



ELBKA Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy

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(Version 1.1 – minor edits to include additional contact details and email address / formatting)

This policy has been developed using the British Beekeeping Association Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy November 2022. This Policy is to be reviewed annually or as and when legislation changes.

Terms

Child/Children Young Person/Young People: Refers to all children/young people under the age of 18 years for the purposes of this Policy.

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO): an appointed member, responsible for all safeguarding matters within the ELBKA.

Parents/Guardians: Those who have parental rights and responsibilities in relation to children and young people. For the purposes of these guidelines it also covers carers, legal guardians and others who have the primary responsibility for the care of children and young people.

Responsible Adult: Refers to persons who are current members of the ELBKA and desirably, have experience of a Safeguarding role

Vulnerable Adult: Is any person aged 18 or over. 'A vulnerable adult may be elderly, physically and/or mentally disabled or have learning difficulties. A person who is, or may be in need of community care services by reason of their disability, age or illness'.

The Department of Education defines safeguarding children in 'Working together to safeguard children' as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
- preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Guidance published under the Care Act 2014 defines safeguarding vulnerable adults as:

- protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect;



- people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect;
- people and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action;
- recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being.

Foreword - The purpose and scope of this policy

This policy is a way of demonstrating that the East Lancashire Beekeeper Association (ELBKA) understands its responsibilities towards keeping individuals safe from harm and that we have measures and systems in place to maximise the effectiveness of our practice. It applies to activities arranged and managed by the ELBKA.

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive the East Lancashire Beekeeper Association's services. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- to familiarise those directly involved with children, young people and vulnerable adults with the wider context of safeguarding and to provide parents, staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection;
- to ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.

"The long-term success of beekeeping as a craft depends upon sustaining and developing the broadest possible base of participation. Part of this strategy is based upon the encouragement of participation by children, young people and vulnerable adults within a safe and secure environment that protects them fully while developing their potential."

The ELBKA accepts a moral responsibility to implement procedures to provide a duty of care for children, young people and vulnerable adults, to safeguard the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults and protect them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect and or bullying.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children, young people and vulnerable adults are paramount in all the circumstances. It aims to ensure that



regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience whilst participating in activities at the ELBKA in a safe and children centered environment; and
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in any activities provided by the BBKA or outside of the activity.

Beekeeping can have a very powerful and positive influence on people – especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement, it can also develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, self-confidence, leadership and teamwork.

ELBKA is committed to providing information to educate those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults to adopt best practice to ensure the safety and welfare of everyone within the craft of beekeeping.

This document sets out the principles and procedures to be adopted by the ELBKA in its entirety. This, as with all ELBKA policies, is a working document and shall be regularly reviewed against governance changes, laws and government acts.

This policy applies to any members and volunteers working for or on behalf of the ELBKA.

1. Legal framework

1.1 Legislation and Guidance

This policy has been drafted on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

ELBKA is mindful of its obligations under various statutes, including:

- The Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004 (partially amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017)
- The Protection of Children Act (PoCA) 1999
- Statutory Guidance of Supervision of activity with children
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Department for Education's Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (replacing the 2015 guidance) published on 5 July 2018
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019



- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000
- The Police Act 1997
- The Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK retained version of the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- The Disclosure and Barring Service
- Central Registered Body Scotland The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (NI Order) 1978 (UK Wide)
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Care Standards Act 2000 (This does not apply to N Ireland) and the Care Act 2014
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
- Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Parliament has established statutory body to take the decisions on who should be barred – the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA))
- Mental Health Act 2005
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

1.2 ELBKA Disclaimer for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

The information in this policy is intended for use in relation to the ELBKA only, and as such should not be considered as providing policies, guidelines or information covering any specific situation. The ELBKA does not accept any liability to any person relating to any use of, or reliance upon, the material contained in the publication.



