



Bethnal Green Nature Reserve Trust

Child Safeguarding Policy

Last Updated: 01 September 2024

ABOUT THIS POLICY

This policy is to make sure that Bethnal Green Nature Reserve Trust (the **Trust**) has all the right procedures in place to protect children and young people who receive our services from harm.

Everyone is welcome at Bethnal Green Nature Reserve (the **Reserve**). We are committed to creating a space free of any form of discrimination, harassment, and hostility. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Trust in working together to promote the welfare of children and young people using our services and safeguarding them from abuse.

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**CONCERNED ABOUT A
CHILD? GO TO PAGE 10
NOW FOR WHAT TO DO**

Introduction

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the Trust, including, but not limited to, trustees, site managers, session providers, volunteers, individuals carrying out activities at the Reserve and interns, (referred to collectively in this statement as 'staff'). Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Purpose of the Child Safeguarding Policy

- to ensure good practice to protect children and young people who receive the Trust's services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services.
- to give staff, as well as children and young people and their families, full information about the principles that guide our approach.

Children means persons under 18 years of age.

Most children visit in school groups or with a responsible adult such as a relative or youth group leader (We refer to this adult as the child's carer).

At the Reserve

- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is of the greatest importance.
- All people have a right to protection from harm or abuse irrespective of their age, culture, disability, sex, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity.
- Children usually visit with relatives, teachers or carers who are primarily responsible for their care during the visit, unless agreed by all parties, with written consent, that children are left in the care of our Forest School staff.
- Even so, staff may be in the position to notice cause for concern or to have a disclosure made to them. All staff have responsibility for creating a culture in which people feel safe and able to speak. Staff should take appropriate action, thereafter, working to agreed local policies, procedures and legal requirements.
- Safeguarding is being proactive to ensure that all systems and policies minimise the risk of harm to children. We maintain the attitude of '*it could happen here*' in order to remain vigilant to any concerns relating to safeguarding.

All disclosures and concerns will be dealt with swiftly (see **Section 3** below) in a professional manner and taken seriously by the Trust.

We will aim to safeguard children by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and codes of conduct for staff and for participants (including external collaborators, volunteers, parents/guardians).
- Recruiting staff safely, ensuring necessary enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) & reference checks are made for all staff.
- Staff for forest school sessions will include at least one practitioner with Forest School Level 3 qualification or equivalent outdoor learning qualification. Activities will be planned &

adjusted bearing in mind adult:child ratio according to Ofsted and NSPCC recommendations and the needs of participants: Recommended adult to child ratios for working with children | NSPCC Learning

- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with staff and participants.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know and involving children and parents appropriately.
- Providing training & clear communication channels for all staff.
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern (see poster at Appendix 3).
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against any staff and have clear whistleblowing procedures (see our Whistleblowing Policy).
- Creating and maintaining a bullying prevention environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, whilst recognising we cannot eliminate all risks, especially where this would impact on the wildlife and detract from the appeal and benefit of the woodland: by risk assessing our activities; carrying out regular safety sweeps of the nature reserve and having a first aider (paediatric 1st aid) present at all sessions run by the Trust.

NB: This policy statement should be read alongside the following documents:

- Code of Conduct
- Internal Grievance Handling Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- BGNRT Forest School Risk Assessment (internal document available on request)

