

External Speakers Policy

February 2023



1. Introduction and purpose

As a charity, we are required by the Charities Commission to ensure that all events which take place under the umbrella of Lowdham FLAG (which includes all society events) must have the risks posed by these events considered, and that checks are made on people who have been invited to speak at an event and that any risks identified by this check should be mitigated.

Risks for a charity can include potential reputational, financial, operational damage. In addition to this we do not have our own building space. This means that all Lowdham FLAG events that take place must also take into account any premises' policies and procedures when booking in external speakers.

2. Definitions

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 paragraph 42.1 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

Children and young people are defined as those persons aged under 18 years old. This policy will apply to all staff, contractors and volunteers and will be used to support their work.

"Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children" is defined in Working Together 2018 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

3. Persons affected by this policy

- All volunteers
- All service users
- All visitors and contractors

4. Our Policy

- Lowdham FLAG has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- There are no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk and children from abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment.
- Lowdham FLAG 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 is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- The welfare of the child and/ or adult at risk is paramount and all adults have the right to protection from abuse.

- We are committed to working with appropriate agencies to ensure the reporting of abuse is appropriate and in line with local, national and Charity Commission requirements and Information Sharing guidance.
- We will create an environment where volunteers feel able to raise safeguarding concerns and feel supported with their safeguarding responsibilities
- All volunteers and staff are required to report any suspected abuse and be aware of the appropriate reporting and support procedure for safeguarding including the reporting of people at risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- All volunteers who come into contact with adults at risk of abuse, and children and their families as part of their Lowdham FLAG duties will be alert to possible signs of abuse and consider whether there may be safeguarding concerns.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Lowdham FLAG will fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in a way that ensures that adults and children are safeguarded from harm.
- A senior board level member will have leadership responsibility for Lowdham FLAG's safeguarding arrangements
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trustees.

Date	Changes made	Review date