



HIGH ROPES FOR ALL

High Ropes for All Adult Safeguarding Policy

Date: 13/04/2025

Review Date: 12/05/2025

1. Policy Statement

High Ropes for All CIC is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all adults who participate in our activities. We believe that everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect. This policy outlines our commitment to preventing abuse, responding effectively to any concerns, and promoting a culture of respect and dignity.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and trustees of High Ropes for All CIC. It covers all our activities, including high ropes courses, training sessions, and administrative duties.

3. Definitions

- **Adult at Risk:** An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and is experiencing, or is 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.
- **Abuse and Neglect:** This includes a wide range of harm, such as:
 - **Physical abuse:** e.g., hitting, slapping, pushing.
 - **Domestic abuse:** e.g., controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between intimate partners or family members.
 - **Sexual abuse:** e.g., sexual assault, non-consensual sexual acts.
 - **Psychological/Emotional abuse:** e.g., intimidation, threats, humiliation, harassment.
 - **Financial or material abuse:** e.g., theft, fraud, exploitation, misuse of a person's money or property.
 - **Modern slavery:** e.g., human trafficking, forced labour.

- **Discriminatory abuse:** e.g., abuse based on age, disability, gender, sexuality, race, or religion.
- **Organisational abuse:** e.g., neglect and poor care practice within an institution or service, such as a care home or hospital.
- **Neglect and acts of omission:** e.g., ignoring medical, emotional, or physical care needs.
- **Self-neglect:** e.g., an individual neglecting their own needs.

4. Guiding Principles

This policy is based on the six principles of adult safeguarding as outlined in the Care Act 2014:

- **Empowerment:** People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and have informed consent.
- **Prevention:** Proactive measures are taken to prevent harm.
- **Proportionality:** The least intrusive response is used, proportionate to the risk presented.
- **Protection:** Support and representation is provided to those in greatest need.
- **Partnership:** Local solutions are created through services and communities working together.
- **Accountability:** Everyone involved in safeguarding is transparent and accountable.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Trustees:** The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for ensuring the implementation and effectiveness of this policy.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** [Name and Contact Details]. The DSL is responsible for:
 - Acting as the first point of contact for all safeguarding concerns.
 - Providing advice and support to staff and volunteers.
 - Liaising with external agencies, such as the local authority safeguarding team.
 - Keeping accurate records of all concerns and actions taken.
 - Ensuring this policy is regularly reviewed and updated.
- **All Staff and Volunteers:** Everyone working with High Ropes for All has a duty to:
 - Read, understand, and adhere to this policy.
 - Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect.
 - Report any concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
 - Attend mandatory safeguarding training.

6. Procedures for Reporting a Concern

If you have a concern that an adult may be at risk of abuse or neglect, you must:

1. **Do not delay.** Report the concern immediately.

2. **Speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** in person or by phone.
3. **In an emergency situation** where an adult is in immediate danger, call the police on 999.
4. **Do not investigate the concern yourself.** Your role is to report, not to investigate.
5. **Listen carefully** to the person's account, if they are willing to speak.
6. **Do not make promises of confidentiality.** Explain that you cannot keep the information a secret, but you will only share it with those who need to know to ensure their safety.
7. **Do not ask leading questions.** Use open-ended questions like, "Can you tell me more about that?"
8. **Record the information** you have been given as soon as possible, using a Safeguarding Incident Report Form [Insert link or location of form]. Include:
 - The date, time, and location of the incident.
 - What was said or done.
 - The names of all people involved.
 - Your name and signature.
9. **The DSL will take action** based on the information provided, which may include contacting the local authority's adult social care team.

7. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information regarding a safeguarding concern will only be shared on a "need to know" basis. The safety and well-being of the adult at risk is our primary concern. We will share information with the relevant authorities (e.g., local authority, police) if we believe it is necessary to protect the adult from harm.

8. Whistleblowing

High Ropes for All CIC encourages a culture where everyone feels safe to raise concerns about poor practice or abuse. We have a separate Whistleblowing Policy [Insert link or location of policy] that protects individuals who report such concerns.

9. Training

All staff and volunteers must complete mandatory safeguarding training upon joining the organisation and undergo refresher training every [e.g., two years].

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees and updated in line with any changes to UK legislation or guidance.