

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy 2018

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children's Act (1989) and (2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief, creed, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (the Children's Act 1989).

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary fully adopts the British Equine Federation (BEF) Safeguarding Policy (Children and Young People), the full policy can be downloaded from the BEF website www.bef.co.uk

Aims

The aims of The Mare and Foal Sanctuary Safeguarding Policy are:

- To ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst at The Mare and Foal Sanctuary, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
- To take all reasonable, practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- To ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practise or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. It is the responsibility of child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is **everyone's responsibility to report it.**
- To ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- To maintain high standards of behaviours and good practise through compliance with BEF codes of conduct produced for instructors, coaches, parents/guardians, junior members and volunteers. The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved with The Mare and Foal Sanctuary. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the The Mare and Foal Sanctuary.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance.
- As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, BHS and the BEF.
- As a result of any other significant change or event.



Centre Safeguarding Officer

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary will appoint a Centre Safeguarding Officer (CSO)

The role of the CSO is:

- To ensure that The Mare and Foal Sanctuary staff and volunteers, are aware of the Safeguarding Policy, procedures, guidelines and codes of conduct and adopt them as appropriate.
- Be the first point of contact at The Mare and Foal Sanctuary for staff, volunteers, young people or parents/guardians for any issue concerning safeguarding, child protection or welfare, poor practise or potential/alleged abuse.
- To have access to contact details for local Children's Services, the Police and the BHS Lead Safeguarding Officer.
- To follow the information in the BEF Safeguarding Policy for procedures for recording and reporting information as required.
- To advise the BHS Lead Safeguarding Officer of any allegations or complaints made in relation to child protection and safeguarding and to implement BHS's Safeguarding procedure as appropriate.
- To respond to any allegations or complaints made from within The Mare and Foal Sanctuary in accordance with the agreed protocols detailed in the BEF Safeguarding Toolkit.
- To ensure that Under 18 clients and their parents/guardians are aware of The Mare and Foal Sanctuary Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and how to access them.
- To facilitate and promote education and training in safeguarding for staff and volunteers.
- To ensure that procedures on recruitment of staff and volunteers are followed and for those roles which undertake regulated activity or regulated work, please see DBS and PVG guidance documents.
- To ensure that codes of conduct are in place for staff, volunteers and all visitors including children and young people.
- To ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a 'need to know' basis.

It is not the role of the CSO to be a Child Protection expert or to determine whether or not a serious incident has taken place, rather to record the details and seek guidance if necessary.

Communication

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all staff, volunteers, junior members and their parents/guardians and it will appear in full on the The Mare and Foal Sanctuary website within the Education section.

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary will circulate to all new clients and their parents/guardians if they are under the age of 18, the name and number of the Centre Safeguarding Officer.

All individuals involved with The Mare and Foal Sanctuary, no matter what role they participate in, must adhere to the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct. All individuals involved with The Mare and Foal Sanctuary must all sign to agree to uphold the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct.



Training

Instructors/coaches and staff and volunteers working with children must undertake approved safeguarding training course within the last 3 years. Refresher training must be completed every three years via an approved online training portal or a further face to face course. Any new appointments of under 18 instructors/coaches and staff and volunteers working with children will undertake Safeguarding training as part of their initial training/induction unless they can evidence that they have undertaken the course with another member body in the last three years. They will then refresh their training every three years as detailed above.

Criminal Record checks

Instructors who teach/coach Under 18s, staff and volunteers working with children at The Mare and Foal Sanctuary must hold an enhanced current certificate through the Disclosure and Barring Service, Disclosure Scotland or Access NI as appropriate.

Certificates must be renewed every three years.

Further information and links

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary Safeguarding Officer details:

Dawn Neil Education Manager and Centre Safeguarding Officer at Coombe Park Visitor Centre

Tel: 01626 355969 or 01803 866615 Mobile: 07842 061996

BHS Lead Safeguarding Officer 02476 840746 safeguarding@bhs.org.uk

Confidential email: cpleadofficer@bhs.org.uk

Childline 0800 1111

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

Devon Children and Families Partnership – Devon Safeguarding Children Board (DSCB):

If you have an urgent safeguarding concern contact MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 0345 155 1071 or email mashsecure@devon.gcsx.gov.uk

Out of hours number for MASH is 0845 6000 388

To contact the DSCB office (not to report safeguarding concerns), please call 01392 386067

Documents Please see BHS website for useful templates and documents

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/working-with-the-law/safeguarding-children> Criminal record check information England and Wales <http://www.bhs.org.uk/our-charity/working-with-the-law/criminal-record-checks-england-and-wales>

BEF Safeguarding and Toolkit links:

<http://www.bef.co.uk/Detail.aspx?page=BEF-Safeguarding-Safeguarding>

<http://www.bef.co.uk/Detail.aspx?page=tool-kit>