



OBee CIC Vulnerable Adults and Safeguarding Policy

It is the intention that this policy will adhere to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (SVGA) 2006 which now comes under the Care Act 2014 and OBee will meet the six principles of empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership, and accountability as set out below.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about being proactive and putting measures in place in advance of any contact with children and vulnerable adults to ensure that they are kept safe.

Definitions

- A Child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.
- A Vulnerable Adult is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

OBee CIC acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults involved in any OBee CIC activity from harm.

OBee CIC will always respect that:

- The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations;
- All participants regardless of age, gender, disability, race, faith, culture, language, marital status, pregnancy or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm;
- All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately;
- OBee working in partnership with other organisations and statutory agencies will ensure that appropriate steps will be taken to protect welfare of children and vulnerable adults by all parties.

OBee CIC recognizes that all children and vulnerable adults have the right to participate in events in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, and harm and poor practice. OBee CIC recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity they are present.

OBee CIC is clear that the following are NOT acceptable behaviours towards children and vulnerable adults:

- Physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, financial, discriminatory or institutional abuse, domestic abuse, neglect or self neglect or modern slavery
- Consuming alcohol whilst being responsible for/working with children or vulnerable adults; providing alcohol to children or allowing its supply;
- Smoking in the presence of children;
- Humiliating children or vulnerable adults;
- Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult;
- Having an intimate or sexual relationship with any child or vulnerable adult developed as a result of being in a 'position of trust' at OBee;
- Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material with children or vulnerable adults in the care of OBee.

The OBee CIC Designated Safeguarding Officer is Chris Turland and the Deputy DSO is Carole Brown.

If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult has been put at risk, you must in the first instance inform the OBee CIC Designated Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the OBee CIC Board of Directors.

If an incident involves the OBee CIC Designated Safeguarding Officer you should inform the OBee CIC Board of Directors directly.

OBee CIC will ensure that its Directors and Volunteers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role.

Any events held on OBee CIC premises must comply with this Policy as will any off site trips undertaken by OBee CIC.

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