Section 1 – Child Safeguarding Procedures

Procedures

- All staff and visitors should follow our Code of Conduct. Visitors are reminded of the Code at the start of each visit.
- Children should answer the questions in the Child Code of Conduct at Appendix 2 (page 21) with the assistance of their adult guardian.
- At the start of each session, visitors will be introduced to staff members for that session.
- We encourage positive relationships. Respectful, inclusive, and appropriate language should be used. We value each other and the inhabitants of the Reserve.
- All activities involving children will be supervised by DBS checked staff observing OFSTED approved ratios of staff and adults, according to the activity and participants present.
- Children are to attend with a responsible adult or a consent form with medical and emergency contact details is to be completed for any unaccompanied children by their parent/carer before attending.
- Staff should not be alone with a child if in a concealed area of the nature reserve. If an accident or first aid incident requires this, staff will inform another adult and call assistance at the earliest opportunity. Staff may not touch a child in a way that could be misunderstood or without their express consent, unless to prevent harm.
- Mobile phones are permitted to be carried by staff for safety and smooth running of activities e.g. for calling emergency services or on duty colleagues when required. Otherwise, phones are not used by staff while children are on site during the session.
- If photos or videos are taken, written permission from carers and verbal permission from subjects is required.
- Service providers/session leaders hosting events as guests of the Trust should have their own safeguarding procedures and should also report any incident to the trust in writing to the Chair of Trustees, Sajida Malik - see contacts p14.

Safeguarding for volunteers

- Volunteers from a large part of the community at the Reserve. Volunteers need to be aware of safeguarding procedures and feel confident in expressing any concerns they may have regarding other members of the community and/or staff. When volunteers sign up for volunteer sessions, they will receive an automated email linking to the sign-ups Google doc and the Trust's safeguarding procedures.
- When volunteers are inducted to become site key holders (after attending a minimum of 4 sessions) they will agree to our safeguarding policies and code of conduct. Any volunteers refusing to comply with our safeguarding policies will be suspended from site until the matter is resolved. Please see our complaints procedure.

Safeguarding for contractors

- Contractors (i.e. occasional service providers, not regular members of staff working on a contractor basis) are not to be onsite alone, if contractors need to be onsite alone, the Reserve will be closed to the public (i.e. non-key holders).

- Contractors dropping off woodchips will be onsite for a minimal amount of time and have relevant safeguarding information shared with them. The site manager will be responsible for making sure that these deliveries are carried out in a way that complies with our safeguarding. If this is not possible the delivery will not be made.

Safeguarding during events

- Anyone running an event at the Reserve has to have read and agreed to our standard of safeguarding. Events will always be stewarded by a member of staff from the Trust unless they are a group that requires exclusive access. Exclusive access groups need to have their own risk assessments and safeguarding policy and insurance in place that is aligned with the Trust.

Training and Awareness:

We will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to our Trustees, Employees, Volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (e.g. contractors). For all employees who are working or volunteering with children, this requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children.
- Recognise a child in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with individuals.
- Have knowledge of this *Child Safeguarding Policy*.

Similarly, employees and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk. For more information about the safeguarding of adults, please refer to the *Adult Safeguarding Policy*.

Safe Recruitment & Selection:

We are committed to safe employment and safe recruitment practices that reduce the risk of harm to children from people unsuitable to work with them.

We have policies and procedures that cover the recruitment of all Trustees, employees, and volunteers. All staff working on site must have an up-to-date enhanced DBS certificate. For more information, please see our *Recruitment Policy*.

Section 2 – Recognising Signs of Child Abuse

Types of abuse

There are a number of different forms of abuse, the main ones being:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Online
- Grooming
- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Radicalisation
- Domestic
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Forced marriage

Remember the 4 Rs:

RECOGNISE If you have a concern, notice a problem, witness an incident, or receive a direct disclosure.

RESPOND Keep calm and reassure the individual and tell them what you need to do.

RECORD Who, what, where and when. Make notes, but do not prompt or lead.

REFER The information to a DSL using the process in Section 3 with as much detail as possible within 24 hours.

An individual may abuse or neglect a child directly or may be responsible for abuse by failing to prevent another person harming that child.

These categories of abuse are described in more detail below.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing, and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual photographic or online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on their development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are

beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of their health or development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional need.

Online

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children may experience cyber bullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse. Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online). Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people.

Grooming

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse or exploitation. Children can be groomed online or in the real world, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age. Many children don't understand that they have been groomed, or that what has happened is abuse.

