Safeguarding Adults Policy

1. Purpose

Hengistbury Head Outdoors is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, dignity, wellbeing, and rights of all adults who use our services.

We recognise that some adults may be at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or harm and have a right to live free from abuse and neglect.

This policy applies to all:

- Staff
- Volunteers
- Trustees/directors
- Contractors
- Sessional workers

2. Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- Department of Health and Social Care
- Department of Health and Social Care
- UK Government
- Relevant local safeguarding adults board procedures

3. Safeguarding Principles

Our safeguarding practice is guided by:

1. Empowerment – supporting adults to make their own decisions.
2. Prevention – taking action before harm occurs.
3. Proportionality – responding appropriately to risk.

4. Protection – supporting those in greatest need.
5. Partnership – working with other agencies where appropriate.
6. Accountability – being transparent and responsible.

4. Definition of an Adult at Risk

An adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met), and
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- Is unable to protect themselves because of those needs.

5. Types of Abuse

Abuse may include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Domestic abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Modern slavery
- Online abuse
- Exploitation

6. Responsibilities

Directors

Directors are responsible for:

- Ensuring safeguarding arrangements are in place
- Reviewing this policy annually

- Supporting safe recruitment and DBS processes
- The lead Director is the operations Director

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for:

- Receiving safeguarding concerns
- Maintaining records
- Making referrals where appropriate
- Supporting volunteers and staff

Designated Safeguarding Lead:
Name: Jess Pearsey
Email: Jess@hengistbury.org
Telephone: 07847256108

Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

- Complete safeguarding training
- Read and follow this policy
- Report concerns immediately
- Maintain confidentiality

7. Reporting Concerns

If a volunteer or staff member becomes concerned about an adult:

1. Stay calm.
2. Listen without judgment.
3. Do not promise confidentiality.
4. Record the facts as soon as possible.
5. Report immediately to the DSL.

Where there is an immediate risk of serious harm:

- Contact emergency services (999).
- Inform the DSL as soon as possible.

8. Record Keeping

All safeguarding concerns must be:

- Recorded promptly
- Factual and accurate
- Stored securely
- Shared only with those who need to know

9. Information Sharing

Information may be shared without consent where:

- There is a risk of serious harm
- A crime may have been committed
- There is a legal duty to share information

Information sharing will be proportionate and compliant with data protection legislation.

10. Safe Recruitment

The organisation will:

- Obtain references where appropriate
- Conduct DBS checks where required
- Provide safeguarding induction and training
- Maintain codes of conduct for volunteers and staff

11. Whistleblowing

All volunteers and staff have the right and responsibility to raise concerns about unsafe practices.

No person will suffer detriment for raising a genuine safeguarding concern.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.

Date approved: 20/07/26

Review date: 21/07/27

Signed: _____S. Glen_____

Role: __Operations Director _____