

Safeguarding Adults Policy



Policy Statement

Orchard Community Energy:

1. is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant local guidelines by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe.
2. accepts that we are required to fulfil our duty of care, which means that we must do everything that can be reasonably expected of us to help safeguard and protect people from harm, and to act when we suspect that someone is being harmed, or is at risk of harm.
3. notes the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board advice that 'Adult safeguarding is about keeping people safe and protecting them from abuse and neglect wherever possible'.
4. is committed to the six principles of safeguarding adults which cover: empowerment, protection, prevention, proportionality, partnership and accountability, when we suspect that someone is being harmed, or is at risk of harm.
5. recognises the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, including the right of every individual with capacity to make their own decisions.
6. recognises its own limitations as an organisation led and operated by non-specialist volunteers and, subject to the six principles above, aims to involve or refer to more specialist support when needed.

Definitions

In its wider context, safeguarding adults applies to everyone over the age of 18 and is about:

- protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse and neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Under the Care Act 2014, an 'adult at risk' is an individual aged 18 years and over 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.

Examples of abuse can include any or all of the following: Physical Abuse, Financial Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, Neglect including Self-Neglect, Psychological/Emotional Abuse and Organisational/Institutional Abuse.

Scope

This safeguarding adults policy applies to all individuals involved in Orchard Community Energy and to all concerns about the safety of adults whilst taking part in our organisation, its activities and in the wider community.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate Orchard Community Energy's commitment to safeguarding adults and to ensure that everyone involved in the organisation is aware of:

- The legislation, and our policy and processes for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult within or associated with the organisation.

Implementation

1. The organisation's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the Chair of the Board. If the Chair is unavailable, the Board will appoint a temporary replacement DSL from among its number.
2. The DSL undertakes the online training course "Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults" ([Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults | Free Online Course | Alison](#)) available at Alison.com. This training is repeated every three years. Other directors are encouraged to undertake this course.
3. All potential safeguarding concerns should be raised with the DSL unless the DSL is implicated in the concern in which case they should be raised with any other director. The DSL (or the other director) will note the nature of the concern, discuss it with the person raising it and, unless both parties agree that it clearly does not involve an 'adult at risk', pass it to Kent Social Services or Medway Social Services for investigation. If there is doubt as to whether an 'adult at risk' is involved, the concern will be referred to Kent Social Services or Medway Social Services.
4. All directors are aware of this process for raising a safeguarding concern and the importance of confidentiality.
5. No Orchard Community Energy director or volunteer is permitted, when representing the organisation, to have contact in a 1-2-1 unobserved or unsupervised situation with any adult who is or may be in need of care or support and because of those needs, may be

unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect (or with any child where a responsible adult is not present). This includes the DSL.

6. The organisation aims to follow safe but proportionate recruitment procedures when recruiting board members and volunteers.
7. While Orchard Community Energy does not currently work with children, if it become aware of a child safeguarding concern the DSL (or alternative director) will support the person raising this to report it or will report it themselves to Kent Social Services or Medway Social Services.
8. This policy is reviewed every three years or where there is a significant change in relevant legislation.

Monitoring

The Chair provides the Board with an annual anonymised summary of the number and broad nature of safeguarding concerns raised in order to enable the Board to monitor the effectiveness of the policy.

Legislation and Sources of Information and Support

Our practices are based on the relevant legislation and government guidance. Key legislation can be found at [Legislation relating to safeguarding adults | Overview for social care | SCIE](#).

Information and Support: Kent and Medway Area

Visit the website of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board at [Kent & Medway SAB website \(kmsab.org.uk\)](http://kmsab.org.uk).

For reporting child safeguarding concerns in Kent, visit [Worried about a child - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership \(kscmp.org.uk\)](#) or email Frontdoor@kent.gov.uk.

For reporting child safeguarding concerns in Medway, visit [Worried about a child - Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership \(medwayscp.org.uk\)](#).

Information and Support: England-Wide

[Ann Craft Trust: Safeguarding Adults and Young People at Risk](#) is a national organisation providing information and advice about adult safeguarding.

‘What is abuse?’ An Adult Safeguarding Animation produced by Hampshire County Council (3 minutes 30 seconds in length): [Adult Safeguarding Animation - 4LSAB - YouTube](#)

Adopted by the Orchard Community Energy Board on 8th June 2023