

## **HGCG Safeguarding Statement**

The Groups Safeguarding Statement should be read in conjunction with the Groups Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and the Safeguarding Trustee description.

The Group is committed to the care, nurture and protection of all the communities it serves. It believes that the welfare of everyone, including children, young people and vulnerable adults and the wider community is of paramount importance and that at all times and in all situations these people with whom we work have the right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that could result in them being harmed or at risk of harm.

The Group accepts its responsibilities to protect those in the communities it serves from physical, sexual and emotional abuse and to report any abuse that is suspected or discovered. It undertakes to provide appropriate supervision to ensure the above and recognises mutual accountability.

### **The Group strives to:**

- Promote a safer environment and culture for volunteers and all they serve
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility for those who are vulnerable
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations
- Respond appropriately to those who may pose a risk to others

The Group is aware of the balance between the need to obtain DBS clearance for those in roles that require this and the protection of an individual's privacy. Where a DBS certificate is required, this will be clearly demonstrated in the requirements of the role description

### **Context**

A child or young person is defined in law as those under 18 years old. A vulnerable adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age, or illness or traumatic circumstances may not be able to take care or protect themselves.

Safeguarding means the range of measures in place to protect people in a charity, or those it comes into contact with, from abuse and maltreatment of any kind.

The Charities Commission statement on safeguarding duties for charity trustees:

Trustees must take reasonable steps to protect their charity's beneficiaries, volunteers and those connected with the activities of the charity from harm.

**Photography:** We will not use photographs or film of children, young people or vulnerable adults without consent. In the case of photography or filming at events, the consent of participants or their responsible adult will be sought. If consent is not given the Group will make every effort to ensure that the individual(s) concerned is not photographed or filmed and will not use any photograph or footage that inadvertently includes that individual(s).

**Fundraising:** The Group seeks to act responsibly in our communications with supporters and volunteers. In our approach we will never subject anyone to pressure or a 'hard sell' but always treat individuals with dignity, integrity and respect. We are aware that some of our volunteers and supporters may be older, and potentially vulnerable and will work with them in a way that maintains their dignity.