

CLIMATE FRIENDLY BRADFORD-ON-AVON (CFB) – Safeguarding Statement

Being aware of safeguarding is everyone's business.

Introduction

'CFB is committed to developing the sustainability of our community. Sustainability cannot be achieved without being fully inclusive and protecting the vulnerable in our community. As our group expands and our activities become more ambitious, we need to remain aware of our commitment to safeguard everyone adults and children.' – Chair, March 2023.

Definitions of terms used:

- Members, people who have signed up to our climate commitment and have paid an annual subscription.
- Non- members/ volunteers – people who are participants but who have not paid the subscription
- Children/ young people are people under the age of 18
- Vulnerable adults: someone over the age of 18 and is at risk from harm from themselves or someone else. The person could be disabled (physically or mentally) or have a mental or neurodiverse disorder or have an illness that makes them more vulnerable to be harmed by others e.g. dementia. It could also be that the person is unable to look after themselves, their property, their rights or other interests.
- Chair and action group co-ordinators. The chair as voted in at an AGM. The action group co-ordinators are people who are charged with the running of the action groups (Zero Waste, Energy, Biodiversity, Sustainable Food and Drink, Community Involvement Group, Active Travel, Swift).

Purpose

The purposes of this Safeguarding Statement are to:

- Clarify the standard of behaviour required of members and volunteers
- Help protect everyone at risk from abuse and/or inappropriate behaviour from other individuals
- Reduce the possibility of unfounded allegations of abuse being made against members and volunteers.

Approach

1. Climate Friendly Bradford-on-Avon is a small community group who will not conduct projects or activities with children/young people under the age of 18 unless they have a parent/guardian/carer with them at all times.

2. Working with children's/young people's organisations: see Statement Management section below.

Principles

As an adult volunteering in CFB – whether as a member or non-member – you have a responsibility to ensure that everyone attending CFB activities (including children/young people and vulnerable adults) are protected by:

- Your actions and behaviours which should be appropriate at all times, by observing the CFB Code of Behaviour (see below).
- You should recognise the position of trust in which you are placed
- You should report any suspicion, disclosure or allegation of child abuse to the CFB chair or to an action group co-ordinator.
- And avoid compromising situations or opportunities for misunderstandings or allegations.

PROCEDURES

1. The code of behaviour will be shared with all volunteers before events.
2. Chair/action group co-ordinator should in the event of a serious allegation or disclosure report this to the police, or the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and or NSPCC, as appropriate.

CFB

Code of behaviour

1. I will put this code into practice at all times
2. I will treat everyone with dignity and respect
3. I will set an example I would wish others to follow
4. I will treat all people equally
5. I will respect the right to personal space and privacy
6. I will avoid unacceptable situations within a relationship of trust e.g. : a sexual relationship with a vulnerable adult
7. I will allow vulnerable adults to talk about any concerns they may have
8. I will encourage others to challenge any attitudes or behaviours they do not like
9. I will report any concerns to the Chair of CFB or a co-ordinator of an action group, so that appropriate action can be taken
10. I will keep other activity leaders/volunteers informed of where I am and what I am doing
11. I will remember someone else might misinterpret my actions, no matter how well intentioned

Don't

1. I won't trivialise abuse
2. I won't engage in inappropriate behaviour or contact – physical, verbal, sexual
3. I won't make suggestive remarks or threats to a person, even in fun
4. I won't use inappropriate language – writing, phoning, email or social media
5. I won't rely on my good name to protect me
6. I won't share anyone's contact details (email, phone no etc), without their prior consent.

STATEMENT MANAGEMENT

- Ratification of this Safeguarding Statement: it will be on the agenda at each AGM.
- Working with children's/young people's organisations.

We will only work with children's/young people's organisations that have full safeguarding in place, (to undertake projects and activities that involve children/young people under the age of 18). Whilst working with children/young people an adult member of that organisation must always be present. Volunteers should never be left alone with children/young people.