

# Swansea Canal Society



## Cymdeithas Camlas Abertawe

### **STATEMENT AND POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS**

The named responsible person for safeguarding is **Sharon Blackford (Trustee)** who can be contacted on 07949 000340

#### **Safeguarding Policy Statement**

Swansea Canal Society is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, young people and adults. It recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice to safeguard and protect from harm, abuse and exploitation.

Swansea Canal Society acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

In implementing this policy Swansea Canal Society will:

- Ensure that trustees and volunteers understand their responsibility to protect children and young people and adults from harm, abuse and exploitation and provide opportunities to develop their skills;
- Ensure trustees and volunteers are aware of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 & Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and encourage them to install the Wales Safeguarding Procedures App
- Ensure that trustees and volunteers understand how to report concerns/suspicions that arise about: a child, young person or adult at risk or a worker's conduct towards a child/young person or adult at risk, to the organisation's named person for safeguarding;
- Ensure that trustees understand their responsibility to refer any safeguarding concerns to the statutory agencies (i.e. Police and/or Children and Young People's or Adult Social Services Teams);

### **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY**

Swansea Canal Society provides a range of opportunities to a wide range of individuals and we recognise that some volunteers may be in need of support services. We recognise Safeguarding is protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and ensuring they are safe, it is about protecting and preventing abuse occurring, it is providing trustees and volunteers with information so they can recognise and report suspicions, concerns or disclosures or allegations of abuse.

This policy applies to Swansea Canal Society trustees, volunteers and participants.

## Key Legislation

### ***Children and adult information***

**The Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014** (SSWBWA 2014)

<https://socialcare.wales/hub/home>

**The Mental Capacity Act 2005:**

. <https://www.scie.org.uk/mca/introduction/mental-capacity-act-2005-at-a-glance>

**Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) 2015 Act (VAWDASV)**

<https://livefearfree.gov.wales/policies-and-guidance/vawdasv-wales-act-2015?lang=en>

**Human Rights Act 1998** <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/civil-rights/human-rights/the-human-rights-act-1998/>

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRDP)**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-human-rights-work/monitoring-and-promoting-un-treaties/un-convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

**Equality Act 2010** <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/equality-act-2010>

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

**Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** <http://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

### **Who is responsible for safeguarding?**

Trustees, volunteers and participants of Swansea Canal Society have a duty to report any concern of abuse.

- The role and responsibilities of **all** is to: Recognise signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and report concerns.
- Recognise and report dangerous, abusive, discriminatory or exploitative behaviour.
- Act in response to immediate risk to a vulnerable people. eg contacting emergency services.

We will assign a designated person for Safeguarding. If it is not possible to contact the designated person, then Social Services should be contacted and will offer advice and assistance.

The role and responsibilities of the designated person will be:

- To ensure that trustees and volunteers are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they are concerned that a child or adult who may be subject to abuse or neglect.
- Ensure any concerns about a child or adult are acted on, clearly recorded and referred on.

## **Training and Support.**

Swansea Canal Society will ensure that the named person attends safeguarding training and will ensure that all trustees and volunteers are familiar with this policy and will outline the duties of all, to report any child or adult concern/suspicion, disclosure/allegation and the process to follow.

Swansea Canal Society will encourage all trustees and volunteers to complete Social Care Wales Group A eLearning

<https://socialcare.wales/learning-modules/group-a-safeguarding>

## **Recognising Abuse - Definitions**

Child at risk – a child at risk is a child who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)

Adult at risk – an adult at risk is an adult who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

(Social Services Well Being Act (Wales) 2014)

**Details of signs and symptoms of abuse below are provided to all and trustees volunteers.**

### Categories of Abuse

- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional / psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse

### **Physical abuse:**

Some signs and indicators may include:

- Cuts
- Fractures
- Burns and scalds
- Scratches and bite marks
- Bruises
  
- Unexplained injuries or burns, especially if they are recurrent
- Refusal to discuss injuries – or different accounts of an injury
- Untreated injuries

**Neglect:**

Neglect is the failure to meet a person's basic physical or psychological needs (e.g. failure to access medical care, poor nutrition, lack of heating, etc.) This is likely to result in the serious impairment of the person's health and development.

Some possible signs and symptoms of Neglect may include:

- Low weight
- Always really hungry
- Poor Hygiene
- Change in behaviour depressed/withdrawn/anxious

**Emotional / Psychological abuse:**

Some possible indicators of emotional/psychological abuse may include:

- Poor self esteem
- Aggression
- Unresponsiveness
- Complete or partial withdrawal from activities.
- Loss of appetite or unusual weight loss
- Fear of new situations

**Sexual Abuse:**

Sexual abuse includes rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the person has not, or could not, give consent.

