees, staff and volunteers and responded to appropriately, this may require involving parents, children, and/or carers, referral to children's social care services, the independent Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for all allegations against staff, trustees and volunteers, referral to Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (for vulnerable adults), and in emergencies, the Police

Associated Policies

Child Protection Policy

Designated Safeguarding Officer: Glenn Howes

Signed:

Date:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Howes', written over a horizontal line.

04/05/2025

Name: Glenn Howes

Position: Trustee

Next review date: 3/5/2027