

CHILD, YOUNG PERSON AND VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY

1. Statement of Intent

All children, young people and adults have an absolute right to be safe from harm. The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust through the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd operates the Community Boat. Those organisations have a duty of care and will take all necessary steps to promote welfare and wellbeing.

The Community Boat Public Trip Booking Terms & Conditions document states that unaccompanied minors are not permitted as passengers. Unaccompanied minors are defined as being below the age of 16. The safety and behaviour of minors is the responsibility of the accompanying adult. The crew must never be placed in a situation where they are left with unattended children or vulnerable adults.

2. Aims of the policy

- Raising the awareness of the duty of care responsibilities relating to all people, including specifically to children, young people and vulnerable adults, throughout the organisation.
- Actively encouraging good practice amongst all staff and volunteers throughout the organisations and promoting wider awareness wherever possible with user groups.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment and avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Listening to children, young people and vulnerable adults, minimising dangers and as appropriate working with other agencies.
- Training, supervising and supporting staff and volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse and themselves against false allegations.
- Responding to allegations and safeguarding issues implementing appropriate procedures.
- Requiring staff and volunteers to abide by the Child, Young Person and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and procedures.

3. Objectives

- To enable staff and volunteers to recognise the potential signs and indicators of abuse and to improve good practice.
- To aid staff and volunteers to respond sensitively and seriously to a child or young person or vulnerable adult who discloses information about abuse and be confident and able to take appropriate action swiftly, regardless of whom the allegation is about, e.g. carer/member of staff.
- To always maintain a level of good working practice and therefore reducing the risk to children, young people and vulnerable adults under the care of our staff and volunteers.
- To promote the general welfare and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults during the services provided.
- To develop and implement effective procedures for recording and responding to incidents and accidents.

- To develop and implement effective procedures for recording and responding to complaints of alleged or suspected abuse.

4. Contact details

4.1. The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust and Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd Safeguarding Officer

Name: Chris Hilliard, c/o BMKWT, 30 St John Street, Newport Pagnell
MK16 8HJ

4.2. How to raise concerns about a child or young person

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, dial 999 for the police.

To report a concern or to get advice:

- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 Monday to Friday 10:00 to 20:00 or help@NSPCC.org.uk
- Bedford Borough Council: 01234 718700 (office hours) or 0300 300 8123 (out of office hours)
- Central Bedfordshire Council: 0300 300 8585 (office hours) or 0300 300 8123 (out of office hours)
- Milton Keynes Council: 01908 253169 or 01908 253170 (office hours) or 01908 265545 (out of office hours)

If you are concerned about a vulnerable child, you should inform the Boatmaster, and Chris Hilliard (Trust and Board Designated Safeguarding Lead).

4.3. How to raise concerns about an adult

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, dial 999 for the police.

To report a concern or to get advice:

- Bedford Borough Council: 01234 276222 or 0300 300 8123 (out of office hours)
- Central Bedfordshire Council: 0300 300 8122 or 0300 300 8123 (out of office hours)
- Milton Keynes Council: 01908 252835 or

If you are concerned about a vulnerable adult, you should inform the Boatmaster, and Chris Hilliard (Trust and Board Designated Safeguarding Lead).

5. Policy Review

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. Annual review date is 31 August. Date of adoption of this policy is 1 September 2023.



Signed: *Chris Hilliard*

Status: Trust and Board Designated Safeguarding Lead

Date: 9 August 2023

On behalf of The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust and through it the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd

Address: BMKWT, 30 St John Street, Newport Pagnell MK16 8HJ