

LAVANT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Safeguarding Policy

1. Purpose

This policy defines how Lavant Horticultural Society (LHS) operates to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk of abuse or neglect whilst attending any event organised by LHS.

We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of everyone who attends our events including children, young people and adults at risk involved as members of LHS or visitors. We also have a duty to safeguard and support our members, including members of our Committee.

2. Definitions

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health and development
- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who according to Section 42 of the Care Act 2014:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service they may still be an adult at risk.

Persons to whom this policy applies

- All members of LHS including members of the LHS Committee
- All those attending any event organised by LHS including visitors, speakers, judges and volunteers

3. Policy principles

There can be no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect. All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. People who are eligible to receive health and community care services may be additionally vulnerable to the violation of these rights by reason of disability, impairment, age or illness.

LHS has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.

LHS recognises that under the Care Act 2014 it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It also recognises its responsibilities for the safety and care of children under the Children Act 1989 and 2004.

LHS is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.

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LHS is aware of the work of their local safeguarding agencies and other support organisations on the development and implementation of procedures for the protection of children and adults at risk. The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

The LHS Committee is committed to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child, young person or adult at risk is paramount.
- All children, young people and adults at risk have the right to protection from abuse.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse must be properly reported to the relevant internal and external authorities and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

4. Procedures

- A. All members of the Committee will work together to promote a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting welfare to be addressed.
- B. No member of the Committee, helper or other volunteer will have access on their own to children or adults at risk.
- C. If any member or other person has a concern about a safeguarding issue they should report it to a member of the Committee.
- D. All members of the Committee will be responsible for child and adult at risk safeguarding matters. They will report any concerns that arise to the member of the Society appointed by them to be responsible for reporting such concerns as a matter of urgency to the relevant safeguarding agency and, in relation to events which have occurred at the Hall, to the Lavant Memorial Hall Safeguarding Officer.
- E. The person nominated by the Committee for this appointment until further notice is Beryl Starkey.
- F. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against a child or adult at risk will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately by the Committee. The appointed person will know who to contact and where to go for support and advice in relation to an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children or adults at risk who has:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or adult at risk or may have harmed a child or adult at risk.
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to, a child or adult at risk; or
 - Behaved towards a child (or children) or adult at risk in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children or adults at risk.
- G. Most of the events organised by LHS take place in the Lavant Memorial Hall. The LHS Committee confirms that it has understood and will adhere to the Hall's principles and procedures with regard to safeguarding as set out in the Safeguarding Policy of the Lavant Memorial Hall Charity.
- H. The LHS Committee will carry out an annual review of this policy.