



Safeguarding policy

Introduction

The Charity Commission, in its guidance note of 6 December 2017, amended 25 October 2018, [Safeguarding for charities and trustees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-for-charities-and-trustees) emphasised that safeguarding should be a key governance priority for ALL charities, regardless of their objectives. In the light of this, the trustees of Knowle Society have considered the range of its activities and the possible safeguarding issues arising from them, have assessed the risks, and adopted the following statement of policy and practice.

Policy Statement

The Knowle Society (The Society) recognises that the public expects charities to be safe and trusted places and will manage its business in a way that promotes the safety, health and wellbeing of those with whom it comes into contact, whether members, volunteers or the wider public. The Society expects all its members to behave with appropriate respect towards others, and to refrain from any behaviour which might constitute, or might be construed as constituting, abuse, exploitation or harassment.

Safeguarding and the work of The Society

The Society does not employ staff and its volunteers usually work as individuals or in association with another member of The Society. The Society expects that, in working together, members should have regard to the general policy statement above, and avoid any behaviour which might constitute, or might be construed as constituting, abuse (physical or mental), exploitation or harassment.

The Society organises public meetings, talks, events, and local walks. In making arrangements for these, The Society will have due regard for the safety and welfare of those attending and, in particular, will ensure that attendees are warned in advance of circumstances which might give rise to difficulties for some, eg trip hazards, loud noises, flashing lights etc.

The Society does not work specifically with children or young people or with adults at-risk in vulnerable situations. However, should our events and activities include the participation of such groups, they would always be carried out in partnership with those responsible and following their appropriate policies.

Procedures

Any concerns about safeguarding issues should be addressed to the Society's Secretary (or the Chair, or any Trustee of The Society).

Any complaints or incidents notified will be considered and the complainant will be notified of the action taken. In particular, The Society will ensure that serious incidents are reported to the Charity Commission in accordance with the Commission's guidance and that safeguarding allegations, complaints or incidents will be reported to other agencies in accordance with the law and best practice.

The Society will ensure that a record is maintained, kept in a secure location, of all incidents including action taken and resolution.