Bullying and cyberbullying

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else - it can take many forms, but the three main types are:

- Physical - hitting, kicking, theft etc.
- Verbal - racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling etc.
- Emotional - isolating an individual from the activities or social acceptance of their peer group.

Ultimately it is the perception of the victim that determines whether or not they are being bullied, rather than the intention of the bully. It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally. Bullying that happens online, using social networks and mobile phones, is often called cyber bullying. A child can feel like there's no escape because it can happen wherever they are, at any time of day or night. Bullying should not be ignored, and the victim should be supported through what can be a traumatic experience. Bullying will not just go away. Bullies can be very cunning and develop strategies to avoid it being seen by anyone but the victim.

Radicalisation

We define radicalisation as 'the process by which a person comes to support far right/terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism'. Young and vulnerable students are susceptible towards radicalisation by malicious individuals who attempt to lead the young/vulnerable students astray and to commit violent extremism. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for different faiths, beliefs, sexual identities/preferences. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to stop children being radicalised. Radicalisation can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist, far right/terrorist group may appear to provide the answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people. The Trust aims to nurture a safe space where a variety of broad and balanced discussions can happen regarding political, spiritual, moral, and cultural ideas. The Trust promotes a compassionate community in which people can always endeavour to understand one another and discuss sensitive topics. If any opinions or ideologies concern you, you should speak with a member of staff following our Complaints Procedure.

Domestic

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. But it isn't just physical violence – domestic abuse includes any emotional, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological abuse. It can happen in any relationship, and even after the relationship has ended. Both men and women can be abused or abusers. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna. Religious, social, or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health. It is illegal to take a child abroad in order to perform FGM.

Child sexual exploitation and abuse

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money, or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed and exploited online. Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs. Child sexual exploitation is a hidden crime. Young people often trust their abuser and don't understand that they're being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what's happening.

It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults, including oral and anal rape. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection, or status. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online.

Forced marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning difficulties or who are under-age, cannot) consent to the marriage and where duress is used to enforce the marriage. 'Duress' includes psychological, sexual, financial, or emotional pressure and physical violence. Forced marriage is a violation of human rights and is seen in the UK as a form of domestic violence and/or child abuse. It may affect girls, boys, women and men from any community or background. However, existing statistics show that greater numbers of women are affected. Forcing someone to marry without their consent is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty is seven years imprisonment. It is also illegal to take someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place) or to marry someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they are pressured to or not).

Signs of harm or abuse

Harm is an action or behaviour which has a detrimental effect on a child's physical or emotional health or wellbeing. Harm is often referred to as neglect, abuse, or bullying. Harm may start as poor practice, which might include: shouting, ignoring health and safety guidelines, failing to adhere to this policy etc. Neither poor practice nor suspicions of harm should be ignored - they should always be reported, and victims supported throughout. It is important to recognise the signs and indicators of abuse and to be aware of how it should be dealt with.

A child may be being abused or bullied if they:

- Change their usual routine
- Begin to be disruptive during sessions
- Being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- Have possessions going missing
- Become aggressive or unreasonable
- Start to stammer or stop communicating

- Have unexplained cuts or bruises
- Start to bully other children
- Are frequently dirty, smelly, hungry or inadequately dressed
- Display sexual behaviour or using sexual language inappropriate for their age
- Seem afraid of parents or carers
- Takes risks
- Obsessive behaviour
- Misses school
- Stop eating/eating disorders/changes in eating habits
- Self-harms
- Thoughts about suicide
- Are frightened to say what's wrong
- Don't want to attend or take part in activities.

One of these signs on its own is very unlikely to be an indicator of abuse. However, cumulatively they should be taken seriously. Staff need to be aware of these possible signs and always report any concerns using the procedures in **Section 3**.

Section 3 - What to do if you suspect a child is at risk of abuse or you receive information about potential abuse

Reporting a concern

If a crime is in progress, or an individual is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.

