

Safeguarding Children Policy

Hanwell and Norwood Green Orchard Trail

1: Introduction

Hanwell and Norwood Green Orchard Trail (the organisation) is a non-profit organisation run for the following purpose;

Hanwell and Norwood Green Orchard Trail is a local community project to plant and care for a trail of publicly accessible community orchards in the Grand Union Canal corridor in Hanwell and surroundings.

The organisation has a postal address:

72 St Margaret's Road
Hanwell
London W7 2HF

The organisation has adopted this Safeguarding Children policy and expects every adult working or helping at Hanwell and Norwood Green orchard trail to support it and comply with it.

Consequently, this policy shall apply to all volunteers or anyone else working on behalf of the organisation.

2: Purpose of the policy

This policy is intended to protect children and young people who are in any way involved in our activities, including the children of adults who volunteer with us.

The organisation believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm committed to the protection of children and young people and this policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

3: The risks to children

Nearly every child grows up in a safe and happy environment and its important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children need protection including but not limited to:

- Sexual abuse
- Grooming
- Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Inappropriate supervision by volunteers
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime and
- Exploitation

4: Universality of protection

The organisation recognises that:

The welfare of children is paramount;

All children regardless of race, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm;

Some children are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency; and

Working with children, young people, their parents and or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protect their wellbeing.

5: Safeguarding children at events / activities

In principle we only organise events / activities for adults. Their children (or children they care for) can accompany them but must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile phone number of one of their parents.

6: Disclosure and Barring

The organisation offers workdays in orchards for adults. Visiting children will be supervised by their parents or carers. Because of this the volunteers do not need a DBS / police check.

The organisation will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of the organisation. A member of the organisation who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the designated safeguarding lead;

Mirjam van Bentum

Allegations will be reviewed and any concerns will be referred to the appropriate authority. If appropriate, the organisation will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both.

7: Photographing children

No photos will be taken or published of any child attending an event or activity unless prior permission is sought from a person with parental responsibility. If any person has any concerns regarding any person taking photos at an event or activity, that person should contact the Organisation immediately.

8: Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint

Adults supervising children at the Organisation events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used -but for that purpose only.

A parent who is aggrieved by these actions (the restraint) may ask the Organisation for a review of events. This will be done by hearing the views of all involved, the Organisation will do its utmost to prevent similar situations occurring.

9: Other policies

This safeguarding policy should be read together with the following policies and resources of the organisation:

Health and safety policy

10: Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention on the rights of the child
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work 2017
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: advice for practitioners (Department for education, 2015)
- Working together to safeguard children (Department for Education, 2018)

This policy is approved by Hanwell and Norwood Green orchard Trail and is due for review every 2 years.

Date: 05/08/2021