



# **Queen Camel Community Land Trust Ltd. (QCCLT)**

## **VULNERABLE ADULT & CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

Reviewed and Adopted at CLT Board Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Guiding Principles

The welfare of the vulnerable adult or child is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All vulnerable adults and children, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards children or vulnerable adults will not be permitted or tolerated.

QCCLT has a duty to safeguard the vulnerable adults and children who use its facilities, and those who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and children.

## Definition of Abuse

Abuse is described as “***a violation of an individual’s human or civil rights by any other person or persons***” (No Secrets, Department of Health – 2000).

**Definition of a child** – someone up to the age of 18 years.

## Definition of a Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable adult is defined as a person who: “***may be in need of services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness: and who may not be able to take care of him or herself, or is unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.***” (Who Decides, Lord Chancellor’s Department – 1997).

Any of us might be vulnerable at some time in our lives. The key here is someone who finds difficulty in communicating, someone who is seriously mentally unwell, someone who is suicidal or someone who is unable to stand up for themselves.

This policy is in place to protect all vulnerable persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion or faith.

## Policy Statement

- All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or vulnerable adult will be taken seriously and will be dealt with speedily and appropriately. **Any suspicions or concerns should be reported to Pauline Lewis (PL), director with responsibility for human resources (HR).** PL is the safeguarding person appointed by the Board to take responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, to the Local Authority Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection agency.
- The Board will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by vulnerable adults and children. The Board recognises that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children and those who cannot read safety notices and disabled adults.
- No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature will be permitted on the premises.
- Anyone leasing or hiring space for activities for children/vulnerable adults will be asked to show their Safeguarding Policy before the first use commences.
- In addition any Tenant/Hirer using the available spaces to provide a facility for children (playgroups, football training, youth clubs for example) will be required to show their Disclosure Barring Service (DBS ) certificate to the Booking Secretary and the disclosure number will be recorded. Any delegation of that hirer to other people to supervise the children is the responsibility of the Tenant/Hirer and not the Board.

The Board will ensure that Users (this includes tenants, practitioners, ad hoc hirers and volunteers) at the Old School are made aware of this Safeguarding Policy and their obligation to adhere to it (and also their obligation under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under 18 years of age).

It is the responsibility of all Users at the Old School to familiarise themselves with and adhere to this Policy.

### **General points**

QCCLT's Board does not supervise children or vulnerable adults as part of their function. DBS checks are not required for them unless they are to have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. Should DBS checks become necessary they will be undertaken in compliance with the Protection of Children Act (1999), The Children's Act (2004) and Part V of the Police Act (1997).

When the Board organises events that include children, it is always stated that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or when changes occur in National Legislation or Procedures. New Board members will be provided with an understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities in line with this policy.