



# **FRIENDS OF PORTSWOOD REC WORKING VOLUNTEERS SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT (including protection for Children and Vulnerable Adults)**

## **Introduction**

The Friends of Portswood Rec (FoPR) wish to keep things simple and safe and this Statement provides guidance to ensure young and vulnerable people are safe at all times at the Rec. It should be used with our FoPR Code of Conduct for Working Volunteers.

## **FoPR:**

- have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and recognise that under the Care Act 2014 we have a duty of care to protect at risk adults and children from abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment.
- are committed to promoting wellbeing, preventing harm and responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- We will create an environment where volunteers feel able to raise safeguarding concerns and feel supported with their safeguarding responsibilities.

## **1. Actual or immediate safeguarding concerns**

We do not have a Designated Safeguarding Officer so any concerns should be addressed to one of our Co-Chairs Garth Long or Linnet Evans on 07747007800 / 07939534105 or directly to the Children's Resource Service on 023 8083 3004

**If someone is in immediate or imminent danger, call 999 and ask for the police or ambulance service.**

## **2. DBS checks**

Our volunteers do not work with children or vulnerable adults unless they are directly supervised at all times by parents and/or their carers. We therefore do not meet the criteria for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

## **3. A Standard of Behaviour for everyone**

As a working volunteer you have a '**Position of trust**' which should not be abused. You need to maintain a high standard of volunteering at all times as

set out within our FoPR Code of Conduct, as this protects children, and adults who might be vulnerable - but also protects you and the reputation of FoPR.

This applies equally to you and all volunteers on the site. You may not think that your role brings you into contact with children or vulnerable adults sufficiently often for it to matter, but it is better to be safe than face any accusations.

Here are some general principles and suggestions to avoid difficulties:

#### **a) General principles**

- Treat all young people, children and vulnerable adults with respect
- In the event you do find yourself alone during activities with children and/or vulnerable adults, seek out an adult to be with you, or at least ensure that you are within sight and/or hearing of others
- Be aware that any physical contact with a child/young person/vulnerable adult may be misinterpreted
- Be prepared to challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse
- Tell the person co-ordinating the activity if you are worried or concerned about your own safety or wellbeing, or that of another person you are working with.
- Do not give out your personal contact details to children or adult visitors.

#### **b) Events**

- A risk assessment will be carried out prior to an event.
- Unless there is an emergency, (e.g. danger of falling) never catch hold of anyone, especially if they are a child/ vulnerable person.
- In an emergency make it clear why you are intervening by saying/shouting – ‘keep away’; ‘look out, danger!’
- Always ask the parent/carer before assisting a child or vulnerable adult. Never assume.
- Offer a hand or arm - don't pick a child up unless absolutely necessary, even if requested to do so by a parent/carer.
- If you are in costume for an event, where children may approach you, ensure you are in full view of the public:
  - Don't allow children to sit on your lap.
  - Keep your hands in view at all times.
  - Don't be over boisterous or physical with them
  - Err on the side of caution.

Safeguarding does not stop us enjoying the activities and being friendly to the children and adults who visit us, it just ensures safe practice for all and a good reputation for the FoPR.