

Sopwell Residents Association Safeguarding Policy

Written by:Jo Cooney..... Date:June 2022.....

Safeguarding Lead within Sopwell Residents Association:Janet Charles / Shelley Hayles.....

Adopted: ...20th June 2022....

Reviewed and amended (if appropriate) by: Date:

Table of Contents

1. The purpose of Sopwell Resident Association’s Safeguarding Policy.....	1
2. Our Safeguarding Values.....	1
3. The scope of Sopwell Residents Association’s Safeguarding Policy.....	1
4. How we promote Safeguarding in our Community Group.....	2
5. What to do if you are concerned about a child or vulnerable adult.....	2
6. The Policy as a Living Document.....	3
Appendix 1: A brief overview of our Community in the Sopwell ward.....	4
References.....	4

1. The purpose of Sopwell Resident Association’s Safeguarding Policy

This Safeguarding Policy document (also referred to as just “Policy”) aims to set out how we can keep children and vulnerable adults who are associated with Sopwell Residents Association and its projects safe, secure and supported. We take safeguarding seriously and want to ensure that our Committee members, volunteers and partners are aware of and understand our safeguards and child protection arrangements.

Other documents that relate to this one:

- Sopwell Residents Association’s Gambling Policy.

2. Our Safeguarding Values

We believe that everyone, but in particular children and vulnerable adults, have a right to be safe, secure and supported when taking part in Sopwell Resident Association’s activities and events. This includes:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- Upholding all their rights as set out in the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child.¹

¹ <https://hertsscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/values.html>

3. The scope of Sopwell Residents Association's Safeguarding Policy

We recognise children to be people under the age of 18. Vulnerable adults include those who have²:

- Have a learning or physical disability
- Have a physical or mental illness, chronic or otherwise, including an addiction to alcohol or drugs
- Have a reduction in physical or mental capacity
- Are in the receipt of any form of healthcare
- Are detained in custody
- Are receiving community services because of age, health or disability
- Are living in sheltered or residential care home
- Are unable, for any other reason, to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation.

The Policy has potential impacts for our:

- Committee members
- Partners
- Volunteers

4. How we promote Safeguarding in our Community Group

Sopwell Residents Association seeks to keep children safe by promoting:

- A positive environment: valuing, listening to and respecting all members of Sopwell Residents Association including children and vulnerable adults, and using positive behaviour management strategies where required that are non-violent and do not impose humiliation.
- Suitable supervision: promoting joint working with parents and carers to ensure the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and activities that take place within sight and hearing of others.
- An open culture: ensuring parents, carers, volunteers, children and vulnerable adults know how and who to report any concerns they have.
- Appropriate responses: responding quickly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse including sharing concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately.
- Keeping data safe: recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.

2 List from the National Children's Bureau Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy June 2018
<https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/June%202018%20NCB%20Safeguarding%20children%20and%20vulnerable%20adults%20policy.pdf>

5. What to do if you are concerned about a child or vulnerable adult

If a child or vulnerable adult is at immediate risk of significant harm, call 999 and request Police. If you are a child or young person being abused or mistreated³, or an adult worried about a child or young person, call 033 123 4043 to report your concerns to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.⁴

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult, or if there is a concern, complaint or allegation concerning the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult:

- Inform the Safeguarding Lead immediately.
- Write careful notes of what you witnessed, heard or were told.
- Include the time, date and full names of those involved.
- Sign and pass your notes to the Safeguarding Lead, who will report to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership on 033 123 4043.
- Make sure that the child or vulnerable adult is not put in a position that could pose further risk to their welfare.

Where a child or vulnerable adult approaches you directly:

- Allow them to speak without interruption, and accept what they say.
- Be understanding and reassuring without giving your opinion.
- Let them know you will try to help but must pass on the information.
- Inform the Safeguarding Lead immediately.
- Write careful notes of what was said using the actual words.
- Include the time, date and full names of those involved.
- Sign and pass your notes to the Safeguarding Lead, who will report to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership on 033 123 4043.
- Make sure that the child or vulnerable adult is not put in a position that could pose further risk to their welfare.

Do not attempt to investigate any incident or allegation yourself.

6. The Policy as a Living Document

It is the responsibility of the Committee members to adopt and implement this Policy.

Once adopted, the Policy should be reviewed at least every three years, and amended where necessary. The Policy should also be reviewed where significant changes are made to either the planning or running of the Community Group.

Electronic copies of the Policy should be available on request for the public, and in hard copy at all events and meetings.

³ Types of abuse: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/>

⁴ <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Childrens-social-care/Child-protection/Hertfordshire-Safeguarding-Children-Partnership/hscp.aspx>

Appendix 1: A brief overview of our Community in the Sopwell ward

The ward contains around seven and a half thousand people living in just over three thousand homes. The number of people living in the area is expected to increase with new residential developments at the Abbey Retail Park (on the corner of Holywell Hill and Griffiths Way) and the former Betty Entwhistle House (Holyrood Crescent), and proposed developments at the former King Offa site on Wallingford Walk and the Sopwell Youth Club site off Leyland Avenue. There are also a number of smaller projects, for example the possible conversion of Sopwell Mill (off Cottonmill Lane) into housing. St Albans District Council predicts that within city-wide population increase, the proportion of younger children and older people will grow (Community Profile, 2015).

The ward is particularly diverse when compared to the city as a whole with a high proportion of Asian/British Asian residents (12.8% compared to 6.4% city-wide) (Sopwell Ward Profile, 2018), which includes a large Bangladeshi community (Community Profile, 2015). Sopwell also has a very significant proportion of residents with a disability that limits their day-to-day activities compared to the city as a whole and self-reported bad to very bad health (Community Profile, 2015). Residents' life expectancy in the ward is the lowest in the city; on average 9.9 years less than the ward with the longest average lifespan (Community Profile, 2015).

References

Community Profile v3 (2015). *St Albans District Council*
Sopwell Ward Profile (2016). *St Albans District Council*
Sopwell Ward Profile (2018). *St Albans District Council*