

This Safeguarding policy applies to the Board of Trustees, self-employed community gardeners, and volunteers who maintain the community garden; as well as individuals or organisations who carry out activities and events for the community garden, either on a voluntary or paid for basis. For brevity we refer to all such individuals and groups as the 'garden' or 'garden members' in the policy that follows. We are open to the public at specified times on a drop-in basis and at other events organised by the garden.

1. Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
2. We believe that all vulnerable adults¹ and children, (people under 18 years of age), have an equal right to protection from abuse regardless of their age, race, religion, ability, gender, language, background. or sexual identity.
3. Garden members are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of the environment and to manage the garden in line with its charitable objectives and policy. We recognise that safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is vital and that we have a duty of care towards any children and vulnerable adults who use the garden.
4. The garden's activities are not regulated activities within the meaning of Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006². Garden members are not subject to DBS checks (Disclosure and Barring Scheme). However, one or more Trustees responsible for safeguarding policy and practice, as well as self-employed community gardeners, will complete basic DBS checks and the outcomes will be scrutinised by a lead Board member.
5. At no time are garden members permitted to use their position at the garden to form personal relationships with children or vulnerable adults.
6. Children and vulnerable adults are not permitted to use the community garden unless accompanied by an adult carer. The only exception is children participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is open to people aged 14 years of age and over, where helping the community is part of the programme.
7. Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) scheme participants may only volunteer where the garden receives written permission from their adult carer, having read this safeguarding policy, and after providing an emergency contact number. Whilst at the garden, the DoE participant will be directed by a Trustee or community gardener and will work as part of a group. It will be the responsibility of their adult carer to arrange suitable travel arrangements to and from the garden.
8. We will ask an adult carer if they are happy for photos to be taken at the garden which includes their child. All adults will be asked to also confirm their willingness to be photographed. If an adult carer decides that a vulnerable adult cannot reasonably make this decision, they may do so on their behalf. As good practice and before taking a photo, a

garden member will double check with the adult carer and explain how the photo will be used.

9. The garden does not employ staff. Appropriate checks will, however, be required on community gardeners providing services on a self-employed basis, including a DBS check at an appropriate level and a suitable reference(s).

10. Where the garden contracts for services (for example groundwork at the site), at no time are contractors required or permitted to work with, or take any responsibility for the care of, children or vulnerable adults whilst working in the garden.

11. Any suspicions or allegations of abuse which are raised by garden members, or users of the garden, will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately, by working with relevant agencies and taking actions as they advise. Contacts of relevant agencies are noted at the close of this document.

12. Were there found to be a serious safeguarding issue at the garden, the Trustees have an obligation to report the matter to the Charity Commission for England. Reporting can be done via the Garden's online account with the Charity Commission and following their guidance on determining seriousness.

13. The garden also provides a bookable venue, referred to as the Education room. A pre-booking form is required which makes it clear that this is a self-managed arrangement. The person booking is required to undertake their own risk assessments and to be responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the group for the duration of their booked event.

This policy will be reviewed annually prior to the AGM, or more frequently if necessary.

The lead Trustee for Safeguarding is - Jill Seymour who may be contacted on streathamcommongarden@gmail.com

In Lambeth to report a safeguarding concern (Adults and Children) telephone, 0207 926 5555 and speak to the Initial Contact Service.

If a vulnerable adult or child approaches a garden member with concerns, we will reassure them that they have done the right thing. Involving the Safeguarding lead above or another Trustee, we will:

- Listen to their story carefully and respectfully.
- Notify them that only the people who need to know will be informed.
- **Not try to solve the situation or confront anyone.**
- Take all claims seriously and calmly.
- Write up what has been said, including the date and time, a description of the incident as described by the person, as well as any names and locations.
- Report the safeguarding concern to Lambeth contacts immediately.

Notwithstanding the above in an emergency, we will dial 999

Notes

- 1. The Department of Health defines a vulnerable adult as a person aged 18 or over who may need community care services because of a disability (mental or other), age, or illness.*
- 2. Regulated activities would include, but not limited to: health care, teaching, driving a vehicle for children, foster care, etc.*

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