



## **Safeguarding and Prevent Policy**

<b>Operational Owner</b>	Designated Safeguarding Officer: Lara Roberts
<b>Effective date:</b>	27/02/25
<b>Review date:</b>	27/02/26
<b>Related documents</b>	Safer Recruitment Policy Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace (Whistleblowing) Policy Dealing with Safeguarding Reports procedure Anti-Bullying and Harassment policy Complaints Policy e-safety Policy Lone Working Policy Code of Conduct Privacy Notice

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children and beneficiaries of assistance, from any harm that may be caused due to their encounters with Green Tree Adventures. This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff or personnel associated with Green Tree Adventures.
- The design and implementation of Green Tree Adventures programmes and activities.

The policy lays out the commitments made by Green Tree Adventures and informs staff and associated personnel of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

- Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by Green Tree Adventures or associated personnel.

### **Scope**

- All staff contracted by Green Tree Adventures.
- All associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to Green Tree Adventures, including but not limited to the following: trustees, consultants; volunteers; contractors; programme visitors including teaching staff, journalists, celebrities and politicians.

## Policy Statement

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing, and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect. In our sector, we understand it to mean protecting people, including children, from harm that arises from meeting our staff or programmes.

Green Tree Adventures believes that everyone we encounter, 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. Green Tree Adventures will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel.

This policy will address the following areas of safeguarding: child safeguarding and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. These key areas of safeguarding may have different policies and procedures associated with them (see Associated Policies).

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance (2023) the statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669e7501ab418ab055592a7b/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023.pdf) and [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2023\)](#) and legislative frameworks such as The Children's Act 1989, The Children and Families Act 2014 and The Education Act 2002.

Prevent refers to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which protects people from radicalisation and extremism in order to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This includes countering terrorist ideology and challenging those who promote it, supporting individuals who are especially vulnerable to becoming radicalised, and working with sectors and institutions where the risk of radicalisation is assessed to be high.

### The policy aims to:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children.
- Provide assurance to parents, carers and other parties that Green Tree Adventures takes reasonable steps to manage risks and keep children.
- Ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect to Safeguarding and Prevent and is provided with the necessary information, training and support on Safeguarding and Prevent matters.
- Avoid the employment of individuals in work with children where they have been barred by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) or are deemed by the business to pose an unacceptable risk to vulnerable groups.
- Ensure that appropriate action is taken in the event of any allegations or suspicions regarding harm to children arising from contact with anyone employed by Green Tree Adventures and associates/contractors in relevant positions, regardless of where the harm has taken place.
- Ensure Green Tree Adventures has a culture of respect, free from bullying or harassment.
- Protect people from radicalisation and extremism.

## **The Nature of Work with Children and Young People at Green Tree Adventures**

Children and young people may attend Green Tree Adventures in a number of ways. The majority of children will attend on a short, group visit which will be supervised by members of staff from their organisation, for example a school or youth group visit or holiday club.

Other children and young people will attend as a form of alternative educational provision or for work experience. This is likely to involve more one to one work with staff members. Green Tree Adventures is committed to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

### **Green Tree Adventures responsibilities**

Green Tree Adventures will:

- Ensure all staff and associated personnel have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy.
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their encounters with Green Tree Adventures. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated.
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying staff and associated personnel including enhanced DBS checks with barring checks where appropriate (see Safer Recruitment Policy).
- Ensure staff and associated personnel (where appropriate) receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organisation.
- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for Safeguarding (with accredited training to Safeguarding Level 3, updated every 3 years), who are supported by a deputy DSO trained to at least level 3 in safeguarding.
- Ensure all staff and associated personnel are aware of and agree to follow the Code of Conduct Standards (Appendix A).
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to the Dealing with Safeguarding Reports Procedure.
- Create a culture whereby staff feel safe to report concerns or complaints through formal whistleblowing channels and will be protected by Green Tree Adventures Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace (Whistleblowing) Policy.
- Offer support to survivors of harm caused by staff or associated personnel, regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation). Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.
- Apply appropriate disciplinary measures to staff found in breach of policy.

### **Staff responsibilities**

#### **Child safeguarding**

Green Tree Adventures staff and associated personnel must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18.
- Sexually abuse or exploit children.
- Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect.

- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking.

### **Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse**

Green Tree Adventures staff and associated personnel must not:

- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics.

Additionally, Green Tree Adventures staff and associated personnel are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy.
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a Green Tree Adventures staff member or associated personnel to the appropriate line manager.

### **Physical Contact and One to One Work**

The nature of work on Green Tree Adventures may mean some physical contact with children is unavoidable, for example in helping children change footwear or climb a stile, or in steering children away from dangers, for example the edge of a pond. Green Tree Adventures staff members must ensure that contact is transparent and is always done in an area which is open and where there are other people around. If staff members find themselves unintentionally alone with a child, they should move to a public area as soon as possible.

