

Friends of Eastfield Park

Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy (2011, Revised 2024)

Preamble

The Friends of Eastfield Park does not require the usual kind of Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy because it does not work directly with vulnerable adults or people under the age of 18. However, it does require a policy that clearly states this fact and covers situations where a person under the age of 18 works with members of the FoEP while accompanied by a parent, guardian, teacher, qualified coach, or leader of a recognised youth organisation with its own protection policy.

Members should be mindful of the following information:

(taken from uCheck : <https://www.ucheck.co.uk/about-us/>)

- *It's the law that employees working unsupervised with children must undergo an enhanced DBS check.*
- *It's also the law that volunteers whose duties involve specific contact with children must undergo an enhanced DBS Check.*
- *It's still important to get a DBS check when parents are present to oversee their children.*
- *For some one-off events where parents are present, like school trips and discos, a DBS check (formerly known as an online CRB check) is not a legal requirement for volunteers.*
- *However, in most other situations, it still remains essential to undergo an enhanced DBS check when parents are present.*

and:

- *There are plenty of one-off circumstances where parents can watch over their children, but staff and volunteers must have been screened regardless.*
- *These situations include – but are not limited to – any time when they're required to provide personal care or help a child eat, drink or wash.*
- *Furthermore, any care or supervision of a child which can be classed as a 'regulated activity' requires an enhanced DBS check. The government broadly defines this as unsupervised activities at specific places that are carried out on a regular basis.*
- *For example, teaching or training a child as a one-off in the company of parents does not require a DBS check.*
- *Doing so on a regular basis, though, would mean that the individual in question needs an enhanced DBS check.*
- *Similarly, as long as parents are present, an employee or volunteer providing ad hoc advice or guidance to children regarding their physical or emotional health would not have to undergo a DBS check. However, offering this type of support regularly would necessitate a disclosure.*

General Statements

1. The Members of Friends of Eastfield Park (FoEP) believe that it is unacceptable for anybody to suffer abuse of any kind. We particularly recognise our collective responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are therefore committed to policies and procedures that protect vulnerable adults and all young people under the age of 18.
2. We recognise that the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is of overriding importance but that everyone (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) has the right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
3. The purpose of the policy is to provide protection for children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend events or activities organised by FoEP. It applies to all members of FoEP and anyone volunteering on behalf of FoEP.

4. The Policy:

- 4.1. We will seek to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by the application of appropriate procedures.
- 4.2. We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures regularly, and publicising them at our AGM and at other times as considered necessary.
- 4.3. All members of FoEP and volunteers assisting at any of our activities at which children, young people or vulnerable adults are present should be made aware of the policy and procedures described in this document.
- 4.4. Although the procedures described in this document relate mainly to children, members of FoEP should use their discretion to apply them to vulnerable adults as appropriate.
- 4.5. Any member of FoEP or any volunteer assisting at any of our activities who witnesses any harm or abuse of any kind being caused to a child or vulnerable adult at any of our activities should report it immediately to the organiser(s) of the activity who will then report it to the appropriate authorities.
- 4.6. Any concerns about the welfare of children, young people or vulnerable adults arising from any of FoEP's activities should be brought to the attention of the organiser(s) of the activity and discussed at the next FoEP Committee Meeting.

5. Procedures for Public Events:

- 5.1. FoEP does not organise activities or events specifically for children. Events at which children are welcome should be advertised as 'family events' with a note that children should only attend if accompanied by a responsible adult.

5.2. Children who come along to events without a responsible adult are likely to be from one of the estates bordering the Park and probably play in the Park regularly without adult supervision. They will therefore not be turned away from events but will only be permitted to join activities that can be observed by the general public using the Park (and at the discretion of the organisers). They will not be permitted to join in any activity where they would be alone with members of the FoEP or other volunteers.

5.3. Members and volunteers assisting at events should not put themselves in a position where they are alone with children.

6. Procedures for Conservation and other Working Parties:

6.1. Unaccompanied children under 16 are not permitted to join groups carrying out conservation work or litter picking.

6.2. Accompanied children may join conservation or litter picking groups provided that a responsible adult (18 or over) signs the attendance sheet to say that they are accountable for the children joining such groups.

6.3. For activities under the direct control of the FoEP, the responsible adult should not be responsible for more than three people under the age of 16. (For activities under the control of a recognised youth organisation, such as a school, college, church, or youth association, the policy of that organisation shall apply.)

6.4. The organiser of the activity is the initial contact point for any concerns about children or vulnerable adults joining clean-up or conservation activities.

7. Procedures for School & Youth Group Visits:

7.1. FoEP will actively promote the use of Eastfield Park for visits and activities by local schools and youth groups. While members of FoEP may assist at these events, the schoolteacher or group leader will be responsible for the well-being of the children at these events which should be run in accordance with the school or group's own policies.

7.2. Any member of FoEP wishing to assist in such activities should either comply with request or requirement (such as a need for a DBS check) made by the school or group organising the event, or else decline to assist.

Approved by the FoEP Committee on: 19th November 2024

Signed (Chair): 

Publicised at the FoEP AGM on: