

Friends of St George's SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Registered Charity Number: 1138789

Parish Office
St George's Church,
St George's Close,
Jesmond,
Newcastle Upon Tyne,
NE2 2TF

May 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Friends of St George's is to:

1. Conserve and restore the magnificent Grade 1 listed complex of buildings and grounds, and
2. Encourage their use by the community in order to enrich the social and cultural life of the area.

We do this by:

1. Enlisting subscription-paying Members, and
2. Hosting events and activities to raise funds which are then either used as seed funds for major projects sponsored by the Church, or to completely fund smaller projects.

These activities are open to both Members and non-Members. Our Members are drawn from the Church and from the local community; many are elderly, and some may be vulnerable.

2. SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 The Trustees recognise their responsibility to protect all individuals who come into contact with the Friends of St Georges from physical, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual abuse.
- 2.2 The Trustees recognise their responsibility to ensure that a safeguarding policy is in place which is appropriate to a small charity that is totally trustee-led and has no other volunteers or paid-staff.
- 2.3 The Trustees are clear about their duty to safeguard both Members and non-Members by ensuring that this policy is properly implemented, supported and reviewed.
- 2.4 This policy aims to establish a framework to support all persons who may help, or otherwise work on behalf of, Friends of St George's.
- 2.5 It also clarifies the Friends' expectations in respect of safeguarding in order to give confidence to all those who come into contact with Friends of St George's to allow healthy and supportive relationships to flourish without fear.
- 2.6 Although no safeguarding procedures can eliminate risks completely, when properly applied, these procedures should ensure that all of us associated with Friends of St George's are safeguarded as far as we can be.
- 2.7 The Trustees will ensure that this Safeguarding Policy is accessible to the public via the website.

3. SAFEGUARDING POLICY

3.1 Preventative Measures

3.1.1 Risk Assessments

Risk assessments will be carried out for all events by individuals who are aware of the physical aspects of the venue and the possible vulnerability of people who may be attending.

3.1.2 Attendance at events and activities

While attendance is in theory open to all, we are unable to cater for the following people unless they are accompanied by a carer:

- a) Those who are unable to attend to their own personal care, or
- b) Those who require other people to administer medication, or any form of routine medical attention, during their attendance at our activities.

3.1.3 Volunteer screening

While some of our Trustees and helpers maintain up-to-date DBS screening, under current legislation Friends of St George's is not subject to DBS processes because we do not provide Regulated Activities. On the contrary, we aim to be part of the process of reducing risk by involving people in social activities in groups in public.

Friends of St George's events and activities are run by the Trustees, who have all signed Trustee Declarations and are registered with the Charity Commissioners.

3.1.3 Raising Awareness

We shall promote good safeguarding practice by including safeguarding as an agenda item at every Trustee Committee meeting, where we shall encourage open discussion to ensure there is a shared understanding of Friends of St George's values.

We shall also publish our Safeguarding Policy on our website.

3.1.4 Lone accompaniment of a potentially vulnerable Member / non-Member

Single, lone visits should not be conducted to the home of a Member or non-Member. Neither should a lone Trustee or helper accompany a lone, potentially vulnerable Member / non-Member away from a group activity unless:

- There are exceptional circumstances that would prejudice the well-being of the vulnerable Member / non-Member, and
- Other Trustees / helpers have been pre-advised.

If possible, it is recommended that two Trustees/helpers should be present in these exceptional circumstances.

3.2 Reporting specific safeguarding concerns

Safeguarding concerns may cover situations that occur or have occurred at Friends' events or elsewhere, for example at the home of an individual. Our duty in either situation remains the same.

3.2.1 In the first instance, any person who has specific safeguarding concerns or hears talk of specific safeguarding concerns must report what they think or what they have heard to a Trustee.

3.2.2 In all cases, once the Trustee has been alerted, she or he should establish the details of the case that are known or suspected and document them.

3.2.3 The Trustee must then consult with the Chair of the Trustees and determine whether action is required and what procedure to follow from that point to satisfactory conclusion.

3.2.4 In certain circumstances the Chair of Trustees may take the decision to consult Newcastle City Council Adult Safeguarding Team and will be bound by their advice.

3.2.5 The Chair of Trustees is responsible for reviewing any such incidents at the next-scheduled Trustee Committee meeting.

4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees have an overarching responsibility for fostering a good safeguarding culture for Friends of St George', specifically for ensuring that:

1. The most appropriate Safeguarding Policy is in place,
2. All Members are aware of the policy,
3. The policy is published on the website, and
4. The policy is reviewed and updated annually in the light of experience, best practice in similar organisations and prevailing legislation

POLICY COMMITMENT

WE THE UNDERSIGNED commit to this policy and its procedures on behalf of all who come into contact with Friends of St Georges.

Bonnie Pearce
Trustee

Van Finkel
Trustee

Germaine Stanger
Trustee

Joan Gregory
Trustee

Hilary Pittlety
Trustee

Wendy
Trustee

