

PACE (Practical Actions for Climate and the Environment)

Safeguarding: Policy for Protection of Vulnerable Adults (Adults at Risk)

1. Introduction

This policy applies to all activities of PACE where contact with Vulnerable Adults (sometimes called Adults at Risk) is possible. A vulnerable adult is anyone over the age of 18 who is in need of community care or support services because of mental or physical disability which may mean that they are unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. Vulnerable adults can include elderly; physically or mentally frail; sensory disabled or learning disabled; suffering from severe illness etc.

2. Objective of this policy

The objective of this policy is to protect vulnerable adults from abuse and ensure that anyone working for PACE whether trustee, volunteer or staff is aware that there are vulnerable adults in society and that we must guard against the possibility of them being abused.

3. Implementation

3.1 The trustees are responsible for this policy and its implementation and therefore must

- Appoint a *Lead Trustee for Safeguarding* who covers all aspects of Safeguarding including Child Protection as well as vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that this policy is known and implemented throughout PACE.
- Ensure wherever possible that each PACE Activity has a *Safeguarding Person* who is responsible for protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that trustees, volunteers and staff are aware that they must not abuse nor allow others to abuse vulnerable adults who may be involved in a PACE activity; and if any PACE personnel have any concerns that a vulnerable adult has been abused or is at significant risk of abuse, they must report this to the Safeguarding Person or to a trustee.
- Appreciate that PACE personnel would not normally take sole responsibility for vulnerable adults on PACE activities but if they plan to do so then they require a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check. (Appendix 1 of the Safeguarding Child Protection Policy covers the need for DBS checks.)

4. Summary of Reporting Procedure

4.1 If any PACE personnel have concerns about the treatment of a vulnerable adult they should:

- Speak immediately to the Safeguarding Person, or to another colleague or to a Trustee. (If the vulnerable person is in immediate risk of significant harm the PACE personnel should speak with the vulnerable person in the presence of another adult and take steps to reduce the immediate risk).
- Complete a PACE Accident and Incident Report Form and send this to the Safeguarding Person and a trustee.

- The trustee or Lead Trustee for Safeguarding will take responsibility for investigating the incident and if necessary, refer to Social Services.
- The trustee will confirm back to the Safeguarding Person and to the person who made the initial report that they have followed up on the Incident Report.

5. Induction and Training

5.1 the trustees will ensure that there is appropriate induction, and where necessary training, for volunteers and staff who may relate to vulnerable adults.

6. Review of this policy

The Board of Trustees will review this policy at least every 2 years.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, Date: 1 November 2022

Review Date: November 2024