



Safeguarding Policy

Summary of the Policy

- We are committed, within our Movement, to the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people.
- We will respond without delay to any complaint made, cooperating with police and the local authority in any investigation.
- We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust.

The Quiet Garden Trust considers the protection of children and vulnerable adults as a serious matter and is committed to nurturing high quality Quiet Garden spaces which are accessible to all. Central to this commitment is the need to provide a safe environment for visitors when accessing Quiet Gardens, which includes safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Quiet Garden Trust does not work directly with vulnerable adults or children, but individual Quiet Gardens may have children and vulnerable children visiting. The Trust offers Safeguarding Guidelines for Quiet Gardens, but due to their geographically diverse nature and local ownership the responsibility for a safeguarding policy and procedures to be followed in each Quiet Garden are held by the individual Quiet Garden and are the responsibility of the Quiet Garden Host.

The Quiet Garden Trust follows and promotes safeguarding principles to help ensure the following with regard to Quiet Garden spaces:

- children and vulnerable adults are protected
- safeguarding principles are promoted and protected
- hosts are protected from false allegations
- good record keeping is maintained (such as guest lists and disclosure form)
- confidentiality is maintained and people know when to share

Principles underlying the Policy

The Quiet Garden Trust is committed to encouraging an environment within the Quiet Garden Movement where all people, including those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay, and we will cooperate with the police and local authority in any investigation.

The Policy aims to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. An adult who is vulnerable is defined as “any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”.

Implementing the Policy

The Quiet Garden Trust, and those representing it, should:

- Seek to work in a non-abusive way that respects the rights of individuals to enjoy privacy, dignity, independence and choice.
- Actively promote the empowerment and well-being of vulnerable people through the services we provide.
- Ensure rigorous recruitment practices to deter those who actively seek vulnerable people to exploit or abuse, including taking up references and where appropriate using Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- Actively promote a culture within which all those who express concern will be treated seriously and will receive a positive response.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers understand that vulnerable people can be abused and that they know what to do if they think that someone is being abused.

- Point Quiet Garden hosts and their volunteer teams to good practice and appropriate training and support.
- Identify a lead member of staff and trustee who takes responsibility for updating procedures and implementing the policy for the Trust.
- Ensure that confidentiality and information sharing related to the protection of vulnerable adults and perpetrators of abuse in a multi-agency context are maintained through the agreed protocols.

Implementing the Policy in a Quiet Garden

Everyone, as a citizen, has a responsibility for the safety, well-being and protection of others, and Quiet Gardens should provide a welcoming, safe place for all people, including those who may be seen as vulnerable.

Quiet Garden hosts and their support teams should have a good knowledge of the guidelines for good safeguarding practice and should be implementing them; they should know what to do if they learn of any incidents where vulnerable people are being mistreated or abused.

When a Quiet Garden joins the Quiet Garden Movement as an affiliate or associate the Host will be provided with a copy of the 'Safeguarding Guidance for Quiet Gardens' and made aware of their responsibility towards children and vulnerable adults.

Unless the Quiet Garden is in a school, they will not usually have children visiting who are unaccompanied by an adult. Hosts are advised that they should only allow children to visit a Quiet Garden when accompanied by a supervising adult.

It is much more likely that Quiet Gardens will be visited by vulnerable adults. The Guidance advises about best practice of working with vulnerable adults and good record keeping.

The Guidance provided to hosts also advises that if they will be working directly with children and vulnerable adults they will need to develop their own Safeguarding Policy and have a named Safeguarding Officer.

Policy Adopted by The Quiet Garden Trust

Date:

Signed:

Sue Nightingale - Chair of Trustees

Policy Last Updated: 13/12/16

The Quiet Garden Trust Safeguarding Representatives

Staff Member: Matt Freer (Projects Manager)

Trustee: Margaret Harvey

Contact details

Tel: +44(0)1494 578909

Email: info@quietgarden.org

Office: Quiet Garden Trust, Copse End, Copse Lane, Jordans, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2TA, UK