

BRENT ISLAND TRUST

Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people from any physical or mental harm that may be caused due to their contact with The Brent Island Trust (BIT).

The policy lays out the commitments made by BIT and informs people of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

NB BIT does not engage with unsupervised children or unsupervised at risk adults in the course of its activities and so particular responsibilities relating to such people are not addressed in this policy.

Policy Statement

BIT believes that everyone with whom we interact, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

BIT commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through prevention, reporting and response.

Prevention

BIT responsibilities

- To ensure all people associated with BIT have access to, and all trustees are familiar with and know their responsibilities within this policy.
- To follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly.

Reporting

Anyone who has any safeguarding concerns should report the matter to any BIT Trustee as soon as possible. The Trustees with particular responsibility for safeguarding and their relevant contact details are Phil Dean (Phil.BITSafe@gmail.com) and Felicity Ferry (Felicity.BITSafe@gmail.com). The BIT Trustees will follow up any such report in accordance with the advice given on the Charity Commission website on handling and reporting allegations and take appropriate action, in consultation with the survivor of any abuse or exploitation. General contact details for Trustees are available on our website www.brentisland.org.uk and are displayed in the Linhay on The Island.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and any subsequent action should be kept secure at all times.

Glossary of Terms

Child

A person below the age of 18

At risk adult

Sometimes also referred to as a vulnerable adult. A person who is or may be in need of care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

Harm

Psychological, physical and any other infringement of an individual's rights

Psychological harm

Emotional or psychological abuse, including (but not limited to) humiliating and degrading treatment such as bad name calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The term used by the humanitarian and development community to refer to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of affected populations by staff or associated personnel. The term derives from the United Nations Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)

Safeguarding

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect

Safeguarding means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, particularly sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from occurring; to protect people, especially at risk adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur.

This definition draws from our values and principles and shapes our culture. It pays specific attention to preventing and responding to harm from any potential, actual or attempted abuse of power, trust, or vulnerability, especially for sexual purposes.

Safeguarding applies consistently and without exception to everything we do. It requires proactively identifying, preventing and guarding against all risks of harm, exploitation and abuse and having mature, accountable and transparent systems for response, reporting and learning when risks materialise. Those systems must be survivor-centred and also protect those accused until proven guilty.

Safeguarding puts beneficiaries and affected persons at the centre of all we do.

Survivor

The person who has been abused or exploited. The term 'survivor' is often used in preference to 'victim' as it implies strength, resilience and the capacity to survive, however it is the individual's choice how they wish to identify themselves.