Our work with teenagers means staff members may find themselves working on a one-to-one basis with students. Green Tree Adventures recognises that these sessions are often part of our farm work and an important opportunity for students to learn. All lone working should be done in accordance with the Lone Working Policy. However, staff members should understand that this places them in a position of significant trust and responsibility and ensure that their behaviour in these situations is beyond reproach. If a situation arises that has made staff feel uncomfortable or compromised, this should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible and a record made.

### **How to report a safeguarding concern**

Staff members who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to their Designated Safeguarding Officer (Lara Roberts) who will follow the Dealing with Safeguarding Reports procedure.

All staff must be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. If staff have a mental health concern about a child that is also a safeguarding concern, immediate action should be taken, speaking to the designated safeguarding lead or a deputy. This must be done in partnership with the referral agency.

See Appendix B for types of abuse

### **Confidentiality**

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need-to-know basis only and should be kept secure at all times in accordance with Green Tree Adventures Privacy Policy.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The Designated Safeguarding Officer is responsible for writing and implementing this policy.
- Safeguarding incidents are reported to Lara Roberts.
- Minor and major changes to the policy will be reviewed by the Operational Owner and agreed and approved by Lara Roberts..
- A policy review will take place every two years or in line with relevant changes to legislation and/or local guidance.

### **Equality**

- Consideration is given to the protected characteristics of all people groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are gender, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage/civil partnership.
- Any activity that results in discriminatory practice will be challenged. Where children face additional barriers staff at Green Tree Adventures will work hard to find alternative ways of addressing this.
- This policy and all other associated policies and documents take this into account.

## Appendix A

### Code of Conduct Standards (to be printed and signed)

Whilst working (or on behalf of) at Green Tree Adventures I will:

#### **Uphold the integrity and reputation of Green Tree Adventures by ensuring that my professional and personal conduct is consistent with Green Tree Adventures values and standards**

- I will treat all people fairly with respect and dignity
- When working in an international context or travelling internationally on behalf of Green Tree Adventures, I will be observant of all local laws and be sensitive to local customs
- I will seek to ensure that my conduct does not bring Green Tree Adventures into disrepute and does not impact on or undermine my ability to undertake the role for which I am employed
- I will not work under the influence of alcohol or use, or be in possession of, illegal substances on Green Tree Adventures premises or accommodation

#### **Not engage in abusive or exploitative conduct**

- I will not engage in sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18). Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence
- I will not exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour, is prohibited. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- I will not engage in sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics
- I will not engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking
- I will not physically assault a child
- I will not emotionally or psychologically abuse a child

#### **Ensure the safety, health and welfare of all Green Tree Adventures staff members and associated personnel (volunteers, partners, suppliers and contractors)**

- I will adhere to all legal and organisational health and safety requirements in force at my location of work
- I will comply with any local security guidelines and be pro-active in informing management of any necessary changes to such guidelines
- I will behave in a manner such as to avoid any unnecessary risk to the safety, health and welfare of myself and others, including partner organisations and communities with whom we work

#### **Be responsible for the use of information, assets and resources to which I have access by reason of my employment with Green Tree Adventures**

- I will ensure that I use Green Tree Adventures assets and resources entrusted to me in a responsible manner and will account for all money and property
- I will not use Green Tree Adventures IT equipment, software or e-mail and social media platforms to engage in activity that is illegal under local or international law or that encourages conduct that would constitute a criminal offence. This includes any

material that intimidates or harasses any group based on protected characteristics, or encourages extremism

- I will not use Green Tree Adventures IT equipment to view, download, create, distribute or save in any format inappropriate or abusive material including but not limited to pornography or depictions of child abuse

### **Perform my duties and conduct my private life in a manner that avoids conflicts of interest**

- I will declare any financial, personal or family (or close intimate relationship) interest in matters of official business which may impact on the work of Green Tree Adventures
- I will seek permission before agreeing to being nominated as a prospective candidate or another official role for any political party
- I will not accept significant gifts or any remuneration from governments, communities with whom we work, donors, suppliers and other persons which have been offered to me as a result of my employment with Green Tree Adventures

### **Uphold confidentiality**

- I will exercise due care in all matters of official business, and not divulge any confidential information relating to colleagues, work-related matters or any sensitive information unless legally required to do so

### **Complaints and reports**

Green Tree Adventures staff are obligated to bring to the attention of the relevant manager any potential incident, abuse or concern that they witness, are made aware of, or suspect which appears to breach the Standards contained in this Code. Green Tree Adventures staff reporting concerns are protected by the Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace policy.