Otherwise:

If you are concerned about a child, including a child making a disclosure to you, or have a safeguarding concern about another adult:

- Report to session lead at the earliest opportunity. **Do not wait** until the end of the session.
- If the child is attending with a school/youth group, report to person leading the group and explain that you will need to follow the reporting process in this policy.

You should also within 24 hours report your concern to one of the Designated Safeguarding specialists (“**Designated Safeguarders**”) within the Trust:

- **Sajida Malik (Chair and Designated Safeguarding Officer)**
- **Ingrid Chen (Designated Safeguarding lead for Forest Friday)**
- **Michael Smythe**

See contact details below.

- If none of the Designated Safeguarders are available, you can contact **Hamlets Children's Services Advice and Assessment Team: 020 7364 5601 or 020 7364 5606**

or NSPCC 0808 800 5000

- If the concern is with the session lead, teacher or Trustee, you should report your concern directly to Tower Hamlets **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Melanie Benzie (02073640677)**.
- Make written notes using the reporting template, dated, timed and signed, as soon as possible and definitely before leaving the Reserve at the end of the session and give to session lead/Designated Safeguarder for safe storage.

If a child makes a disclosure:

- Remain calm and in control but don't delay acting.
- Listen carefully to what is said. Allow the person to tell the story at their own pace and ask questions only for clarification. Don't ask questions that suggest a particular answer. Ask open questions only 'What happened there?', do not ask leading questions.
- Don't promise to “keep it a secret”. The first opportunity should be taken to say that this information will have to be shared with others. It should be made clear that only people who need to know will be told and that they should be able to help. The child should be reassured that they “did the right thing” in telling someone.
- The child should be told what is going to happen next, i.e. that you are going to contact the safeguarding officer. It is important to use the child's own words and not to summarise or put it in your own words.

- Make written notes, dated, timed and signed, as soon as possible and definitely before leaving the Reserve at the end of the session, **observe confidentiality** and give to session lead / Designated Safeguarder for safe storage.
- Written records may be used in court evidence and must not be discussed or shared in any way that may cause them to be inadmissible.

Checklist for reporting suspected abuse

Staff who are reporting suspected abuse should have this information to hand – see Reporting Form in Appendix 1 when reporting suspected abuse:

- Name of child.
- Age.
- Home address and home number (if known).
- Are you reporting your own concerns or passing on those of somebody else? Give details.
- Brief description of what has prompted the concerns: include dates, times, locations etc, of any specific incidents.
- Any physical signs? Behavioural signs? Indirect signs? See Section 2 above.
- Have you spoken to the child? If so, what was said?
- Have you spoken to the parent(s) or carers? If so, what was said?
- Has anybody been alleged to be the abuser? If so, give details.
- Have you consulted anybody else? Give details.
- Your name and role.
- To whom reported and date of reporting.

Following a concern

Following a disclosure or concern being raised, in addition to above, the following steps must be undertaken:

- Notify a Designated Safeguarder or external DSL (as defined above) if no Designated Safeguarders are available immediately (must be within 24 hours) following the conversation. It is that person's responsibility to liaise with relevant authorities, usually social services.
- As soon as possible, a note should be made (within 24 hours) using the reporting template in Appendix 1 of what was said, using the child's own words. Note the date, time, any names that were involved or mentioned and who the information was given to. Once a report has been made, don't discuss the information with people that have not been directly involved in the incident or those outside of the organisation.
- The Designated Safeguarder / DSL must contact the Social Service or relevant police unit (details provided in the next section).
- The person reporting the concern should check back with the Designated Safeguarder / DSL to ensure action has been taken, the day after reporting the concern.
- The Designated Safeguarder/ DSL must ensure that the person that has received the disclosure has understood their responsibilities, the need for confidentiality and that appropriate records have been created.

- The safeguarding officer or designated trustee will liaise with the Social Service and the Police until the investigation is concluded.
- If a further concern is reported about the same child then the Designated Safeguarder / DSL will report this again, in the same way and not assume that anyone else is aware of the concern.
- If you, or the Designated Safeguarder / DSL, haven't heard back from social care within three days of the referral, contact them to find out what's happening.

What if your concern is about a staff member within the Trust?

In any instance of safeguarding, consideration must be given as to whether an allegation has been made against anyone within the Trust and who may be a risk to children. This can be anyone from a formal employee or volunteer to an informal carer.

In this scenario, you should report the staff member to their immediate line manager or trusted member of staff. If this is not possible, report your concern to the Chair of Trustee (Sajida Malik).

If there is no-one within the Trust that you feel safe reporting to, contact the Charity Commission: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>
Or the Tower Hamlets Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Melanie Benzie (02073640677)

Dealing with media enquiries

Child abuse is an issue which will generate media interest.

- Contact the Trust's management immediately if you are aware of a safeguarding issue that might, or has, attracted media interest.
- Don't give any statement to the media – refer them to the Chair of the Trust (see contact details in Section 4).

Do not speak off the record in any situation involving safeguarding issues.

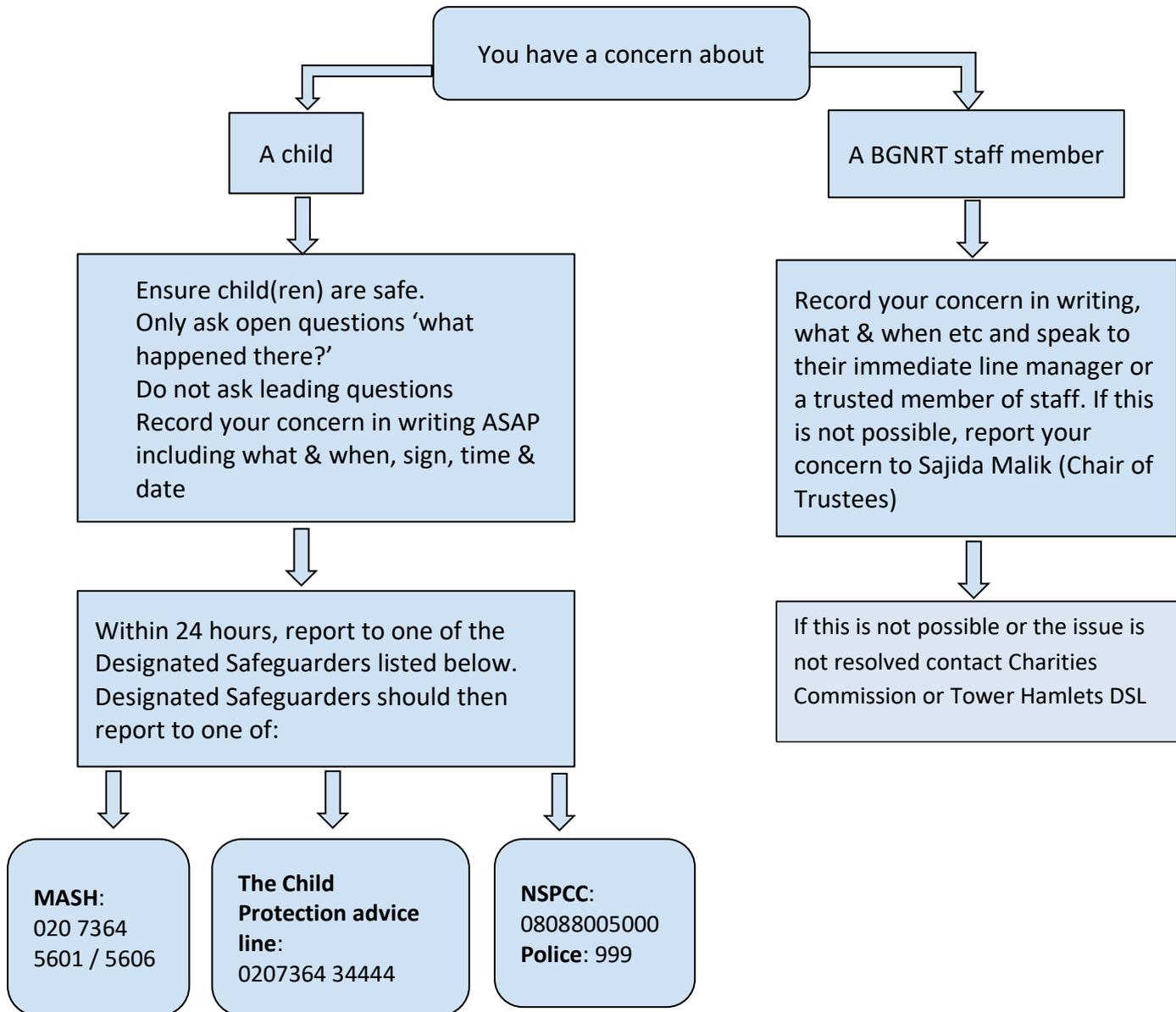
Investigations and Enquiries

Staff are **not** responsible for investigating suspected abuse. If investigation is necessary, the DSLs will liaise with investigators i.e. police, Children's Social Care (CSC) and Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT).

If an allegation involves a staff member, the staff member will be suspended and asked not to access the Trust during the investigation.

If an allegation involves a visitor, they will be asked not to access the Reserve during the investigation.

FLOWCHART - SUMMARY OF REPORTING PROCESS



Designated Safeguarders

- **Chair of the Trust:** Sajida Malik: trustees@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org
- **Forest Friday Lead:** Ingrid Chen: treeschool@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org
- **All other Trust activities:** Michael Smythe: info@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org

If none of above Designated Safeguarders are available, you can contact the Tower Hamlets Children's Services Advice and Assessment Team: 020 7364 5601 or 020 7364 5606 or NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Section 4 – Useful Resources and Contacts

Contact Details

A) Forest Friday: Ingrid Chen

Forest School Lead & Designated Safeguarding Lead
treeschool@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org

B) For other Trust activities:

Michael Smythe info@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org

C) Trustee Designated Safeguarding Officer

