



CAST Safeguarding Policy

CAST believes that everyone has the right to be kept safe from harm, exploitation and abuse. We recognise that;

- Everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, has a right to equal protection from all types of harm, exploitation and abuse.
- Some of the people we work with or come into contact with may be in more vulnerable circumstances and less able to protect themselves due to the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency on others, physical or mental ill health, communication needs or because they are children.
- We have a responsibility to ensure our people and activities do no harm to others and that they do not expose them to the risk of harm, exploitation and abuse.

Our safeguarding commitment

We are committed to building strong and safe community relationships and we believe that we all play an active part in keeping ourselves and others safe. We do this by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting those we work with.
- Encouraging the active participation of our volunteers and those we work with to keep themselves and others safe, ensuring they have a voice and a choice and know how to seek help if they need it.
- Carrying out appropriate risk assessments for all our activities to ensure the safety of those present.
- Ensuring all volunteers are made aware of this policy and have access to appropriate training to understand their responsibilities.
- Having effective procedures in place for responding to safeguarding concerns and designated staff to respond to them.
- Monitoring the implementation of our safeguarding policy and taking any measures required to strengthen and improve existing practice.

Responding to safeguarding concerns

A safeguarding concern is any worry or concern about the safety or well-being of a person because of something seen or heard or information which has been received. This includes any concerns about the behaviour of **CAST** volunteers which is harmful or puts others at risk.

What will we do when we have a safeguarding concern? At **CAST** we will:

- Act quickly and appropriately when a safeguarding concern is reported to us.

- Treat all safeguarding concerns in a professional, confidential and sensitive way.
- Always act in the best interests of people, respecting and involving them, giving them a choice over decision making which impacts them, unless they lack the capacity to do so, or it would put them at serious risk of harm, exploitation, abuse or neglect.
- Provide people with safe and appropriate advice, signposting and referring them to services that meet their needs.
- Work in partnership with other organisations, including statutory services like the police and social care to make sure people get the help they need.
- Refer concerns where a child or adult at risk has been or is at significant risk of harm, exploitation, abuse and neglect to local authority social care or the police.
- Protect confidential information except where the wider duty of care or the public interest might justify making it known.

How to report a safeguarding concern

Anyone can report a safeguarding concern. You can:

- Speak to a **CAST** volunteer if you are attending one of our activities.
- Speak to a member of the Planning Group or the **CAST** Safeguarding Lead.

What if the concern is not related to **CAST**?

The Safeguarding Lead can still give advice and guidance, but they cannot take action on your behalf.

- If you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child, call [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) on 0808 800 5000.
- If you are worried about the safety or welfare of a vulnerable adult, call [MENCAP](https://www.mencap.org.uk) on 0808 808 1111
- If you are worried about the safety or welfare of an elderly person, call [Hourglass](https://www.hourglass.org) on 0808 808 8141.
- If you are worried about the safety or welfare of an adult, call 999 for an emergency or 101 for a non-emergency.

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Dru Haynes, Chair

CAST Safeguarding contact details

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