Staff members who have a complaint or concern relating to breach of the Code should report it immediately to their line manager. If the staff member does not feel comfortable reporting to their line manager (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other appropriate staff member.

Staff members receiving reports or concerns are obliged to action or refer the report immediately as per the Green Tree Adventures Complaints Policy and Procedures.

In accepting my appointment, I undertake to discharge my duties and to regulate my conduct in accordance with the requirements of this Code

Name:

Signature:

Date:

## Appendix B- Dealing with Safeguarding and Prevent Reports

The purpose of this document is to provide procedures for dealing with reports of breach of Green Tree Adventures Safeguarding and Prevent Policy, where the safeguarding violation or Prevent concern is:

- Against staff or members of the public,
- Perpetrated by staff, partners or associated personnel
- Concerns beneficiaries

### Procedure for dealing with a Safeguarding report

- 1.1 Reports can reach the organisation through various routes. This may be in a structured format such as a letter, e-mail, text or message on social media. It may also be in the form of informal discussion or rumour. If a staff member hears something in an informal discussion or chat that they think is a safeguarding concern, they should report this to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO: Lara Roberts 07976 355691 or Deputy Robyn Jay 07577 637403)
- 1.2 If a safeguarding concern is disclosed directly to a member of staff, the person receiving the report should bear the following in mind:
  - Listen
  - Empathise with the person
  - Ask who, when, where, what but not why
  - Repeat/ check your understanding of the situation
  - Report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- 1.3 The person receiving the disclosure should document, **in writing**, the following information, using an Incident Report Form:
  - Name of person making report
  - Name(s) of alleged survivor(s) of safeguarding incident(s) if different from above
  - Name(s) of alleged perpetrator(s)
  - Description of incident(s)
  - Dates(s), times(s) and location(s) of incident
- 1.3 The Designated Safeguarding Officer receiving the report should then review the information and decide on the next steps. These could be (but are not limited to)
  - No further action (for example if there is insufficient information to follow up, or the report refers to incidents outside the organisation's remit)
  - Investigation is required to gather further information
  - Immediate disciplinary action if no further information needed
  - Referral to relevant authorities by following the guidelines for Contacting the Cumbrian Safeguarding Hub as outlined below (or if in an emergency to the police by dialling 999).
- 1.5 Due to the sensitive nature of safeguarding concerns, confidentiality must be maintained during all stages of the reporting process, and information shared on a limited 'need to know' basis only. This includes senior management who might otherwise be appraised of a serious incident.
- 1.6 If the reporting staff member is not satisfied that the organisation is appropriately addressing the report, they have a right to escalate the report to the Safeguarding Hub directly. The staff member will be protected against any negative repercussions as a result of this report. See Green Tree Adventures Complaints Policy and Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace Policy.
- 1.7 If there is insufficient information to follow up the report, and no way to ascertain this information (for example if the person making the report did not leave contact details), the



report should be filed in case it can be of use in the future and look at any wider lesson learning we can take forward.

- 1.8 Support will be provided to the survivor where needed/requested. Support could include (but its not limited to)
- Psychosocial care or counselling
  - Medical assistance
  - Protection or security assistance (for example being moved to a safe location). All decision making on support should be led by the survivor.
- 1.9 For reports relating to serious incidents: an immediate risk assessment will be undertaken to determine whether there are any current or potential risks to any stakeholders involved in the case and develop a mitigation plan if required. We will update the risk assessment and plan on a regular basis throughout and after the case as required.
- 1.10 If an investigation is required and Green Tree Adventures does not have internal capacity, we will identify resources to conduct the investigation.
- 1.11 All decisions made resulting from the case will be documented clearly and confidentially.
- 1.12 All information relating to the case will be stored confidentially, and in accordance with Green Tree Adventures policy and local data protection law.
- 1.13 All records will contain anonymised data to feed into organisational reporting requirements (e.g. serious incident reporting, safeguarding reporting), and to feed into learning for dealing with future cases.

### **Procedure for reporting and response to safeguarding concerns**

- 1.14 Green Tree Adventures Designated Safeguarding Officer, Lara Roberts 07976 355691 or Deputy Robyn Jay 07577 637403 will take responsibility for reporting any safeguarding concerns to external agencies in normal circumstances.
- In the event that the DSL, any other member of staff or volunteer is suspected, reports should be made directly to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO, 01432 261 739).

**The Safeguarding Hub's only purpose is to provide a 'front door' for Children and Young People's Social Work services in Herefordshire & Worcestershire, where children's needs cannot be met at an Early Help level.**

### **Have we considered Early Help?**

Early Help is the response made when a professional identifies needs with a child/family and works with another agency or agencies to meet those needs.

