



Tyne Rivers Trust

Safeguarding Policy

Date Adopted: 17th November 2022

Date of Next Review: 30th June 2024

Safeguarding Policy Review & Sign-off

This policy has been presented for approval by the full Board of Trustees. The Designated Safeguarding Officer and Trustee for Safeguarding will review the policy and toolkit regularly and present it to the Board at least annually to ensure that all information is accurate, relevant and up to date. The Board of Trustees will sign off the document annually. Any changes will be summarised in the table below.

Date of review	Reviewed by	Changes made (Yes / No)	Comments
19/12/19	Ceri Gibson	Yes	Policy revised to update & strengthen.
7/12/20	Ceri Gibson	Yes	Updated Kate Simpson email address. No other changes required.
20/01/22	Ceri Gibson / Kate Simpson	No	No changes required.
07/11/22	Ceri Gibson / Kate Simpson	Yes	Removed requirement for police investigation to be completed before internal enquiries commenced. P19
08/01/24	Ceri Gibson / Kate Simpson	No	No changes required.

Signatures

Designated Safeguarding Officer:

Dr Ceri Gibson

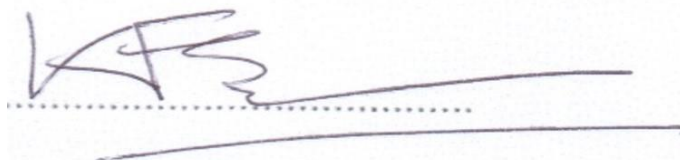
Date: 8th January 2024



Trustee for Safeguarding:

Kate Simpson

Date: 8th January 2024



Board of Trustees Chair:

Richard Kirk

Date: 8th January 2024



Tyne Rivers Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1107358

REGISTERED COMPANY NO: 5086888

Registered Address:

Unit 8 Shawwell Business Centre
Stagshaw Road, Corbridge
Northumberland NE45 5PE

Tyne Rivers Trust Safeguarding Policy

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the Safeguarding Toolkit and associated recording forms.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tyne Rivers Trust is an independent environmental charity established to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the rivers, streams, watercourses and water bodies in the Tyne catchment, and to advance the education of the public in the management of water and the wider environment.

Tyne Rivers Trust work with children and adults at risk in a number of different contexts including site tours, farm visits, conservation tasks, work experience placements, public events and schools workshops. We deliver hands-on and practical activities that help our participants learn about rivers and have positive connections with their environments.

We believe that children and adults should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and adults at risk and to keep them safe. We are committed to practise in a way that protects them.

We take the view that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Learning over the past two decades has shown that harm experienced by young people can be reduced with collaborative working and taking an integrated approach to safeguarding and child protection.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect children and adults at risk who take part in activities with Tyne Rivers Trust
- Provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection to help them feel confident and safe when working in communities.

The Safeguarding Policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers, students, contractors or anyone who may be working on behalf of Tyne Rivers Trust.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of guidance that seeks to protect children and adults at risk, namely:

- The Children Act 1989
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Care Act 2014
- Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; HM Government 2015
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Data Protection Act 2018 (relating to EU General Data Protection Regulations).

4. TYNE RIVERS TRUST SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND TOOLKIT

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount, as enshrined in the Children Act 1989
- Everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity has a right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse
- Some children and adults are additionally vulnerable because of their previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs and other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, adult participants, families, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting welfare and wellbeing.

We will seek to keep children and adults at risk safe by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Officer and board member for safeguarding.
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer will be responsible for safeguarding procedures and ensuring the policy remains up to date. This person is the point of contact and 'named person' for safeguarding children and adults at risk at the Trust.
- Adopting 'child and adults at risk' protection and safeguarding practices through clear procedure, training and guidance for staff and volunteers
- Carefully recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers, with extra considerations and procedures for those working with vulnerable groups; whether paid or voluntary
- Checking all staff who regularly work with children and/or adults at risk and their managers through the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) system
- Planning and delivering all activities to make sure they are as safe and inclusive as possible, in line with our Health and Safety and Safeguarding policy and procedure and ensuring that as far as is practicable we provide a safe environment for all those present and minimise opportunities for vulnerable people to suffer harm
- Safely recording and storing information and data, including photos of vulnerable groups

- Have and follow a clear process for reporting any concerns
- Responding to concerns and allegations appropriately
- Ensuring that all staff and trustees shall be made aware of, trained in, and able to access this policy and supporting documents.

When is safeguarding relevant to us?

Any time that we are working with or meeting the public. For example:

- Delivering workshops in/for schools or community groups
- Running volunteer days
- Tyne Rivers Trust stands and activities at fairs and events
- Visiting farmers or landowners
- Delivering or managing works on publicly accessible land

This policy and accompanying guidance have been developed to help make our safeguarding practice **transparent**, **accountable** and **defensible**, and to make sure that we are doing all that we can to protect participants, staff and volunteers from harm.

Putting this policy into action

This policy and associated 'Toolkit' guidance will be circulated to staff and trustees. High quality training will ensure our responsibilities are clear and the policy and procedure are understood by all.

The Tyne Rivers Trust's Designated Safeguarding Officer is Dr Ceri Gibson.

The Tyne Rivers Trust's Trustee for Safeguarding is Kate Simpson.

These safeguarding leads will meet quarterly to review issues and practice across the Trust and make updates and changes to our procedure as necessary. Trustees will review and sign off this Safeguarding Policy and toolkit at least annually, including considering how it links to other policies and practice (e.g. Health & Safety, Data Protection, Recruitment).

This Safeguarding Policy and associated Toolkit has been developed by Tyne Rivers Trust with support and guidance from Alice Fallon at Severn Rivers Trust. We acknowledge the reproduction of parts of the Severn Rivers Trust documents where factual and instructive.

For a copy of the toolkit and associated documents please contact Ceri Gibson by email c.gibson@tyneriverstrust.org