

Safeguarding Policy – Hoylake4All

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Hoylake4all is committed to proactively safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its ultimate beneficiaries¹ and volunteers and to taking reasonable steps to ensure those who come into contact with Hoylake4all or Hoylake4all's activities do not, as a result, come to any harm. Hoylake4all will avoid exposing people of concern to further harm as a result of our actions².
- 1.2 This policy relates to Hoylake4all's commitments to safeguarding and focusses on protecting its beneficiaries, who are predominantly a migrant community. We recognise the additional needs of individuals (including children) with refugee or asylum-seeker status, minority ethnic groups and/or physical or mental disabilities and the barriers they may face, especially around communication. Where any suspected wrongdoing occurs against a volunteer or member of volunteers, the procedure set out in Hoylake4all's Complaints Policy should be followed.
- 1.3 Over recent years there has been increasing recognition of the way in which people can be at risk of harm from organisations and institutions that are mandated to help them, either as a result of abuse and exploitation by individuals in positions of trust, or via programme activities in general, through deliberate actions, negligence or lack of cultural awareness and respect.
- 1.4 As a consequence, there has been a significant increase in the efforts made by charities to ensure that no harm comes to beneficiaries or target communities from contact with their volunteers, volunteers and associates or as a result of any of the organisation's activities.
- 1.5 This duty extends beyond statutory safeguarding requirements. Hoylake4all does not engage in any activity with children or vulnerable adults that is regulated by domestic safeguarding legislation or any equivalent legislation but it does take seriously its obligations to operate in a way that ensures, so far as is possible and in line with best practice, that its work does no harm to anyone with whom it engages, directly or indirectly.
- 1.6 Given these values and in light of widely recognised risks, Hoylake4all has developed this policy to promote protection for all those people and/or communities it comes into contact with, as well as volunteers within Hoylake4all itself and the partner organisations with which it has relationships.

¹ Beneficiaries are individuals who are direct or indirect recipients of humanitarian/emergency or other H4A action in any duty station.

² Principle 1 Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian response

1.7 Should it come into contact with vulnerable groups (including children), Hoylake4all will make referrals to the appropriate statutory agencies and in the interim seek to ensure it is doing all it reasonably can to protect such individuals and/or groups from all forms of harm, including abuse, neglect and exploitation and to ensure appropriate action is taken if such harm occurs or is suspected.

2. **Understanding Risks**

2.1 It is clear that individuals can be harmed, or put at risk of harm, by individuals acting on behalf of organisations and institutions, and that abuse can happen in all types of organisations. Such harm may result from unintentional acts or deliberate actions by individuals or through institutional shortcomings.

2.2 Unintentional acts may lead to harm due to a lack of 'due diligence' or competence or through organisational negligence, such as inadequate care and supervision, lack of policies, procedures and guidance to inform programming and practice, or lack of volunteers compliance or knowledge of and training in legal requirements. Also, deliberate actions may be taken by people with intent to abuse.

3. **Scope of this policy**

3.1 **For Hoylake4all volunteers**

3.1.1 Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all Hoylake4all volunteers. For the purposes of this policy 'volunteers' is defined as anyone who works for, or is engaged by, Hoylake4all either in a paid or unpaid, full time or part time capacity.

3.2 **For officers**

3.2.1 Officers must act at all times in the best interests of Hoylake4all's ultimate beneficiaries and they are also expected to comply with this policy.

3.3 **For partnership organisations**

3.3.1 This policy also applies to other organisations with whom Hoylake4all works or collaborates. Hoylake4all expects that the principles and approaches shared with partnership organisations mean that they will fully support the values and commitments set out in this policy. Hoylake4all recognises that some will already have protection policies and associated measures in place. Where this is the case, they should have no difficulty in also complying with the standards set out in this policy.

3.3.2 Hoylake4all will ensure that each partner has appointed a representative who will be responsible for promptly reporting to the Hoylake4all's Designated Safeguarding Officer (or, in the event that they are unavailable, an officer of Hoylake4All) any safeguarding concerns that arise in, or are relevant to, the context of the partnership.

4. Definitions

4.1 'Abuse' or 'harm' are used to encompass all types of harm and abuse, including neglect and exploitation.