2. Policy and Procedure

2.1 Introduction

ELBKA takes its responsibilities to children, young people and vulnerable adults who participate in beekeeping, at all levels, very seriously. ELBKA strives to create an environment where individuals can be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. This policy, together with the good practice guidelines clarifies what is expected of all the ELBKA members and volunteers

2.2 Principles

The ELBKA Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults is based upon the following fundamental principles:

We believe that:

- Children, young people and vulnerable adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them
- we must be accountable for our safeguarding practices and transparent as to how we implement these.

2.2.1 Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults

We recognise that:

- whilst dealing with children, young people and vulnerable adults, their welfare is and always must be the paramount consideration, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender and whatever their language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual orientation.
- the rights, dignity and worth of every child, young person and vulnerable adult must always be respected.
- all children, young people and vulnerable adults, must be listened to and have their views considered according to their age, maturity and understanding.
- all children, young people and vulnerable adults, taking part in beekeeping with the ELBKA, have a right to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.



- all incidents/suspicions of abuse, poor practice and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.
- we must and shall work in partnership with other organisations, children, young people, parents and carers.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) for children, young people and vulnerable adults
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice. Through our policy the ELBKA members and volunteers will understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and have the information to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- Members and volunteers are not permitted to take photographs of children visiting the ELBKA premises or events.
- ensuring that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using this policy to manage any allegations against members and volunteers, appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, vulnerable adults, members and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.

2.2.2 Recognising signs of abuse

ELBKA recognises that some children, young people and vulnerable adults, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. There are four types of abuse which can



cause long term damage to a child or young person:

Physical Abuse: This may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent/carer or other individual fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse: This is the persistent emotional mistreatment of an individual, for example behavior that causes severe and persistent adverse effects on an individual's emotional development. It may invoke feelings within an individual that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or "making fun" of what they say or how they communicate, or placing developmentally inappropriate expectations on children. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another, bullying (including cyber-bullying) causing children to often feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

Sexual Abuse: This involves forcing or enticing a child, young person or vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Neglect: This is a persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Possible signs of abuse include:

Unexplained or suspicious injuries. These include bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries or the explanation of the cause of the injury is does not seem right. The child discloses abuse, or describes what appears to be an abusive act.

- Someone else (child or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another child.
- Unexplained change in behaviour such as withdrawal or sudden outbursts of temper.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour.



- Distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected.
- Difficulty in making friends.
- Eating disorders, depression, self-harm or suicide attempts.

Additional forms of abuse are relevant to adults, these include:

Institutional Abuse: This is the mistreatment or neglect of an adult at risk by a regime, or individuals within settings and services, that adults at risk live in or use. Such abuse violates the person's dignity, resulting in lack of respect for their human rights.

Modern Slavery: This can take various forms, all of which result in the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

Discriminatory Abuse: This occurs when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunities to some groups or individuals.

Financial and material Abuse: This can include the theft, fraud, exploitation and the misuse of or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

2.2.3 Adults who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults

We recognise that:

- All adults who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults, have a right to be treated with respect and dignity irrespective of their gender, disability, 'race', sexual orientation, marital status, age, religious or political belief and offending background.
- All adults who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to know what the ELBKA expects of them in terms of their responsibilities and conduct towards others.
- All adults who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults have a right to fair and just treatment whenever a concern is raised about them including their conduct towards others.

2.2.4 Parents

- Parents have a right to expect that the ELBKA, to which they entrust their children and young people, provide appropriate care and protection for them.
- It is the right of a parent/guardian to be able to check how well the ELBKA is run for the sake of the child's, young person's or vulnerable adult's safety and the parent's peace of mind.

2.3 ELBKA's Responsibilities



It is important the following responsibilities are adhered to: Under the Government Guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018”, the ELBKA has a responsibility to safeguard those children and young people from abuse and neglect. (Refer to Every Child Matters Website <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>)

ELBKA has a duty of care to safeguard all children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in activities run by the ELBKA. Any matters giving rise to concern of children or young people’s welfare e.g., abuse, poor practice and allegations shall be taken seriously and responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.

