**LOVER COMMUNITY TRUST SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Introduction**

Lover Community Trust (LCT) registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in November 2015 and is managed by a Board of Trustees. The Registered Charity Number is 1164291. The address is: The Old School, School Road, Lover, SP5 2PW. We provide a facility that can be used for educational, sport and recreational purposes, to the benefit of the local community. This community building can be hired out for use by other organisations which provide activities which are open to Vulnerable Users.

As the building is unmanned most of the time and used by hirers without Trustees or Volunteers in attendance, the onus is on Hirers and Volunteers to be aware of their own safety and the safety of Vulnerable Users. Any Trustee, Volunteers, Hirers or any other helper who has regulated activity with Children and/or Vulnerable Adults will be required to undertake the appropriate checks.

This policy applies to the Board of Trustees, Volunteers and anyone working on behalf of the Old School and relates to other policies e.g. Health & Safety.

**The purpose of this policy is:**

* To protect Vulnerable Users who receive the services of The Old School.
* To demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe Vulnerable Users with whom it works regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation or identity.
* To acknowledge the LCT’s duty to act appropriately when there are any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse and to work in partnership with statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.
* Provide anyone working for or on behalf of the LCT with clear guidance and procedures for the reporting and recording of concerns.
* To provide our Volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

**Principles**

Lover Community Trust believes those who are vulnerable should never experience abuse of any kind. We recognise that we, the Trustees, have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all Vulnerable Users to keep them safe.

Vulnerable Users could include children, young people, adults with learning difficulties or physical disability, frail people, elderly people and carers. We have a duty to safeguard not only all Vulnerable Users of The Old School and its premises but also those who may come into contact with Vulnerable Users.

The welfare of Vulnerable Users is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All Vulnerable Users, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse or violence whether physical, verbal, sexual, bullying, racist, exclusion or neglect. [Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards Vulnerable Users will not be permitted or tolerated. Not sure of the added value of this sentence following the previous one.] Vulnerable Users have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Trustees are required to sign a Code of Conduct.

**Policy and Procedures**

* No member of the Trustees, Volunteers or other helpers will have unsupervised access to Vulnerable Users unless they have been through the Safe Recruitment procedure and introductory Child Protection or Vulnerable Users Protection training.
* Trustees and Volunteers need to be aware of this policy and where necessary should be offered introductory training.
* There will be two Designated Safeguarding Persons to whom any suspicions or concerns should be reported. These persons are to be nominated annually at the AGM. All suspicions or allegations of abuse against Vulnerable Users will be taken seriously and dealt with speedily and appropriately.
* The Trustees will endeavour to keep the premises safe for use by Vulnerable Users. The Trustees recognise that a higher standard of safety is required where use is made by small children, those who cannot read safety notices/warning signs, physically less able users and those who are frail.
* Any organisations or individuals hiring the hall for the purposes of holding activities where Ofsted registration is required should show their registration and their own Child Protection Policy. Safe Recruitment Processes should be used to appoint staff who will be working with children or vulnerable adults in any kind of activity.
* The Trustees will ensure that Hirers are made aware of their obligations under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under the age of 18. The Trustees will ensure that hirers are aware that no children may be admitted to films when they are below the age classification for the film or show. No gambling or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature shall be permitted on the premises.

**We will seek to keep Vulnerable Users safe by:**

* Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
* Developing and implementing an effective e-safety policy and related procedures.
* Providing effective management for Volunteers through supervision, support and training, as necessary.
* Recruiting Trustees and Volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
* With the help of agencies, sharing information about protection and good practice with Vulnerable People, Parents, Trustees and Volunteers as appropriate.
* Always responding to any concerns regarding the physical, sexual, emotional or psychological safety of a Child or other Vulnerable Person.

**Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect Children and Vulnerable Adults in England, including:

* Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
* Children Act 1989.
* United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991.
* Sexual Offences Act 2003.
* Children Act 2004.
* Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

# A summary of the key legislation is available from NSPCC Safeguarding Standards and Guidance (England) <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/.../nspcc-safeguarding-standards-and-guidance-england> 2018

**Monitoring and Review**

The Chairman is responsible for monitoring this policy and ensuring that all Trustees are aware of their responsibilities as outlined in the policy. This policy will be in the public domain.

Lover Community Trust will oversee, review and update this policy **annually.**

Date approved: 18**th September 2024**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Date of next review: **September 2025**