At this level of need an Early Help Assessment (EHA) should be completed with the child and family to identify needs and agreed desired outcomes. A good assessment of needs and the establishment of achievable and measurable outcomes is an essential element of effective early help. Any worker from a service that supports families can initiate this process.

## **Procedure for dealing with a Prevent report**

**Prevent** forms part of the government's Counter Terrorism strategy called Contest. The aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists, challenging the spread of terrorist ideology and protecting vulnerable individuals.

Green Tree Adventures Designated Safeguarding Officer will take responsibility for reporting any Prevent concerns to the police.

## **How do I make a Prevent referral in Herefordshire & Worcestershire?**

If you have a Prevent concern about someone please [National Prevent referral form](#).

If you don't have access to a referral form please email your concern with as much detail as possible. Please include the full name and date of birth of the person, their home address and your contact details in case we need to get back to you. All referrals are treated as being confidential.

If you are still unsure of what to do please email and we will get back to you with our advice.

## **What happens when I make a referral?**

The information you provide will be reviewed by the Police Prevent Officer. We might need to re-contact you for further information to help us better understand the concern. If your concern does not meet the criteria for Prevent we will explain why. If the concern does meet the criteria then we will share the information with the Local Authority who will decide how best to progress the case and how they will support that person and protect others from harm. The Police Prevent Officer helps the Local Authority do this.

## **What happens when someone is identified at risk?**

One of the main elements of Prevent work is a programme called Channel. Where people who are assessed as being vulnerable to supporting any form of violent extremism are provided with multi-agency support that is tailored for each case. It could consist of help with family problems, mental health support, mentoring, religious support and others. People who are referred to Channel are not criminals; we are trying to stop people committing offences and getting into trouble.

Keeping children, young people and the community safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and is approached in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

Channel is a partnership approach to support individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists. Front line professionals from all partner agencies assess the nature and extent of vulnerability and look at ways to assist people it.

Channel is not always necessary and there may be other less intensive means of supporting a person.

## **Equality**

Consideration is given to the protected characteristics of all people groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are gender, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage/civil partnership.

This procedure and all other associated policies and documents take this into account.

## **Appendix C**

### **Types of Abuse**

The categories of abuse below are produced from external guidelines. A person may abuse or neglect a child harm by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. There are the main forms of abuse, common to both children, although there are variations within these:

- **Physical Abuse**

Deliberate physical harm to children or any other form of harm which causes illness in a child. These include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child

- **Sexual Abuse**

Forcing or manipulating a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or nonpenetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue (also known as peer on peer abuse).

- **Neglect**

This involves the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological need, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Once a child is

born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

- **Emotional Abuse**

This involves the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional wellbeing and/or development. It may involve conveying to a person that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the person opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children.

- **Psychological Abuse**

This is a form of abuse, characterised by a person subjecting or exposing another person to behaviour that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, chronic depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

- **Domestic Abuse**

Domestic violence (also named domestic abuse or family violence) is violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation.

Children may witness or be a victim of domestic violence.

- **Discriminatory Abuse**

This includes abuse that is racist, sexist, homophobic or is based on age or disability, or any forms of harassment.

Other safeguarding issues that staff need to be aware of with regard to children include:

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)**

Both CSE and CCE are forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in sexual or criminal activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or the threat of violence. CSE and CCE can affect children, both male and female and can include children who have been moved (commonly referred to as trafficking) for the purpose of exploitation.

## **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Whilst all staff should speak to the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) with regard to any concerns about female genital mutilation (FGM), there is a specific legal duty on teachers. If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police.

## **Mental Health**

All staff should be aware that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation. Only appropriately trained professionals should attempt to make a diagnosis of a mental health problem. Education staff, however, are well placed to observe children day-to-day and identify those whose behaviour suggests that they may be experiencing a mental health problem or be at risk of developing one. Where children have suffered abuse and neglect, or other potentially traumatic adverse childhood experiences, this can have a lasting impact throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is key that staff are aware of how these children's experiences, can impact on their mental health, behaviour, and education.

## **Peer on peer abuse (child on child)**

All staff should be aware that children can abuse other children (often referred to as peer on peer abuse). And that it can happen both inside and outside of school or college and online. It is important that all staff recognise the indicators and signs of peer on peer abuse and know how to identify it and respond to reports. All staff should understand, that even if there are no reports in their schools or colleges it does not mean it is not happening, it may be the case that it is just not being reported. As such it is important if staff have any concerns regarding peer on peer abuse they should speak to their designated safeguarding lead (or deputy). It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between peers, many of which are listed below, that are actually abusive in nature.

Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh", "part of growing up" or "boys being boys" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours, an unsafe environment for children and in worst case scenarios a culture that normalises abuse leading to children accepting it as normal and not coming forward to report it.