Types of Abuse

4.1.1 Physical Abuse

The use of force which results in pain or injury. The non-accidental infliction of physical force that results in bodily injury, pain or impairment. Examples of this are:

- Physical injuries, which have not been adequately explained and suspicion that they have been inflicted intentionally
- Bullying
- Forced medication
- Prolonged physical restraint

4.1.2 Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is the direct or indirect involvement of the adult at risk in sexual activity or relationships³, which they:

- Do not want or have not consented to
- Cannot understand and lack the mental capacity to be able to give consent to
- Have been coerced into because the other person is in a position of trust, power or authority (for example a care worker)

4.1.3 Emotional and Psychological Abuse

Emotional abuse includes actions or behaviour that have a harmful effect on the emotional, health and/or development of an adult who is at risk. For example, threats, deprivation of contact, shouting, ignoring, cruelty, bullying, humiliation, coercion, negating the right of the adult at risk to make choices and undermining self-esteem.

Further examples of this are:

- Humiliating someone in private or public
- Rejecting or ignoring them
- Making someone afraid
- Making someone unnecessarily dependent
- Abuse through social media and cyber bullying

4.1.4 Financial and Property Abuse

³ "The actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions" WHO Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention and Response, paragraph 16

Financial abuse is the use of a person's property, assets, income, funds or any resources without their informed consent or authorisation. Financial abuse is a crime. It includes:

- Theft or fraud
- Exploitation
- Undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions
- The misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits
- The misuse of an enduring power of attorney or a lasting power of attorney, or appointeeship

This is also the misappropriation of money or property. Examples of this are:

- The control of a client's financial affairs by an appointee or another party, but a refusal to meet their financial needs
- Money being spent by the appointee or another party on their or other's benefit without this having been intended by the owner
- Disposal or sale of possessions by another party

4.1.5 Neglect and Acts of Omission

Neglect and acts of omission – the failure of any person, who has responsibility for the charge, care or custody of an adult at risk, to provide the amount and type of care that a reasonable person would be expected to provide. Neglect can be intentional or unintentional. Examples of this are:

- Depriving someone of everyday essentials like food, clothes, warmth and hygiene needs
- Depriving someone of a service

4.1.6 Discriminatory Abuse

Discriminatory abuse occurs when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals. It can be a feature of any form of abuse of an adult at risk, but can also be motivated because of age, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, class, culture, language, and race or ethnic origin.

It can result from situations that exploit a person's vulnerability by treating the person in a way that excludes them from opportunities they should have as equal citizens, for example education, health, justice and access to services and protection.

4.1.7 Institutional

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

Institutional abuse occurs when the routines, systems and regimes of an institution result in poor or inadequate standards of care and poor practice. It can take the form of an

organisation failing to respond to or address examples of poor practice brought to their attention.

It can take place in various places, for example day care, care homes, hostels, supported housing, hospitals, supported housing and detention centres. It can be difficult to identify the difference between poor service and institutional abuse.

4.1.8 Domestic Violence or Abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Women in Initial Accommodation⁴: In July 2019, the Home Office published their revised Domestic Abuse Guidance setting out how the Home Office, accommodation providers and Migrant Help should respond to reports of people seeking asylum at risk of domestic abuse. The new guidance contains a number of safeguards to improve the protection available to victims of abuse including:

- the presumption is that the victim should be believed, at this stage corroborating evidence is not required
- the person and their children must immediately be offered safe alternative accommodation and if that offer is accepted, transferred without delay
- some victims may wish to remain in their current accommodation and, in these cases, consideration must be given to relocating the perpetrator

⁴ For further information, see Domestic Abuse Bill, submission by The Refugee Council Session 2019-21

- there is no need for accommodation providers to obtain prior Home Office consent to transfer the victim and their children to alternative accommodation, but a report to the Home Office must be made without delay
- the victim must be referred to a specialist organisation for assessment and supported by a domestic violence specialist worker

4.2 **Child** means anyone under the age of 18 irrespective of the age of majority in the country where a child is located, or in their home country.

4.3 **Modern slavery** means an activity when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service such as human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation (such as escort work, prostitution and pornography) and debt bondage (i.e. being forced to work to pay off debts that they cannot ever realistically pay off).

4.4 **Safeguarding children** means taking reasonable steps in connection with protecting them from maltreatment, preventing impairment of their mental and physical health or development, ensuring that they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and acting to enable all children to have the best outcomes. The welfare of the child is paramount, which means no other considerations should be allowed to override the duty to protect children from harm.

4.5 **Safeguarding vulnerable adults** means taking reasonable steps in connection with protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

4.6 **Vulnerable adult** means any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of care and support (e.g. health care, relevant personal care or social care) and is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect and, as a result of this, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk or experience of neglect or abuse.

5. **Statement of Commitments**

5.1.1 Hoylake4all commits to taking all reasonable measures to ensure that all individuals (including vulnerable adults and children) who are impacted by projects and programmes delivered and/or supported by Hoylake4all are protected as far as possible from harm, including exploitation, neglect and abuse of all kinds.

5.1.2 It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment and report any concerns in accordance with this policy.

6. **Hoylake4all commits to:**

- (a) Developing a zero tolerance 'safety culture' within Hoylake4all that creates and maintains protective environments.
- (b) Placing safeguarding at the heart of recruitment practices by carrying out DBS or other criminal record checks⁵ to which we are entitled, and checking qualifications and certifications.
- (c) Ensuring Hoylake4all's volunteers and officers are fully cognisant of protection issues and adhere to Hoylake4all's Code of Conduct.
- (d) Increasing understanding and raising the awareness of volunteers and officers of risks relating to safeguarding within Hoylake4all and in connection with its activities.
- (e) Taking appropriate and proportionate action if this policy is not complied with.
- (f) Ensuring that this policy, particularly concerning referrals of cases of suspected abuse and neglect, is followed by volunteers.
- (g) Maintaining adequate insurance in relation to Hoylake4all's activities and the people involved, to the extent that is reasonably available.
- (h) Carrying out appropriate due diligence on partners, ensuring they have appropriate controls and safeguarding measures in place, and integrating safeguarding and onward reporting requirements in Hoylake4all' agreements with partners.
- (i) Making sure protection considerations are integrated into all aspects of the organisation's operation.
- (j) Ensuring all volunteers are aware of their responsibilities to report concerns and of steps to take/who to go to in order to report such concerns.
- (k) Ensuring that safeguarding concerns are addressed promptly and through the appropriate channels.
- (l) Reporting safeguarding incidents, allegations or concerns to external authorities and regulators, as appropriate, and in accordance with best practice. Hoylake4all will fully risk assess such reporting to ensure that making a report is not likely to cause further harm to the individual(s) to whom harm (actually, allegedly or potentially) has already been caused.
- (m) Ensuring that its privacy policy remains suitably updated so that it is clear that, in keeping with Hoylake4all's zero tolerance policy, it will report wrongdoing on the part of its officers, volunteers and partners to appropriate authorities; will share

such information as may be necessary to protect individuals from harm; and will provide fair and accurate references, which appropriately reflect Hoylake4all's experience and interaction with officers, volunteers and partners.

- (n) Ensure that all volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe safeguarding practice and such concerns are addressed appropriately in accordance with this and, where applicable, other Hoylake4all policies.
- (o) Ensuring that any weakness with regard to safeguarding arrangements that are brought to its attention will be remedied without delay.
- (p) Ensuring that this safeguarding policy is available to the public.

7. **Embedding organisational commitment**

- 7.1 In order to make its policy commitments a practical reality, Hoylake4all will instigate or strengthen on an ongoing basis a range of measures that focus on making sure this policy and associated procedures are in place, that people are supported to understand and work within the provisions of the policy, that it is fully and effectively integrated into all of our activities, and that it is subject to monitoring and review.
- 7.2 Hoylake4all volunteers and officers will receive regular training/briefing on their responsibilities and obligations under this policy and it will form part of the induction for new volunteers and officers. The Designated Safeguarding Officer will receive safeguarding training every two years. Training plans will be drawn up by the Safeguarding Officer for all volunteers. Safeguarding will be a permanent feature on the Officer Board Agenda. Site visits will be carried out on a regular basis and all potential or actual conflicts of interest will be noted, and dealt with promptly.
- 7.3 Volunteers and officers will be expected to acknowledge and accept their responsibilities under this policy. Breaches of this policy by volunteers will be treated seriously and will be treated as a potential cause for disciplinary action or termination of the relationship by other means. Breaches by officers may result in the termination of their officership.

8. **Criminal record checks for individuals who, or who previously did, live in the UK**

- 9. Hoylake4all will ensure that all appropriate checks are carried out on volunteers including (where applicable) DBS checks, checking references, requiring proof of identity and relevant qualifications and carrying out a face to face interview.
- 9.1 Not all roles are eligible for all types of DBS check. The Designated Safeguarding Officer's advice should be sought on all DBS related issues in the first instance. Persons who are on the DBS Barred Lists cannot work in regulated activity in relation to children or vulnerable adults and accordingly we will not employ or accept volunteered assistance from such persons.

- 9.2 Where we become aware that any current volunteers may pose a risk to children or vulnerable adults we will comply with the legislation in respect of referring that person to the DBS.
- 9.3 We will carry out DBS checks on our officers and long term volunteers as appropriate. In reality, this means we carry out basic DBS checks on most individuals.
- 9.4 Hoylake4all complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly, and not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed

10. The Designated Safeguarding Officer

- 10.1 The Designated Safeguarding Officer is a volunteer who takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection at Hoylake4all.
- 10.2 The Designated Safeguarding Officer will provide advice and support to other volunteers. Any concern for a child/adult's safety or welfare must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer who will make a record and take appropriate steps in accordance with this policy and guidance from local statutory agencies.
- 10.3 During opening hours, the Designated Safeguarding Officer will always be available for volunteers to discuss any safeguarding concerns. If the Designated Safeguarding Officer is not available in person, Hoylake4all will ensure that they are available via telephone and/or any other relevant media.
- 9.4 The role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer is to liaise with statutory agencies where necessary and to make immediate referrals of suspected abuse or allegations of abuse (whether that be in the family context, peer on peer abuse between children or allegations against volunteers) to the relevant statutory agencies.
- 9.5 The Designated Safeguarding Officer will ensure that safer recruitment practices are followed and provide advice and guidance to those responsible.
- 9.6 The Designated Safeguarding Officer will maintain written records ensuring that they are kept confidential and stored securely.
- 9.7 The Designated Safeguarding Officer is responsible for ensuring that all volunteers members are aware of this policy and the procedure they need to follow if they have concerns about a child or adult. They will ensure that all volunteers have received appropriate safeguarding information during induction and that appropriate training needs are identified.

11. Training and induction

- 11.1 All volunteers and volunteers are expected to carry out their work in accordance with this guidance and any applicable code of conduct and will be made aware that failure to do so could lead to disciplinary (or equivalent) action.

11.2 In addition to the safeguarding induction, all volunteers will receive a regular programme of safeguarding training (to include updates in best practice) as is required to provide them with the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children and vulnerable adults effectively.

11.3 All volunteers will be given a copy of this policy. They will be informed of whom our Designated Safeguarding Officer are and what the recording and reporting system is.

12. **Safeguarding beneficiaries who are living in asylum accommodation**

Part of Hoylake4all's work involves providing aid and support to beneficiaries who are living in Asylum Accommodation in the UK which has been provided to them by the UK Government's Home Office. In order to mitigate the risks arising from this work, Hoylake4all will:

- (a) Undertake a risk assessment to identify and evaluate the risks arising from the activities of providing aid and support to beneficiaries who are living in Asylum Accommodation and ensure there are appropriate safeguarding measures in place;
- (b) Brief all officers and volunteers on the necessary safety protocols for providing aid and support to beneficiaries who are living in asylum accommodation. This includes informing them about the specific safeguarding risks which could arise, as well as reminding them of the procedure for reporting concerns (as per paragraph 13).

13. **Reporting concerns**

13.1 A safeguarding concern may arise in a number of ways. For example:

- (a) You may witness abuse taking place.
- (b) An individual may tell you that they or someone they know has suffered harm.
- (c) You may notice behaviour which gives rise to a suspicion or concern that an individual has been harmed or is at risk of harm or that an individual has acted inappropriately or in breach of this policy.
- (d) You may hear a rumour or be part of an informal discussion about a suspicion, concern or allegation.
- (e) You may receive a letter, e-mail, text or message on social media.

13.2 In line with its principle of 'zero tolerance', Hoylake4all volunteers and officers are required to immediately report any concerns or suspicions of possible/actual harm to a beneficiary (or other person connected to Hoylake4all), including abuse, exploitation and neglect and policy non-compliance, or risk of such, resulting from action or inaction by anyone covered by this policy. This includes any suspected, alleged or actual historical abuse.

The person making the report should otherwise keep the matter strictly confidential and not seek to investigate the incident or suspicion.

13.3 You should follow the procedure set out below for making a report:

- (a) Listen carefully
- (b) Avoid asking detailed or leading questions, but do try to confirm basic information about who, when, where, what, but not why.
- (c) Explain to them:
 - (i) You (and Hoylake4all) take what they are saying seriously
 - (ii) You cannot keep the information a secret and anything they say will likely need to be shared with others
 - (iii) Their report will only be shared on a need to know basis
- (d) Assess the risk and take steps to ensure the person is not in immediate danger.
- (e) Arrange any medical treatment which is urgently required, notifying them that evidence including DNA or other evidence from a “rape kit” should be preserved.
- (f) Keep yourself and others safe.
- (g) In the first instance any concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible (although in an emergency, anyone can make a referral to the police). Use the person’s words or explanations – do not translate into your own words in case you have misconstrued what they were trying to say.
 - (i) If the Designated Safeguarding Officer is not available or is implicated in the concern in any way, the concern should be reported to an officer of Hoylake4All.
- (h) Prepare a written record using the designated form in Annex 1 and send that report to the Designated Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible and no later than 24 hours of being informed of the concern.
 - (i) If you do not have all the information available to make a complete report, you should not delay in raising the concern and must not investigate further to obtain additional information.
 - (j) Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above.

13.4 Any materials in writing concerning a report of concerns will be kept securely if in hard copy or password protected if stored electronically, with appropriate access restrictions.

13.5 Hoylake4all’s board of officers will have oversight of safeguarding and welfare arrangements and will receive reports of any safeguarding and welfare incidents that arise. The Designated

Safeguarding Officer will have a regular slot at meetings of the board of officers to ensure that officers are appropriately apprised of matters that arise.

13.6 The name and contact detail of the Designated Safeguarding Officer can be found in the 'Contact Information' section at the end of this policy.

14. **Responding to concerns**

14.1 Everyone associated with Hoylake4all has a duty to report safeguarding concerns or allegations to the Designated Safeguarding Officer in accordance with this policy, which will always be taken seriously. Individuals who raise any such concern or allegation in good faith will never be subjected to any detriment as a result. In some cases, it will be appropriate that volunteers may have to inform the police directly if for example a child or adult at risk is in immediate risk or the volunteer hasn't been able to contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer or an officer of Hoylake4All.

14.2 We will report incidents to other regulatory bodies and government departments or funding bodies, where appropriate. Where there is evidence that criminal activity may have taken place, or concerns have been raised in relation to a child or vulnerable adult, we will report to the relevant police and/or safeguarding authorities as appropriate (for example to the relevant Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Adult Safeguarding Board in the UK or other relevant authorities). A referral to the Local Authority must always be made where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child or adult at risk has suffered significant harm through abuse or neglect, or is likely to suffer significant harm in the future.

14.3 Decisions to report to external authorities will be fully risk assessed and anonymisation/pseudonymisation considered when necessary. Reporting will not be avoided on the basis that it may harm Hoylake4all's reputation or give rise to litigation and any concerns in relation to data protection will not act as a barrier to reporting, although they will be carefully considered to ensure that the disclosure is made within the legal framework for so doing.

14.4 On a case by case basis, the Designated Safeguarding Officer will consider what steps are necessary and appropriate. In addition to potential external reporting discussed above, in summary the steps which may be taken include:

(a) Consider whether the Designated Safeguarding Officer has the relevant knowledge, expertise and capacity to address the concern. If necessary, Hoylake4all will arrange appropriate external support and/or arrange for an independent person to investigate or consider the concern further.

(b) Clarify what, how and with whom information will be shared relating to this concern. Information must be shared on a need-to-know basis only, with appropriate consideration of the need to ensure that sharing the information is necessary for the purposes for which it is shared, the information is accurate and up

to date, the information sharing is timely and the information is secure in how it is shared and stored.

