



February 2019

Rivelin Valley Conservation Group Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all members of the Rivelin Valley Conservation Group including the chairman, the committee, all volunteers, students and anyone working on behalf of the Rivelin Valley Conservation Group (RVCG).

The purpose of this policy:

- To protect children and young or vulnerable people who are involved with the RVCG including the children of adult members and volunteers.
- To provide members and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

The RVCG believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Framework

This policy has been drawn up based on the best practice standards for voluntary and community organisations as recommended by the NSPCC¹, and follows the NSPCC exemplar child protection policy. A summary of the key relevant legislation is available from nspcc.org.uk/learning².

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- All children, regardless age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, 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 the 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 them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a lead RVCG member for safeguarding.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding practices through general principles and guidelines procedures for members and volunteers as outlined in this policy.

¹ <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1079/safeguarding-standards-and-guidance.pdf>

² <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1468/example-safeguarding-policy.pdf>



- Providing effective management for all members and volunteers through supervision.
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely and sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children, their families, staff and volunteers via leaflets, posters, one-to-one discussions.
- 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.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against members and volunteers appropriately.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children and young people, committee, members and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

General Principles and Guidelines for RVCG

- No child or young adult under 18 years should be permitted to take part in voluntary activities without the express permission of their parent or carer.
- If a child under 18 does take part in RVCG activities the expectation is that RVCG will receive written permission from their parent or carer for them to do so. RVCG will make the parent or carer aware of this policy.

Guidelines for RVCG members

To protect yourself against allegations of abuse Individual volunteers and members of RVCG should ensure that they should seek to keep personal contact with children under review and seek to minimise the risk of any situation arising in which misunderstandings can occur. The following sensible precautions should be taken:

- Make sure you do not work in isolation with children whilst volunteering for RVCG or undertaking RVCG business.
- Never give out personal mobile phone numbers or private e-mail addresses.
- Do not give children lifts home in your car.
- Do not arrange to meet children outside of RVCG volunteering task days, monthly meetings or general RVCG business.
- Never 'befriend' or chat to children on social network sites.

RVCG Safeguarding Policy



Rivelin Valley Conservation Group

Contact details

Senior lead for safeguarding

Name	Graham Appleby
Phone/email	07850712988 rvcg.chair@btinternet.com

CEOP

www.ceop.police.uk

NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 1st Sept 2019 .

Signed: