



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

Statement of Intent

Introduction

This policy sets out the principles and procedures for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults involved in Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) activity.

BCT believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or vulnerable adult to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults. The arrangements below explain how we will do this.

BCT works with children and vulnerable adults in an education and community outreach environment, via volunteer practical conservation, surveys and education opportunities and through public events such as family fun days, bat walks, conferences, training and fundraising.

This purpose of the policy is:

- to provide protection for the children and vulnerable adults who engage with BCT;
- to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm;
- to provide individual staff and volunteers with guidance on working with children and vulnerable adults in order to protect them from accusations of misconduct/abuse; and
- to protect BCT as a whole and demonstrate our moral and procedural integrity in this area.

Definitions

Child/young person - An individual under the age of 18.

Vulnerable adult - A person aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and support. For example, the person:

- Is an older person who is frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment
- Has a learning disability
- Has a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment
- Has a severe impairment in the ability to communicate with others
- Has mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- Has a long-term illness/condition
- Misuses substances or alcohol

- Is a carer such as a family member/friend who provides personal assistance and care to adults and is subject to abuse
- Lacks the mental capacity to make particular decisions and is in need of care and support
- Is receiving nursing services/personal care in a care home or at home, medical services, or social care services

This list is not exhaustive.

Please read BCT's safeguarding policy which is available online at <https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/policies/safeguarding>. Alternatively, to receive an email copy or hard copy of the document then please contact the NBMP team at nbmp@bats.org.uk.