



Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust Policy for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

ORGANISATION DETAILS

Name: Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust

Address: St. Paul's Church, Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey. GU22

7BD

MISSION STATEMENT

Maybury and Sheerwater Community Trust (hereafter referred to as MASCOT) recognises the importance of its ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults entrusted to its care.

As part of its mission, MASCOT is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people and vulnerable adults as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all staff and volunteers.
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents/carers.
- Supporting those affected by abuse.
- Maintaining good links with the statutory authorities and other organisations.

OUR POLICY

MASCOT recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It also acknowledges that children, young people and vulnerable adults can be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect. MASCOT has therefore adopted the procedures set out in this document (hereafter "the policy") and will comply fully with the DBS Code of Conduct. It also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary safeguarding agencies.

New employees and volunteers are required to undergo a DBS check appropriate to their role with the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS). The level of DBS check required will be detailed in the vacancy pack for the post.

MASCOT is committed to on-going safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers and will regularly review the operational guidelines attached.

MASCOT also undertakes to follow the principles found within the Abuse of Trust guidance issued by the Home Office and it is therefore unacceptable for those in a position of trust to engage in any behaviour which might allow a sexual relationship to develop for as long as the relationship of trust continues.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Under no circumstances should anyone working on behalf of MASCOT carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations, suspicions or disclosure of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to Mrs. Carole Steele, St. Michael's Shared Church, Dartmouth Avenue, Sheerwater, Woking. GU21 5PH. Tel: 01932 341694 or 07889 580249, who is nominated by MASCOT to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The Co-ordinator may also be required, by conditions of MASCOT's Insurance Policy, to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- In the absence of the Co-ordinator, or if the suspicions in any way involve the Co-ordinator then the report should be made to the Deputy Co-ordinator at St. Paul's Church, Oriental Road, Woking. GU22 7BD. Tel: 01483 772081
- If the suspicions implicate both the Co-ordinator and the Deputy Co-ordinator, then the report should be made in the first instance to Surrey County Council Services:

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Adult

Services

Tel:

030047091

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Email: ascmasht@surreycc.gov.uk

Children's

Services Tel:

03004709100

Email: csmash@surreycc.gov.uk

Out of hours phone - 01483 517898

- In an emergency, where concern is felt for a child's or vulnerable adult's immediate safety, the police should be contacted on 999.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Co-ordinator, the absence of the Co-ordinator or Deputy Co-ordinator should not delay referral to Children's Services or Adult Social Care.
- MASCOT will support the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator in their role and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies; although MASCOT hopes that its staff and

volunteers will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Co-ordinator/ Deputy Co-ordinator has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Co-ordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency directly. We hope by making this statement that MASCOT demonstrates the commitment of the organisation to effective safeguarding.

The role of the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to Children's Services or Adult Social Care. It is the task of Children's Services or Adult Social Care to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or where there are concerns about emotional abuse, the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator will:

- Contact Children's Services or Adult Social Care for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Children's Services or Adult Social Care.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns, (e.g. poor parenting), encourage parent/carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury. A record should be made of any such concerns and given to the Coordinator.
- Where the parent/carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to accompany them. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Children's Services or Adult Social Care direct for advice.

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Co-ordinator/Deputy Co-ordinator will:

- Contact the Children's Services or Adult Social Care Department Duty Social Worker for children and families or Police Child Protection Team directly. They will NOT speak to the parent/carer or anyone else.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE AGAINST A PERSON WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN

If an accusation is made against a worker (whether a volunteer or paid member of staff) whilst following the procedure outlined above the co-ordinator, in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures, will need to liaise with Children's Services or Adult Social Care in regards to the suspension of the worker and making a referral to an Allegations Management Adviser (AMA).

APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION & TRAINING OF LEADERS & WORKERS

MASCOT will ensure all workers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in government practice guidelines "Safe from Harm" (HMSO 1993). The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

SUPERVISION OF GROUP / CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

MASCOT will provide details of the supervision for each specific activity.

SUPPORT TO THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE

MASCOT is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to those who have been affected by abuse, in accordance with the practice guidelines.

WORKING WITH OFFENDERS

When someone is known to have abused others, MASCOT will supervise the individual concerned and offer pastoral care, but in its commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable adults, will set boundaries for that person which they will be expected to keep.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed: Tracey Francis

Print Name: Tracey Francis

Date: 19.01.23

(For review January 2024)

