RGSC Safeguarding Policy

Definition

Safeguarding is defined by the Charity Commission as "the range of measures in place to protect the people who come into contact with charities through their work from abuse and mistreatment of any kind (including neglect)."

Harm and abuse have a devastating impact. A strong safeguarding culture means:

- we protect people
- we minimise the risks of any harm or abuse
- everyone has confidence their concerns will be dealt with appropriately
- everyone at RGSC understands their role

Abuse and mistreatment covers abuse occurring anywhere (at home, in the workplace or any other location) including sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Who is at risk?

People at risk include children, defined in the UK as a person under the age of 18.

Vulnerable adults are also considered at risk, and in England the Care Act 2014 defines an adult at risk as someone who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

RGSC Responsibilities

RGSC is committed to providing a safe environment for all children and adults at risk who participate in or attend RGSC events. RGSC have nominated two trustees as safeguarding leads who have oversight of safeguarding matters.

The trustees of RGSC have a responsibility to ensure that an appropriate safeguarding policy exists and is regularly reviewed.

Every trustee of RGSC is also responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of members and non-members who attend events. They should be able to identify potential safeguarding issues and know how to report them. Equally it is everyone's responsibility when attending an RGSC event to flag up any safeguarding concerns.

Events where safeguarding must be considered

RGSC currently holds field meetings in person with four or five such meetings planned each year. Monthly lectures are a mixture of online and in person events. RGSC also has an active Facebook page.

Risk Assessment

Risk	Action
Unaccompanied children at field or indoor meeting or activity.	RGSC requires all children under the age of 16 attending an in-person meeting to be accompanied by a responsible adult. If an unaccompanied child arrives, the safeguarding trustee or a delegated responsible person will make every effort to contact parents/carers and request that they take responsibility and accompany the child or nominate another responsible adult who is at the event and willing to take responsibility. Meanwhile the unaccompanied minor will be able to remain in the meeting under the care of at least two RGSC members allocated and in agreement with this.
Some children aged 16-18 (young adults) may attend field and indoor meeting or activities unsupervised.	An unaccompanied 16-18 year old will be able to remain at the event under the care of two RGSC members or trustees as above.
Trustee or volunteer finds themselves alone with a child or adult at risk	Avoid this situation where possible. Find another adult to assist, or the responsible adult who should be present if the child is under 16.
Online meetings may be attended by unaccompanied children under 16	Trustees are aware of the potential for online abuse. Meetings are controlled via a specific link with designated administrator(s) only open for the meeting duration. Individual private chat will not be enabled. Public chat, images and video will be moderated.
Children or vulnerable adults may use the Facebook page	The two trustees moderating the Facebook page are aware of the potential for online abuse and familiar with the safeguarding policy. Inappropriate postings are taken down and any posts that raise safeguarding concerns will be reported to the safeguarding trustee

Photographs from field visits may be published on website/social media and used for other publicity	When photographs of children may be taken and later displayed on the RGSC website, parents or guardians are made aware of this by the trustee/ volunteer organising the event. Names of children must not be displayed with any photographs published on websites unless written permission has been obtained from a parent or guardian. Contact details or links to other institutions (e.g. schools, clubs) will not be made available unless these organisations have agreed.
Direct personal contact or correspondence with under 16s or vulnerable adult.	No unsupervised direct contact with children under 16. All correspondence about events will be made from the RGSC email account.
DBS checks have not been carried out for trustees	DBS checks are not considered necessary given the minimal contact trustees have with unaccompanied children or adults at risk through RGSC activities

How to deal with safeguarding issues

1. Listen to a child or adult at risk who wants to tell you about abuse. Don't ask leading questions. Don't promise a child that you will keep the information to yourself, explain that you will have to pass on information.

    - If a child or vulnerable adult has disclosed something to you, pass the information on firstly to the safeguarding trustee and they or you will pass it to either the police or the multiagency team (see below) as appropriate. If the child is in the care of a school or equivalent organisation acting *in loco parentis*, the information should be passed to them.

    - An adult at risk who has capacity may decide that they don't want to take the issue further and that decision should be respected unless it involves a criminal offence or risk to them or another person. If that's the case, then report it to the police having informed the person concerned first.

2. If you see or hear something that gives cause for concern, make a note of it. What happened, who was involved, where did it happen and when?

3. If there's an immediate threat to the person, then act to make them safe unless it would endanger you or others. If the situation can't be made safe call the emergency services.

4. Inform the safeguarding trustee within 24 hours of identifying any safeguarding issues and include any notes you made relating to the incident.

    - Keep to the facts, do not ask any leading questions, do not make any commitment to action.
    - Maintain confidentiality - do not discuss or inform anyone other than the safeguarding trustee or the police if they are involved, without prior agreement with the safeguarding trustee or the police.

5. A reportable incident is one which involves a child or adult at risk reporting or displaying signs of potential harm or abuse.

    - If you are concerned always report the issue but maintain confidentiality.
    - Your first point of referral should be the safeguarding trustee or their deputy. In a situation where they are not available, refer the issue directly to the multiagency team – see below.
    - In a situation where the responsible adult is a schoolteacher or equivalent supervisor from an institution *in loco parentis*, this concern and information can and should be passed on to them.

Nominated trustees:

Safeguarding lead – Linda Beskeen

Safeguarding lead – Loveday Jenkin

- Level 3 safeguarding training (certificate on file)
- Cyber Security training (certificate on file)
- DBS enhanced certificate as School Governor Crofty Academy Trust

Reviewed and approved by RGSC trustees on 10 Sep 2025

Are you worried about a child or young person?

If you think a child or young person might be suffering neglect or abuse contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU)

If you see something, say something

0300 1231 116

multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk

Whilst you may be concerned about involving our services, we do more than check up on children and young people's welfare.

If a family is struggling, we can organise early help and support for them, before any problems become harder to solve.

What information do I need to give?

The more detail you are able to provide, the better we will be able to help.

If you have noticed that something wrong, other people might have too. A teacher, health visitor or other person that knows the family might have already alerted us, and your knowledge might fill in some missing information that can help.

CORNWALL COUNCIL

Together for Families