

## *Friends of Eastfield Park*

### **Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy**

1. **The Members of Friends of Eastfield Park (FoEP) believe that** it is unacceptable for anybody to suffer abuse of any kind. We particularly recognise our collective responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are therefore committed to policies and procedures that protect vulnerable adults and all young people under the age of 18.
2. **We recognise that** the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is of overriding importance but that everyone (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) has the right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
3. **The purpose of the policy is** to provide protection for children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend events or activities organised by FoEP. It applies to all members of FoEP and anyone volunteering on behalf of FoEP.
4. **The Policy:**
  - 4.1. ***We will seek to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults by the application of appropriate procedures.***
  - 4.2. ***We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually at our AGM and at other times as considered necessary.***
  - 4.3. ***All members of FoEP and volunteers assisting at any of our activities at which children, young people or vulnerable adults are present should be made aware of the policy and procedures described in this document.***
  - 4.4. ***Although the procedures described in this document relate mainly to children, members of FoEP should use their discretion to apply them to vulnerable adults as appropriate.***
  - 4.5. ***Any member of FoEP or any volunteer assisting at any of our activities who witnesses any harm or abuse of any kind being caused to a child or vulnerable adult at any of our activities should report it immediately to the organiser(s) of the particular activity who will then report it to the appropriate authorities.***
  - 4.6. ***Any concerns about the welfare of children, young people or vulnerable adults arising from any of FoEP's activities should be brought to the attention of the organiser(s) of the particular activity and discussed at the next FoEP Committee Meeting.***

**5. Procedures for Public Events:**

- 5.1. FoEP does not organise activities or events specifically for children. All our events should be advertised as 'family' events with a note that children should only attend if accompanied by a responsible adult.
- 5.2. Children who come along to events without a responsible adult are likely to be from one of the estates bordering the Park and probably play in the Park regularly without adult supervision. They will therefore not be turned away from events but will only be permitted to join activities that can be observed by the general public using the Park (and at the discretion of the organisers). They will not be permitted to join in any activity where they would be alone with members of FoEP or other volunteers.
- 5.3. Members and volunteers assisting at events should not put themselves in a position where they are alone with children in secluded locations.

**6. Procedures for Conservation and other Working Parties:**

- 6.1. Unaccompanied children under 16 are not permitted to join groups carrying out conservation activities.
- 6.2. Unaccompanied children may join in litter picking activities provided that they work in groups with at least two adults present and use the appropriate protective equipment. Groups with unaccompanied children should not work in the most secluded parts of the Park or where there is dense undergrowth. (Apart from other risks it is in these areas that workers are most likely to encounter the results of criminal activity.)
- 6.3. Accompanied children may join conservation or litter picking groups provided that a responsible adult (18 or over) signs the attendance sheet to say that they are accountable for the children joining such groups.
- 6.4. The organiser of the activity is the initial contact point for any concerns about children or vulnerable adults joining clean-up or conservation activities.

**7. Procedures for School & Youth Group Visits:**

- 7.1. FoEP will actively promote the use of Eastfield Park for visits and activities by local schools and youth groups. While members of FoEP may assist at these events, the school teacher or group leader will be responsible for the well-being of the children at these events which should be run in accordance with the school or group's own policies.
- 7.2. Any member of FoEP wishing to assist in such activities should either comply with any request or requirement (such as a need for CRB vetting) made by the school or group organising the event, or else decline to assist.

Approved by the FoEP Committee on: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011(to be confirmed)

Agreed / Revised at the FoEP AGM on: \_\_\_\_\_