



BIGGAR

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children, at risk adults and beneficiaries of assistance, from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with Biggar Community Action Group (BCAG). This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of volunteers associated with Biggar Community Action Group
- The design and implementation of Biggar Community Action Group's programmes and activities

The policy lays out the commitments made by Biggar Community Action Group and informs volunteers of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

- Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by Biggar Community Action Groups or its volunteers

What is safeguarding?

- In the UK, safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, well-being, and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect
- In BCAG we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our volunteers or programmes.

Policy Statement

- Biggar Community Action Group believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- This policy will address the following areas of safeguarding: child safeguarding, adult safeguarding, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Biggar Community Action Group commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, via prevention, reporting and response.

Prevention

Biggar Community Action Group's Responsibilities

BCAG will:

- Ensure all staff have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with BCAG. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated.
- Implement safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying volunteers
- Ensure volunteers receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organization
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process

Volunteers' responsibilities

Child safeguarding

Volunteers must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 16
- Sexually abuse or exploit children
- Subject a child to physical, emotional, or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children

Adult safeguarding

BCAG volunteers must not:

- Sexually abuse or exploit at risk adults
- Subject an at risk adult to physical, emotional, or psychological abuse, or neglect

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

BCAG volunteers must not:

- Exchange money, employment, goods, or services for sexual activity.
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

Additionally, BCAG volunteers are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a BCAG volunteer to Lesley Craise, safeguarding coordinator for BCAG, or to any BCAG committee member

Enabling Reports

- BCAG will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to volunteers and the community
- BCAG will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners, and official bodies

How to report a safeguarding concern

- Volunteers who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to BCAG's Safeguarding Coordinator. If the volunteer does not feel comfortable reporting to the Safeguarding Coordinator, for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other BCAG committee member.

Contact Details

Lesley Craise	Safeguarding Coordinator	07826 368964	lesleycraise@btinternet.com
Jerry Sumpster		07702 815210	jerry.sumpster@gmail.com
Gil Dunn		07495 538855	gil.dunn.bcag@gmail.com
Jan Currie		07780 685646	jan.currie.bcag@gmail.com
Jane Fucella		07875 245818	jfucella62@gmail.com

Response

BCAG will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations

BCAG will not make further use of volunteers found to be in breach of this policy.

BCAG will offer support to survivors of harm caused by its volunteers. Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only and should be kept secure at all times.

Appendix 1

Coronavirus

In the light of the coronavirus pandemic, BCAG is committed to ensuring that no harm comes to its service users as a result of its activities.

BCAG's Responsibilities

- BCAG will provide hand sanitiser and appropriate PPE on request
- BCAG will ensure that all volunteers are familiarised with the organisations' procedures for preventing the spread of coronavirus
- BCAG will review and revise coronavirus safeguards in the light of government advice

Volunteers' Responsibilities

Volunteers must:

- Cooperate with BCAG's requests for appropriate disclosure checks
- Inform BCAG if they are experiencing COVID symptoms, or have been advised to self-isolate
- Maintain social distancing at all times
- Minimise contact with surfaces when delivering
- Not enter people's houses, unless asked by a member of the BCAG committee to do so
- Wear a mask when social distancing of 2m is not practical
- Sanitise phones when passing them on to another volunteer

September 2020