

Green Ixworth Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is the safeguarding and promoting of the welfare of children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

This policy defines how Green Ixworth operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who participates in Green Ixworth activities including children, young people and adults at risk. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our officers and volunteers.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as persons under 18 years of age. This policy will apply to all Green Ixworth officers, engaged advisors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- a. Protecting children from maltreatment.
- b. Preventing impairment of children's health and development.
- c. Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- d. Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adults at risk of abuse or neglect. For the purposes of this policy, **adult at risk** refers to someone over 18 years of age who, according to paragraph 14.2 of the Care Act 2015:

- a. Has care and support needs.
- b. Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- c. As a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk.

3. Persons Affected

This policy applies to:

- a. All Green Ixworth officers and volunteers.
- b. All those engaged by Green Ixworth in support of our activities.

4. Policy Principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk of abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, and mistreatment. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age or illness.

Green Ixworth has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

Green Ixworth recognises that, under the Care Act 2014, it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Green Ixworth is committed to promoting wellbeing and harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

Green Ixworth is aware of the work of their local safeguarding board/partnership and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of adults vulnerable from abuse. This policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

Green Ixworth's Management Committee is committed to the following principles:

1. The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
2. All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
3. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
4. For safeguarding to be effective each individual and organisation must play their full part.
5. All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

5. Procedures

- a. All members of the Management Committee will sign the Statement of Eligibility Form for Officers which includes a declaration that they have no convictions in relation to abuse.
- b. All members of the Management Committee will familiarise themselves with safeguarding responsibilities, undertake training on safeguarding issues (including whistleblowing) where it is available and offered by their local safeguarding board/partnership or other local support organisation, and ensure that they understand the principles set out in this policy at **Section 4** above.
- c. All members of the Management Committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- d. All members of the Management Committee, specialist advisors or other volunteers will not have unsupervised access to children or adults at risk unless appropriately vetted.
- e. A member of the Management Committee will be appointed to be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. This person will have responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the relevant safeguarding agency.

The appointed person is **Stephen Wilson** until the Green Ixworth AGM 2021 at which time this appointment will be reviewed.

- f. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in the event of an allegation; the raising of a concern about the quality of care or practice; or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who has worked with children or adults at risk and who has:
 - i. Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
 - ii. Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or an adult at risk.
 - iii. Behaved towards a child or children or an adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to them.

This policy was adopted on 23 February 2021 and will be reviewed annually ahead of the Annual General Meeting.