Sajida Malik - Chair of the Bethnal Green Nature Reserve Trust

Email trustees@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org

D) LBTH children's services advice and assessment team (if none of the above are available)

020 7364 5601 or 020 7364 5606

E) External Local Designated Safeguarding Lead (for complaints about BGNRT or external group staff)

Melanie Benzie

02073640677 / 07903238827

lado@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Also:

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

Helpline 0808 800 5000

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/health_social_care/children_and_family_care/Multi-Agency-Safeguarding-Hub-MASH.aspx

Tel: 020 7364 5601 / 5606 MASH@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Police Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT)

Tel: 020 8217 6484

Alternative numbers for urgent concerns:

- **LBTH Early Help Hub:** 0207 364 5006 (option 2)
- Social Care Out of Hours Team: 020 7364 4079.
- **18 or under? Childline offers free, confidential advice and support whatever your worry, whenever you need help. 0800 1111**

Safeguarding Law

In England the law states that people who work with children have to keep them safe. This policy is informed by safeguarding legislation set out in:

- The Children Act (1989) and (2004). Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key persons and bodies to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions, they take into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Summary here: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06787/>
- Safeguarding also features in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which the UK is a signatory) and which sets out the rights of children to be free from abuse. Summary here: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/gb/reports/humanitarian/uncrc19-summary2.pdf>
- The Equality Act 2010 offers protection from discrimination, harassment and victimisation for nine specific personal characteristics. These are known as protected characteristics under the law: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance#:~:text=the%20basic%20framework%20of%20protection,the%20requirement%20for%20medical%20supervision>
- Keeping children safe during community activities, after school clubs and tuition (updated 2022) advises on best practice for creating a safe environment for children in their care to give parents and carers confidence that their child is in a safe activity or learning environment: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940872/Keeping_children_safe_code_of_practice.pdf
- Working together to safeguard children (July 2020 sets out the concept that every agency, organisation and individual is responsible for working together to safeguard children: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 was passed to help avoid harm, or risk of harm, by preventing people who are deemed unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults from gaining access to them through their work. The Independent Safeguarding Authority was established as a result of this Act: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/notes/division/2>

