



Safeguarding Policy for Rootstock

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Rootstock provides activities for children and families as part of its events. These include interactive workshops and activities which take place in an outdoor setting.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who receive Rootstock's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy statement applies to anyone working on behalf of Rootstock, including senior managers and members, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, and students.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from nspcc.org.uk

We believe that:

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated child protection/safeguarding lead who is a member of the organisation and responsible for management decisions.
- developing child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures which reflect best practice
 - using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
 - creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment.
 - recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
 - Providing freelancers engaged to work with us and other artists we collaborate with access to our safeguarding policy, to ensure they are aware of it and offering support regarding its

content

- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Given the unique environment of Rootstock events (ie, outdoor camping in rural location), ensuring that we provide - where reasonable - a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers.
- recording and storing information professionally and securely.

Contact details

Nominated child protection lead

Name: Vickie Holden

Phone/email: vickie@thelisteninn.co.uk