Monmouthshire Meadows Group Safeguarding policy
December 2025

1. Definitions

1.1. A child is any individual aged under eighteen years of age

1.2. The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 states that an "adult at risk", or a vulnerable adult, is an individual aged 18 years of age or over, who:

is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect,

has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

2. The Policy

2.1. Monmouthshire Meadows Group (MMG) is a small charitable organisation which does not work directly with children or vulnerable adults. MMG recognises that **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**. MMG is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and adults at risk enjoying its reserves or engaged in its activities.

2.2. Children and vulnerable adults may attend MMG events or use MMG reserves for leisure activities. The spaces offer open access and so it is not possible to restrict or limit access for children and vulnerable adults who do not have a responsible adult with them.

2.3. It is essential that all trustees/ wardens/ helpers of MMG are aware of and comply with our stance that we do not engage with unaccompanied children or vulnerable adults in our MMG role.

2.4. MMG volunteers and trustees may be seen as 'trusted adults' and approached if an individual is in distress. If a child or vulnerable adult is in distress and approaches an MMG trustee or volunteer, the MMG trustee or volunteer should make every effort to ascertain the whereabouts of the responsible adult. MMG trustees and volunteers should make every effort to ensure that they are not alone with a child or vulnerable adult, e.g. by calling on another volunteer to assist before escorting the child or vulnerable adult to a place of safety; or by using the numbers in paragraph 4.3 below.

2.5. If a volunteer or trustee finds themselves unavoidably or in an emergency in the position of trusted adult to a child or vulnerable adult the Designated Safeguarding Trustee should be informed as soon as possible (within 24 hours).

2.6. Young people may volunteer for activities such as open days. MMG trustees and volunteers need to ensure that if a young person volunteers e.g. for open meadows days that their age is ascertained. If the young person is under 18 years, then a responsible adult should be asked to accompany them. MMG trustees cannot take on the role of responsible adult for a child in their trustee role.

3. Designated Safeguarding Trustee

3.1. The Chair of trustees is the Designated Safeguarding Trustee (DST) for Monmouthshire Meadows Group. A deputy DST may be appointed; otherwise the Treasurer shall fulfil the role of DST in the absence of the Chair.

3.2. The DST is responsible for:

3.2.1. Reviewing and updating this safeguarding policy every 2 years or in the light of any new legislation.

3.2.2. Reporting serious safeguarding incidents to the Charity Commission.

4. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

4.1. Any volunteer or trustee who has concerns that a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm should raise their concerns in the first instance with the Designated Safeguarding Trustee.

4.2. If a child or vulnerable adult is thought to be at risk of harm the local authority must be informed:
Child Safeguarding: 01291 635669
Adult Safeguarding: 01873 735492

4.3. Where there are concerns about a risk of immediate harm the police must be informed.

5. Allegations against professionals

5.1. Any safeguarding concerns relating to MMG volunteers or trustees should be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Trustee in the first instance, who will gather information and discuss with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

5.2. Where the allegations concern the DST they should be discussed with the Deputy DST or Treasurer who will discuss with the LADO.

6. Further information

https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/social-care/adult-services/safeguarding/

https://www.safeguarding.wales/en/

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