

## Love's Farm Community Association

### Safeguarding and Protection of Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA) is committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. LFCA recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, by a commitment to practice which protects them. Volunteers of LFCA have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

#### *Definitions*

Vulnerable adults are people who are over the age of 18 and are receiving, or may be in need of, help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Children and young people are under the age of 18.

Abuse can include:

- Physical
- Financial
- Material
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Discriminatory
- Emotional
- Neglect

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

#### *You must*

- Treat all children, young people and vulnerable adults with respect.
- Provide an example of good conduct you wish others to follow.
- Ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people or at least that you are within sight or hearing of others. (LFCA will advise when asked to give lifts).
- Respect a child, young person or vulnerable adult's right to personal privacy.
- Encourage children, young people and vulnerable adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- Remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned.
- Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Always operate within LFCA principles and guidance.
- Always report all unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations or suspicions of abuse. The LFCA has a Designated Person for Safeguarding who is available to support and advise, whenever there are safeguarding concerns. Any concern relating to abuse, where a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have suffered harm or there is a threat to their well-being must be referred to Social Services or the police. **Please see contact information in Appendix 1.**

## *Use of Images*

LFCA activities may provide an opportunity for images of children, young people and vulnerable adults to be taken. All groups should be vigilant and any concerns should be reported to the Designated Person.

Informed consent should be sought for children and young people under 18 years old and care should be taken to ensure they cannot be individually identified by name.

## *You must not*

Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults. You also must not

- Allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour.
- Make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Either exaggerate or trivialise abuse issues.
- Rely on your good name or that of LFCA to protect you.
- Believe “it could never happen to me”.
- Take a chance when common sense, policy or practice suggests another more prudent approach.

## **Rights and responsibilities**

### *Responsibilities of LFCA committee*

- To ensure volunteers are aware of the safeguarding of children, young adults and vulnerable adults protection policy.
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected.
- To support and, where possible, secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability.
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check all volunteers who have access to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### *Responsibilities of LFCA volunteers*

- To be familiar with the children, young people and vulnerable adult safeguarding policy.
- To take appropriate action, in line with the policy of LFCA.
- To declare any existing, or subsequent, convictions.

### *Support for those who report abuse*

All those volunteers or users making a complaint, allegation or expressing concern, should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously.
- Their comments will be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities, if they or others are at significant risk.

The child, young person and vulnerable adult has a right:

- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously.

- To receive information about the outcome.

Signature of LFCA Chair



Lara Davenport-Ray  
2 August 2022

### **Appendix 1: Contact Information**

LFCA Designated Safeguarding Person - Jenny Lincoln - 07900 086260  
LFCA Chair - Lara Davenport-Ray - 07870201214 - chair@ourlovesfarm.co.uk

Children's Social Care  
Cambridge - 0345 045 5203 – (8am to 6pm Mon – Fri)  
Out of hours/emergencies 01733 234724

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)  
01223 727968  
01223 727969  
01223 727967

The NSPCC Helpline also provides expert advice. All their advisors are trained child protection officers.  
Telephone: 0808 800 5000  
Text: 88858  
Textphone: 0800 056 0566 (free for the deaf or hearing impaired)  
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk  
Post: NSPCC Helpline, 42 Curtain Road, London, EC2A 3NH