

Dulwich Society
Charity Registration Number: 234192

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The scope of this policy statement

The Dulwich Society's aims and objectives are to foster and safeguard the amenities of Dulwich, both in the interests of its residents and the wider local community of which it is a part, and to increase awareness of the varied character that makes the area so special. The Society operates in the boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth in Greater London.

The Dulwich Society takes the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults¹ very seriously and in line with best practice and current legislation aims to take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of members, participants and volunteers, especially children and vulnerable groups and that those participating are not harmed in any way through contact with the Society.

The Society is staffed by trustees and volunteers and has no paid employees.

The Society's business is conducted primarily with adult members and residents. The Society comes into direct contact with members and other participants mainly through meetings and events in public and private venues. On occasion individual Executive Committee members may visit members at their homes to discuss planning and other issues, and conduct committee meetings. The Society also conducts a large amount of email correspondence with stakeholders and individuals. Some members and participants are classified as vulnerable due to mobility and other health & age restrictions. Care is always taken to ensure access needs are met as far as possible. This is documented in the risk assessment for individual events.

The Society does not ordinarily come into contact with children. Society membership is however currently per household rather than per individual and children may occasionally attend Society events such as talks or walks, accompanied by their parents or guardians.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who the Society comes into contact with from harm. This includes the children of adults who are members and volunteers.
- To provide trustees, volunteers and members as well as children, young people, vulnerable adults and their families with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

This policy applies to anyone undertaking activities on behalf of the Dulwich Society including trustees, volunteers and members.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance about safeguarding. Key legislation and guidance are available from:

1. [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection/England](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection/England)

2. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees#policies-procedures-and-practices-you-need-to-have>
3. <https://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk/>
4. <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/safeguarding/lambeth-safeguarding-websites>

Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, governance and other related documents:

Dulwich Society Rules:

(<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/society/constitution-and-accounts>)

Policies:

(<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/policies>)

- Code of Conduct
- Complaints policy and process
- Risk Management including risk assessments
- Health and Safety
- Lone Volunteers
- Termination of Membership
- Privacy

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children, young people and vulnerable adults regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse, and should never experience abuse of any kind.
- Some children, young people and vulnerable adults are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communications needs or other issues and may need extra safeguards.

We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a safeguarding lead to work with the trustees to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensure all trustees are familiar with the policy and with the principles of safeguarding.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for volunteers and members.
- Providing effective management for volunteers and members (where appropriate) through supervision, support and quality assurance so that all volunteers and members know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently.
- Recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary and relevant checks are made including self-certification where appropriate.

- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance (see <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/> and the Society Privacy Policy).
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with our volunteers, members and the local community via our newsletters and website.
- Making sure that children, young people and vulnerable adults know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our procedures to share concerns and relevant information with authorities, agencies and other appropriate people who need to know.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying or unacceptable behaviour that does arise.
- Ensuring we have an effective complaints policy in place.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our volunteers and members, and for any children, young people and vulnerable adults by applying health and safety measures and risk assessments in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Ensuring that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults.
- Building a safeguarding culture where volunteers and members, children, young people and vulnerable adults treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns

Communication

Any concerns about Safeguarding should be raised immediately with the Society's Safeguarding Lead who will initiate the Society's safeguarding investigation process in line with the Society's safeguarding and reporting procedure.

The Society's Safeguarding Lead is also responsible for maintaining a log of safeguarding reports and incidents.

Contact details for the Society safeguarding lead are given below.

Contact details for the Chairman, Officers and other trustees are at <https://www.dulwicksociety.com/contacts>

Nominated Safeguarding Lead:

Name: Susan Badman, Vice Chair, Dulwich Society

Email/phone: vicechair@dulwicksociety.com, 07767 648481

This updated policy was approved by the Society Trustees on 11th March 2024.

Signed: *James Thompson, Chair*

Date: 18th March 2024

ⁱ The definition of a child or young person is someone under 18 years old. We use the term 'children' to refer to younger children who do not have the maturity and understanding to make important decisions for themselves. We use the term 'young people' to refer to older or more experienced children who are more likely to be able to make these decisions for themselves.

The definition of a vulnerable adult is someone over 18 years old who has care and support needs, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.