DBS Checks

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are a check on a person's criminal record to help decide suitability for employment. Working with children requires an Enhanced Check which is more detailed, therefore all of our staff will have up to date enhanced DBS checks before working on site with children at the Reserve.

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, at least once a year.

The Trust will amend this policy, following review, where appropriate.

APPENDIX 1 - SAFEGUARDING REPORTING FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PAGES OF THIS FORM

Your details:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Name: | | Organisation: | |
| Your role: | | Tel/mobile: | |
| Address: | | email: | |

Child's details:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Name: | | School/Group if applicable: | |
| DOB: | | Gender: | |
| Address: | | Borough: | |
| | | Tel: | |
| | | email: | |

Parent/carer details:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Name: | |
| Address: | |
| Has parent/carer been informed? | Yes / No |
| If yes, please provide details below: | |
| | |

| Whose concerns are being reported? If reporting another person's concerns, record their details | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Name: | | Reporter's relationship to child: | |
| Address: | | Tel: | |
| | | Mobile: | |
| | | email: | |

Incident information

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| What happened? | |
| What did child report? | |
| What did you tell child? | |
| Where did it happen? -location & address | |
| When did it happen? | Date: _____ Time: _____ |
| When was it reported? | Date: _____ Time: _____ |
| Who was it reported to? | Name: Contact details: |
| Who was it reported by? | Name: |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| | Contact details: |
| Any witnesses? | Name: Contact details: |
| Has the incident been reported to external agencies? | Yes / No |
| If yes, which? | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|
| Signed | | |
| Person reporting | Name: | Signature: |
| DSO | Name: | Signature: |

APPENDIX 2: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CHILDREN

At Bethnal Green Nature Reserve, we aim to respect and care for our fellow inhabitants, including plants and animals. By entering Bethnal Green Nature Reserve, you agree to do the same!

One of the adult team might ask you to behave differently in order to help this happen, so please make sure to follow their guidance!

Remember:

- a) We should be kind and respectful to each other, adults and children alike.
- b) No pick, no lick: We don't pick parts of living plants unless it is the job we are doing e.g. weeding. One of our staff will explain when this is ok.
- c) We don't put things in our mouths unless we have cleaned our hands and your adult or staff say it's ok.
- d) The pink flags mean STOP! This is to keep you and others safe. Stay on the paths and take care not to disturb homes of animals.
- e) We take only photos; we leave only footprints.

Thank you!

Checklist:

My adult confirms that none of my household or I have tested positive for COVID-19, none have possible COVID-19 symptoms:

Yes / No

My adult consents to me using fire and sharp tools under supervision:

Yes / No

OPTIONAL

My adult consents to me being photographed, if I also agree, while taking part in activities at Bethnal Green Nature Reserve:

Yes / No

My adult consents to photos of me being used on Bethnal Green Nature Reserve's social media:

Yes / No

childline

If you are worried or need help, speak to:

Ingrid (07981422219); or

Michael (0781726227)

You can also call Childline: 0800 1111



Do you need to talk?

We're here to listen and help



Sajida

Bethnal Green Nature Reserve Trust Chair
& Designated Safeguarding Officer
trustees@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org

Michael

Senior Site Manager
07817262277

info@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org



Ingrid

Forest Friday Forest School Lead &
Designated Safeguarding Lead
treeschool@bethnalgreennaturereserve.org

Or call

Childline **0800 1111**

NSPCC **0808 800 5000**
help@NSPCC.org.uk

