



Safeguarding Policy Statement

Lowberdale Farm is a care farming charity, based near Hartington in Derbyshire, which supports young people and children within a farm setting.

The activities we carry out to fulfil this aim are to offer weekly work experience type placements to young people, enabling them to enjoy the support and nurture of a family farm environment. Placements are available to young people at risk from social isolation, low aspiration, behavioural and confidence issues. Young people access work placements supported by volunteers.

We have used guidance provided by the NSPCC in ensuring appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance are in place. cf *NSPCC (2019) Introductory guide to safeguarding and child protection for the voluntary and community sector*. London: NSPCC.

This Policy Statement is available on the Lowberdale Farm website. All other policies & procedures are available by request.

The purpose and scope of this policy statement

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children and young people who attend Lowberdale from harm.
- to provide staff and volunteers, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Lowberdale, including the board of trustees, paid staff and volunteers.

Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England and is based on NSPCC Guidance. A summary of the key legislation is available from <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection>

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding and deputy for children and young people
- adopting safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance [more information about this is available from the Information Commissioner's Office <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations>]
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one-to-one discussions
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Safeguarding Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our Safeguarding Supporting documents which have been aligned with the NSPCC six safeguarding standards:

1. Recruitment, induction and supervision
2. Protecting children and young people
3. Preventing and responding to bullying
4. Running safe activities and events
5. Recording and storing information
6. Sharing information and working with other agencies

The list of Safeguarding Supporting documents is available on request.

Designated safeguarding lead

Name: Mrs E Hitch, Safeguarding Lead Trustee

Phone/email: 01298 687148

Deputy designated safeguarding lead

Name: Mr Mark Lowe, Project Leader

Phone/email: 01298 84258

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Telephone Numbers for referral to Local Authority

Derbyshire County Council- tel: 01629 533190

Staffordshire County Council - tel: 0800 1313 126

Further guidance at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually. This policy statement was last reviewed on:

.....31st March 2025.....(date)

Signed:*Elizabeth Hitch*.....
Safeguarding Lead Trustee

Date:*31st March 2025*.....