



Statement and Policy

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Introduction

Newmarket Inter-Faith Forum ('NIFF'), as a charitable organisation, takes seriously the need to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, who are particularly at risk of abuse. We are therefore committed to upholding high standards in our own conduct and in all our dealings with those who use the services we may at any time provide and with those with whom we collaborate in our work. We therefore wholeheartedly support a policy of safeguarding both children and vulnerable adults in all areas of our work and responsibilities.

We recognise that this statement and policy cannot be enough in themselves to cover the wider remit of caring for children and vulnerable adults, and will develop suitable training and provide advice to trustees, staff and volunteers where necessary.

Statement

NIFF is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults, recognising its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and exploitation including, but not limited to: physical, sexual or emotional abuse; financial or material abuse; neglect; discriminatory or institutional abuse; spiritual abuse. NIFF acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse. Trustees, staff, volunteers and members of NIFF will endeavour to work together to encourage the development of an ethos which embraces difference and diversity and respects the rights of children, young people and adults.

NIFF is committed to reviewing this statement and policy on an annual basis from the time of its adoption, and will ensure that its personnel are regularly reminded of these statements and policy.

Policy

Aims

- To ensure that all trustees, staff, volunteers and members understand their legal and moral responsibility to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and exploitation;
- To create an environment which allows all people, including children and vulnerable adults, to flourish;
- To keep up-to-date with national developments relating to the welfare and safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

Objectives

- All trustees, staff, volunteers and members of NIFF will report concerns that arise about a child or vulnerable adult, or a trustee, staff, volunteer or member's conduct towards a child or vulnerable adult, to a member of the trustee board, who take collective responsibility for safeguarding issues, as summarised in the above statement.
- The trustees will refer any safeguarding concerns to the statutory agencies (i.e. police and / or the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board or Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board).
- Any procedures relating to the conduct of trustees, staff or volunteers of NIFF will be implemented in a consistent and equitable manner.
- NIFF will provide opportunities for all trustees, staff or volunteers to develop their skills and knowledge, particularly in relation to the welfare and protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- Children and vulnerable adults will be enabled to play a full part in NIFF's activities, as appropriate, and to express their ideas and views on a wide range of issues. They will have access to NIFF's complaints procedure.
- Trustees, committees, staff and volunteers of NIFF will be made aware of this policy and their requirement to work within it. Because NIFF is a collaborative organisation, any individual or organisation with whom NIFF works will be expected to have or adopt a safeguarding children policy and a safeguarding vulnerable adults policy with similar aims and objectives.
- The trustees will monitor and review annually the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults within NIFF. Should there be a significant change in the way that NIFF operates, there will be an associated review of this policy.

Implementation

- Responsibility for implementing and developing the policy rests with the trustees. They may delegate this responsibility at any time for the effective carrying out of a particular task or project.
- Anyone who suspects abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, or to whom a concern is raised, should ensure that the person is safe and take appropriate action where necessary. They should listen carefully to what is reported and make an appropriate and secure record. They should inform the person disclosing abuse that they must pass this information on, and contact a member of the trustee board, who will decide whether to contact the Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board or the Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board and/or the police.

- Care should be taken to preserve any evidence relating to the report or suspicion of abuse. The positions of the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator should not be compromised through further questioning on the part of anyone to whom report or suspicion is disclosed, and no action should be taken without discussing the situation with a member of the trustee board.
- Any report or suspicion of abuse should remain confidential between the individual reporting, the trustee board and the statutory authorities.
- There should be no delay in reporting any incident or allegation.
- If a member of the trustee board is suspected of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, a report should be made to another member of the trustee board and an appropriate course of action followed.
- All trustees, staff, volunteers and members of NIFF who are involved directly or indirectly with children or vulnerable adults should be made aware of the possibility of abuse, which may involve formal training. They have a responsibility to take appropriate action whenever there is concern that abuse may have taken place or may occur.
- It is important that any allegation of abuse is taken seriously, however insignificant it may seem on first appearance to the person receiving the information. In cases where serial allegations of abuse are made, each allegation must be treated separately and seriously.

Monitoring and Review

- A review of the policy will be undertaken annually within a meeting of the trustee board. This will include an audit to ensure that NIFF is operating according to the stated aims and objectives of the policy. Trustees, staff, volunteers, committee members, members and service users will be encouraged to submit comments for consideration at the time of the review, and are invited to do so at any other time.
- All aspects of personnel policies and procedures shall be kept under review to ensure that they do not operate against the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

This policy along with the safeguarding children and vulnerable adults statement was approved by the trustees at their meeting on Monday 16th September 2019.

Key Contacts

Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board: <https://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/>

Suffolk Safeguarding Adults Board: <https://www.suffolkab.org/>

Referrals should be made using the online Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF), accessible via the above websites. If you are concerned about an immediate risk to the safety of a child or vulnerable adult, Customer First can be contacted on 0808 800 4005.

In an emergency, contact the police on 999.