



Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

April 2018

Introduction

At their meeting on 14th April 2018 the trustees considered the activities of the charity and concluded that the circumstances in which a potential safeguarding issue could arise are during fundraising events in the UK and during tours by supporters to Uganda. This policy therefore covers these areas. In addition, we determined to approach our partners in Uganda, assuring them of the importance we attach to safeguarding issues, and requesting details of their own policies procedures and practice in this area.

Policy

1. We are committed to implementing a Protection Policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults in the UK and when visiting Uganda, based on the Children Act 1989, and the Home Office Guidance Safe from Harm.
2. We are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children, young people and vulnerable adults as and when they are within our sphere of activity and responsibility, noting that we aim not to have situations in which such people are directly in the care of our trustees or volunteers. It is our policy that such people involved in our events or situations will always be in the direct care of their usual carers and we will make this a condition of their involvement. The planning of all events will incorporate a risk assessment for safeguarding issues to ensure that this principle is appropriate.
3. We will ensure that any trustees and/or volunteers who may have contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults during any period of regulated activity for which we are responsible are carefully selected and trained, and that the DBS has been used to check the background of each person. At the time of adopting this policy it is noted that all of the five trustees have undergone DBS checks and training in connection with voluntary work with other organisations.

4. In the event that a complaint is made that any child, young person or vulnerable adult for whom we may be held responsible may have been harmed, we will respond without delay to the appropriate authorities, including the police and social services, and keep written records of all allegations and their subsequent investigation. All trustees will be kept fully informed, and the Charity Commission will also be informed. Where relevant the WATSAN field director in Uganda will also be informed and his advice and assistance sought.
5. We will fully cooperate with all statutory and other relevant agencies during any investigation they make into allegations concerning a child, young person or vulnerable adult for whom we may be held responsible.
6. We will seek to ensure that informed pastoral care is arranged for any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
7. We will supervise any of our volunteers known to have offended against a child, young person or adult, during any period of activity for which we are responsible.
8. The particular responsibility for Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Protection rests with the charity secretary: Mrs Eleanor Bensted of 5, Race Farm Court, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire.
9. We will review this policy annually, and, as part of this, develop and review any and all associated procedures, including but not limited to codes of conduct and a DBS Annex. This review will include incorporating any lessons learned from safeguarding incidents, whether associated with WATSAN Uganda or other organisations.