Some possible signs and symptoms may include:

- Bruising on chest/breasts, inner thighs or buttocks
- Sudden or unexpected changes in behaviour
- Have unexplained sources of money
- Other behaviour which may indicate sexual abuse includes fear of particular people or one person, anxiety, feelings of worthlessness and over-compliant behaviour.

**Financial Abuse:**

Financial or material abuse includes theft, fraud, pressure around wills property or inheritance, misuse or misappropriation of benefits.

Some possible signs and symptoms may include:

- Personal possessions of value go missing from the home without satisfactory explanation
- Unusual purchases unrelated to the known interests of the child or young person
- Lack of essential items such as coat, shoes etc.
- Unusual interest taken by relative, friend, neighbour in financial assets especially if little real concern is shown in other matters
- Unexplained or sudden inability to pay bills
- Contrast between known income or capital and unnecessarily poor living conditions. Especially where this has developed recently

**Other Safeguarding Issues:**

**Domestic Abuse** - Domestic abuse is described as the use of physical and/or emotional abuse or violence, including undermining self-confidence, sexual violence or the threat of violence, by a person who is or who has been in a close relationship. It can also include violence perpetrated by a son, daughter or any other person who has a close or blood relationship with the victim/survivor.

**Forced Marriage** A forced marriage is one that happens without full and free consent of both involved. Force may include physical force, emotional pressure, threat or being a victim of psychological abuse, can happen to males and females.

**Honour Based Violence** - may also be known as 'Honour Crime' can also occur to those aged under 18yrs and therefore a child in the eyes of the law. Honour based violence **is** when a person is punished by their family and/or community for behaving in a way that is believed to have brought shame or dishonour.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** - is the alteration or partial or total removal of the female external genitalia for religious cultural or social reasons. It may also be known as female circumcision or cutting. There are no medical benefits to FGM and in this country it is seen as abuse and a criminal offence that can have lasting damage both physically and emotionally.

### **Confidentiality**

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) protects personal data and the sharing of information without explicit consent. The Data Protection Act 1998 requires you to disclose information if it's likely to assist in the prevention, detection or prosecution of a crime and if a failure to disclose would be prejudicial to those purposes.

**No trustee or volunteer of Swansea Canal Society is able to promise absolute confidentiality** as all have a responsibility (duty of care) to disclose information to other agencies that need to know in relation to safeguarding children and adults and protecting them.

In general, all have a responsibility to ensure information related to their role remains confidential unless circumstances above override or where that individual gives their permission for that information to be shared. The protection of the child or adult is the most important consideration.

## Reporting Procedure

The named responsible person for safeguarding duties is:

**Sharon Blackford** (Trustee) who can be contacted on 07949 000340

If a child or adult makes an allegation of abuse or you are informed by a third party that abuse may be happening or a committee member or volunteer has a concern that abuse may be happening then the following should be adhered to:

- ❖ Where it is believed there is at immediate risk of serious harm contact police 999. Inform the Designated Person or another committee member of the concern.
- ❖ Where it is **not** believed there is an immediate risk of serious harm, inform the designated person or if they are not available contact social services to seek advice.
- ❖ Those reporting the incident will provide their name, contact details (telephone number), information related to the issue.
- ❖ The Designated Person will gather the information and details and make clear recordings including dates, times, people present, information about the concern or the disclosure and will seek advice from/refer to social services as appropriate.
- ❖ **Never confront the alleged abuser.**

❖ Date adopted: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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❖ Signed: *Gordon Walker*  
Chairperson

Print name: Gordon Walker,

To be reviewed annually

## **Appendix 1**

### **Useful Numbers Swansea**

**Emergency Duty Team** (Adults & Children) Out of hours emergencies (5.30pm to 8am) 01792 775501

**Child and Family Information, Advice and Assistance Service** (This team deals with all initial enquiries and referrals relating to children in need, including child protection issues.

Tel: 01792 635700 Email: [access.information@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:access.information@swansea.gov.uk)

Monday - Thursday: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm

Friday: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

### **Common Access Point for Health and Social Care (CAP)-Adults**

This team deals with all initial enquiries and referrals relating to adults. At busy times, calls may be held in a queue.

Tel: 01792 636519 Email: [CAP@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:CAP@swansea.gov.uk)

Monday - Thursday: 8.30 am - 5.00 pm

Friday: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