Confidentiality shall be upheld in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR and the Human Rights Act 2000.

ELBKA shall work in partnership with the Police, Children’s Social Care Services and local Safeguarding Children’s Boards (LSCB’s) in accordance with their procedures. We recognise that this is essential to enable these organisations to carry out their statutory duties to investigate concerns and protect all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

It is the responsibility of the child protection external experts, i.e., Children’s Social Care Services/Police, to determine whether or not abuse has taken place, but it is **everyone’s responsibility** to report any concerns.

2.4 Implementing the Policy

The first step towards a meaningful and effective safeguarding policy is implementation. The policy has to be put “into practice” to become effective.

Effective implementation will:

- Promote a consistent response to all child protection matters
- Help maximise child safety and protection whilst in the care of the ELBKA
- Reassure members and volunteers by increasing their confidence to engage in activities with children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Reduce the risk of litigation against the ELBKA

The Designated Safeguarding Officer will maintain an overview of safeguarding concerns, take a lead on liaising with other agencies and shall keep informed about local developments in safeguarding. The Designated Safeguarding Officer shall ensure effective distribution of this policy and its procedures to all members and volunteers working with and for the ELBKA.

2.4.1 Acting on a safeguarding concern



It is not the responsibility of the ELBKA officers or volunteers to decide whether a child is being abused or might have been abused. However, safeguarding is 'everybody's responsibility', therefore, there is a responsibility to act on concerns to protect children in order that appropriate agencies can then make enquires to take any necessary action to protect children.

The following procedures and guidance are to assist those working for the ELBKA when dealing with safeguarding concerns. This will be divided into the following sections:

What to do if you are concerned about a child resulting from your suspicions or a child's disclosure

If anyone is concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of being abused or neglected, they should not ignore their suspicions and should not assume that someone else will take action to protect that person.

If you have reason to believe that a child or young person is at immediate risk from harm contact the Police on 999.

Otherwise, concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer who shall then refer concerns about children to the children's social care department of the local authority where the child lives, or to the relevant local authority adult services department.

What to do if an adult or vulnerable adult experiencing abuse tells you about it or you hear/suspect abuse

- If necessary, act to protect the adult at risk
- assure them that you are taking them seriously
- listen carefully to what they are saying, stay calm and get a clear and factual picture of the concern
- be honest and don't make any promises you cannot keep
- immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- if a crime has or may have been committed, contact the police to discuss or report it.

If you hear about an incident of abuse from someone else, encourage them to report it themselves or help them to report the facts of what they know.

If you are worried about an adult who is working with young children

When a member or volunteer has behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed, a child, young person or vulnerable adult, this must be taken seriously and dealt with sensitively and promptly. This should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Officer.



Assent

- The designated Safeguarding Officer should ensure all ELBKA members and volunteers working for, or on behalf of, ELBKA have a copy of the ELBKA Policy
- All ELBKA members and volunteers must agree to abide by the ELBKA Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

A copy of the policy is also available on the ELBKA Website

<http://www.eastlancsbees.org.uk>

2.5 Actions taken by the ELBKA.

- ELBKA has updated this Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.
- ELBKA will annually review and where required update the policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults.
- ELBKA will maintain confidential records of all complaints, concerns and sanctions against the ELBKA officers, members and volunteers.

2.6 Monitoring Procedures

The ELBKA Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children and young people within the ELBKA.
- Any other circumstances that may arise or as a result of any significant change or event.



Contact details

Safeguarding email address : safeguarding@eastlancsbees.org.uk

Club email address: eastlancsbees@gmail.com

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Hilary Wilson 07532132886

Chair

David Heaton 07793423199

Secretary

Gwen Walton 07790406019

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I, _____ [insert name], have received a copy of the BBKA Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy and I confirm I have read it.

Signature: _____

Date: