

Shoeburyness Residents' Association



Safeguarding Policy

1) Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect residents and particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults, from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with anyone acting on behalf of Shoeburyness Residents' Association particularly during pre-arranged meetings and events.

The policy lays out the commitments made by Shoeburyness Residents' Association and informs associated personnel of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover safeguarding concerns in the wider community unrelated to Shoeburyness Residents' Association members or associated personnel.

2) Definition

In Shoeburyness Residents Association, we understand Safeguarding to mean protecting everyone, including children, young people and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our volunteers and association members.

Safeguarding means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, particularly sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately if concerns are raised.

This definition draws on the values and principles that shape our culture. It pays specific attention to preventing and responding to harm from any potential, actual or attempted abuse of power, trust, or vulnerability, especially for sexual purposes.

Safeguarding applies consistently and without exception across our association members and to anyone running activities, events and meetings on behalf of SRA. It requires proactively identifying, preventing, and guarding against all risks of harm, exploitation and abuse and knowing how to respond when risks materialise.

3) Safeguarding Principles

We believe that:

- Nobody who is involved in our association should ever experience abuse, harm, neglect, or exploitation.

- We all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all our members, and volunteers, to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.
- We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which our association members not only feel safe, but are also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

4) Scope

This safeguarding policy applies to anyone working on behalf of SRA, including committee members and other volunteers.

Partner organisations leading events and activities on behalf of Shoeburyness Residents Association will be required to have their own safeguarding procedures that must, as a minimum, meet the standards outlined below, and include any additional legal or regulatory requirements specific to their work. These may, but are not limited to:

- Other UK regulators, if applicable, such as Ofsted or CQC.
- Other authorities, such as the DfES or NHS.

Safeguarding should be appropriately reflected in other relevant SRA policies and procedures.

4) Policy Statement

Shoeburyness Residents' Association believes that everyone who comes into contact with our association, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Shoeburyness Residents' Association will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by SRA Members or associated personnel.

SRA members charged with a Safeguarding offence or where there is evidence to suggest that a safeguarding breach may have occurred, will be suspended from Shoeburyness Residents Association and from attending any associated meetings or events pending a successful outcome to any investigations.

5) Prevention

Shoeburyness Residents Association will:

- Ensure all its members have access to this policy and that committee members are familiar with and know their responsibilities within this policy.
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with Shoeburyness Residents' Association members. This includes the way in which information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communicated.
- Implement appropriate safeguarding procedures when recruiting new committee members and associated personnel.
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process.

6) Reporting Safeguarding Concerns

If a crime is in progress, or an individual is in immediate danger, call the police, as you would in any other circumstances.

If you are a member of the association, make your concerns known to our Safeguarding Lead at shoeburyresidents@gmail.com

SRA Safeguarding Lead: PETER LOVETT

7) Responsibilities

SRA committee members will:

- Promote a culture of respect, in which everyone feels safe and able to speak up.
- Ensure that any issues are properly investigated and dealt with quickly, fairly and sensitively, and any reporting to the Police/statutory authorities is carried out.
- Plan meetings and events taking into account potential safeguarding risks and ensuring these are adequately mitigated.
- Responding to any concerns sensitively and acting quickly to address these.
- Maintain strict confidentiality while investigations are underway sharing information on a needs to know basis only.
- Ensuring that personal data is stored and managed in a safe way that is compliant with data protection regulations, including valid consent to use any imagery or video.
- Making members and volunteers aware of our safeguarding procedures and their specific safeguarding responsibilities;

Everyone. To be aware of our procedures and expectations and mindful of the risks and signs of potential abuse and, if you have concerns, to report these promptly

8) Review:

This policy was first adopted on **February 21st 2023** and will be reviewed annually.

Review Date February 2024

Signature (Chair) Peter Lovett

Signature (Secretary) Judith Puddick