- (c) Consider whether the Board of Officers need to be informed straight away or whether it can be reported at the next board meeting. In any case, the Chair of officers should be informed as soon as practicable.
- (d) At all times provide appropriate support to the survivor. All decision making on what support is provided should be informed by the survivor's wishes.
- (e) If at this stage or any stage in the process criminal activity is suspected, consider reporting to the relevant authorities in accordance with paragraph 13.2 and 13.3 above.
- (f) Check and action any other reporting obligations. These may include:
 - (i) Partner organisations in accordance with an obligation in an agreement or contract;
 - (ii) Statutory or regulatory bodies (such as the Charity Commission or the Information Commissioner's Office);
 - (iii) Insurance provider.
- (g) Consider what next steps are appropriate. These could be (but are not limited to):
 - (i) No further action (for example if there is insufficient information to follow up, or the report refers to incidents outside the organisation's remit and there are no reasonable steps that Hoylake4all may take);
 - (ii) Investigation is required to gather further information;
 - (iii) Immediate disciplinary action of a member of volunteers if no further information needed;
 - (iv) Review, and possible termination, of agreement or relationship with the partnership organisation; or
 - (v) Referral to relevant authorities.
- (h) Document all steps and decisions made clearly, with access appropriately restricted. All records, information and confidential notes will be kept in separate files: hard

copy files will be stored in a locked drawer or filing cabinet and electronic files will be restricted so that only those people who need access are able to do so.

- (i) Record anonymised data to feed into organisational reporting requirements (e.g. serious incident reporting to the Officers) and to feed into learning for dealing with future cases. This will include removal not only of individuals' names but also such information that may otherwise make them identifiable.

14.5 Hoylake4all will develop strategies and tools to ensure effective implementation of this policy and to enable the Designated Safeguarding Officer, Officers and others to monitor its performance.

14.6 Existing systems for risk management, due diligence, monitoring and evaluation, audit and review, and other organisational performance mechanisms will be adapted to include indicators and processes by which implementation of the safeguarding policy can be measured and these processes will be periodically reviewed (at a minimum, biennial reviews are recommended, depending on the influx of asylum-seekers) to ensure that they remain effective and up-to-date in respect of best practice.

14.7 Hoylake4all will implement and regularly update a Complaints Policy aimed at encouraging a culture of openness and accountability wherein volunteers and members of the public are, respectively, confident that they can raise any matter of genuine concern without fear of reprisal in the knowledge that they will be taken seriously and that matters will be investigated appropriately and managed on a need-to-know basis, with appropriate remedial action taken.

15. **Policy Review**

15.1 We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice regularly. This policy will be reviewed by the board of officers bi annually, when there is a change in UK law and/or best practice or when an incident occurs that highlights a need for change – whichever occurs first.

16. **Other relevant policies**

16.1 The following Hoylake4all policies relate to contexts in which serious incidents may arise:

- (a) Complaints Policy

17. **Contact information**

- (a) Hoylake4all's Designated Safeguarding Officer is Simon Petty.

- (b) These individuals have access to the email inbox for reporting concerns, which is secretary@Hoylake4all.org.

If you are not comfortable with submitting your report via email to that address, please call +44 7984 228894 and ask to speak with the relevant person.

18. Publishing this policy

18.1 Hoylake4all will ensure that this policy is at all times publicly accessible on its website.

Date of policy: 29 January 2026

Date of next review of the policy: 29 January 2027

Annex 1: Reporting format

Part One: About You	
Name	
Your role in or relationship to Hoylake4all	
Details of any other organisation involved	
Your relationship to the child/children or vulnerable adult(s) concerned	
Part Two: About the person who is at risk of or may have suffered harm	
Name(s)	
Male/female?	
Nationality	
Age and date of birth (if known)	
Telephone number	
Address/location	
If a child or vulnerable adult, who do they live with?	
Part Three: About Your Concern	
How did you come to have a concern - was abuse observed, suspected or disclosed? Was an allegation made?	
Date, time and place of any incident(s)	
Details of any alleged offender, i.e. name, nationality, occupation	
Nature of	

concern/allegation	
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Observations made by you (e.g. reporter's emotional state, any physical evidence)	
Write down exactly what the child or vulnerable adult said and what you said. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary	
Any other relevant information? (E.g. disability? Language?)	
Were others involved or aware?	
Have you reported to parents or carers or any other volunteers or Agencies, e.g. police?	

If yes:-

Time and date of reporting	
Person(s) to whom report was made	
Advice given	
Action taken	

Official: To be completed by the DSO

Action taken (e.g. reports to relevant authorities; parent/carer informed)	
Date reported to Safeguarding Lead Officer	

(if appropriate)	
Any follow up actions required	