



WORKING WITH THE TRUST – MINIMUM SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

Commitment to Safeguarding

The Canal & River Trust (the “Trust”) is committed to safeguarding the safety and wellbeing of others, and in particular children and adults who are at risk of harm.

As part of this, we require those who carry out activities in connection with us (including those using our land or assets for activities and events) to uphold appropriate standards of safeguarding.

Minimum Standard Requirements

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility. We are committed to working with organisations who share our commitment to upholding appropriate safeguarding standards. As part of this, we set out below the minimum standards we require from those who wish to carry out activities in connection with the Trust, including organisation who carry out activities on Trust property (referred to as “**Associated Organisations**”).

This standard applies to all Associated Organisations whilst carrying out activities on Trust property or which are in any way connected with, or endorsed by, the Trust (“**Associated Activities**”). Wherever your organisation has a higher standard or process in place in connection with any aspect of safeguarding or other responsibilities, those standards should be adhered to.

1. Safeguarding Policy

If your organisations engages with children, adults at risk or provides activities which are open to public participation, your organisation must have a Safeguarding Policy, which sets out your safeguarding standards and procedures.

It is your organisation’s responsibility to ensure compliance with your Safeguarding Policy.

All Associated Organisations must nominate one or more safeguarding leads who are responsible for overseeing and, where necessary, reporting on compliance with this mandatory standard.

2. Awareness

Associated Organisations must ensure that their staff / participants have an appropriate level of understanding of safeguarding risks, and indicators of abuse or harm, which they may encounter while carrying out Associated Activities.

The level and nature of any particular safeguarding approach should be determined by, and proportionate to, the risk inherent in the activities in question. Some roles will be very informal

and may require only an introductory talk to explain what safeguarding issues may arise and how to report these. Roles which involve a lot of 1:1 contact or significant interaction with the public will require more detailed guidance or training, particularly where these involve contact with children or adults at risk.

It is your organisation's responsibility to assess what level of safeguarding guidance and training is required for each participant, and to ensure that this is provided and kept up to date.

3. Minimising Risk

Associated Organisations must undertake appropriate risk assessments in relation to any Associated Activities and put measures in place to reduce all identified safeguarding and health and safety risks to an acceptable level. The risks and controls should be clearly set out in your risk assessment. You must make risk assessments available to the Trust upon request.

We expect all Associated Organisations to consider whether any screening checks should be carried out for staff / group participants to ensure they do not pose an unreasonable risk to others, and in particular to children or adults at risk, when carrying out Associated Activities. Whether checks are required (and the nature of those checks) will depend on the particular activities the individual will engage in.

Checks may include (but are not limited to): DBS checks, requiring voluntary disclosure of criminal records, reference checks, screening questions. It is your organisation's responsibility to assess what checks are appropriate in the circumstances and to carry these out in compliance with any legal and regulatory requirements.

4. Reporting to the Trust

Any safeguarding concern which involves any of the following must be reported to the Trust's Safeguarding Team without delay:

- (a) Any allegation that a member of your organisation has harmed or abused a Trust customer or member of the public on Trust property or in the course of Associated Activities.
- (b) Any allegation or suspicion a member of your organisation has harmed or abused, or poses a risk of harm or abuse, to a member of our staff.
- (c) Any allegation that a member of your organisation connected with the Associated Activities poses a risk of harm or abuse to the public.
- (d) Any allegation or suspicion that a member of Trust staff has harmed or abused, or poses a risk of harm or abuse to, any individual.
- (e) Any serious health and safety incident, near-miss or risk which takes place on Trust property or in connection with Associated Activities.
- (f) Any other incident or concern which may impact on the Trust's reputation or affect our decision to continue to associate with your organisation.

Reports should be made by email to: safeguarding@canalrivertrust.org.uk

If you believe that any person is at imminent risk of serious harm, you should refer the matter to the emergency services via 999 before informing the Trust's Safeguarding Team.