



Chichester Ship Canal Trust & Trading Policies

Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose & Scope

The Chichester Ship Canal Trust is committed to building a safeguarding culture where staff, volunteers, and all who visit the canal, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns. Our canal is of great importance to the community, as a safe and accessible place offering valuable space for mental and physical health. This policy establishes a consistent approach to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults & children, who may be at risk of harm or abuse.

2. What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about the measures we put in place to protect one another from harm or abuse. The primary focus is the protection of children and vulnerable adults; any report of suspected harm, abuse or neglect should be taken seriously.

3. Who is a 'Vulnerable Adult'?

A 'vulnerable adult' is any person over the age of 18 who could be at risk of abuse, harm or neglect because of their protected characteristics such as age, disability, gender or gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief.

Safeguarding concerns could include, but are not limited to:

- Being overly friendly with a child / young person / vulnerable adult
- Taking without permission, unofficial photographs of a child / young person / vulnerable adult with a mobile phone or other device
- Engaging inappropriately with a child / young person / vulnerable adult in a secluded area or behind a closed door
- Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

4. Reporting a Concern

A safeguarding concern may develop in a number of ways, including:

- An individual reporting directly that they are suffering harm.
- An individual reporting something which raises the suspicion that they are suffering harm.
- The witnessing of behaviour which appears to be inappropriate.
- Observation of signs of possible physical, sexual, emotional, financial or other abuse or neglect.



Chichester Ship Canal Trust & Trading Policies

In all such circumstances, the concern should be reported immediately to the nearest senior person on site as appropriate, such as;

- the boat skipper, mate or cabin crew host
- the senior person shoreside,

A record should be made of what has been witnessed or reported as soon as possible, while the details are still fresh.

No individual member of staff or a volunteer should investigate the concern themselves. Where it is suspected that acts of abuse have occurred, the senior responsible person on site should prioritise the safety, wellbeing and independence of the individual being abused by reporting that abuse as soon as possible.

If someone is in immediate danger ring 999. If not a report should be made to the Local Authority at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/keeping-children-and-adults-safe/> or phone: 01403 229900 (for children) or 01243 642121 (for adults)

5. Periodic Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required, to ensure it remains aligned with legal requirements and best practices for governance in the charitable sector.

6. Refer also to:

Photographic Policy

Risk Management Policy