Corsham Walking Festival – Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

To protect the safety and wellbeing of all participants, especially children and adults at risk, and to ensure volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

Who It Applies To

- Walk leaders
- Festival volunteers and organisers
- All participants
- Partner organisations

Key Safeguarding Principles

- **Protection:** No one should face harm or abuse.
- **Prevention:** Risks are anticipated and reduced.
- **Empowerment:** Participants feel safe and can raise concerns.
- **Proportionate Response:** Actions match the level of risk.
- **Partnership:** Work with carers and safeguarding agencies when required.

Children & Adults at Risk

- Must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.
- Accompanying adults manage supervision, behaviour, care needs, equipment, and medication.
- Walk leaders are **not** in loco parentis and do **not** provide personal care.

Responsibilities

Walk Leaders

- Follow safeguarding procedures; maintain clear boundaries.
- Ensure routes are risk assessed and safe.
- Never be alone 1:1 with a child or adult at risk.
- Report concerns immediately.
- Challenge unsafe behaviour.

Accompanying Adults

- Stay with their participant at all times.
- Manage wellbeing, behaviour, and practical support.
- Provide relevant medical/accessibility information.

Participants

- Follow instructions and act safely.

Volunteer Code of Conduct

- Treat everyone with respect; use inclusive language.
- Avoid physical contact unless preventing harm.
- Get consent before photographing children or adults at risk.
- Do not provide lifts, enter private homes, or handle medication/personal care.

Responding to Concerns

1. Listen calmly; do not promise confidentiality.
2. Reassure the person.
3. Record facts quickly and accurately.
4. Report to the **Safeguarding Lead** immediately.
5. Contact numbers:
    - **MASH:** 0300 456 0108
    - **Emergency Duty Service:** 0300 456 0100
    - **Wiltshire Council Safeguarding:** 0300 456 0111
    - **Emergency:** 999

Safeguarding Lead

Receives and manages concerns; liaises with statutory bodies; stores records securely.

Name / Mobile / Email: Kevin Wilson/ 07414 638549 / kevin.wilson@btinternet.com

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Risk & Data Management

- All walks are risk assessed; leaders review risks on the day and adjust where necessary.
- Only necessary personal data is collected; records stored securely and shared only with appropriate authorities.

Review

Policy reviewed annually or after any safeguarding incident or major change.