



POPPY COMMUNITY
GARDEN, AUGUSTA PARK

Rooting for Andover

Safeguarding Adults Policy

Policy Owner: Vicki Cunningham

Policy approved by: Michael Parker & Maureen Treadwell

Date Policy first approved: 14 March 2023

Last policy review and update: February 2026

(Rooting for Andover)
(February 2026)

Introduction

We are an all-volunteer led organisation which promotes community growing and community gardens in the Andover area. We have a community garden at Augusta Park (Poppy Community Garden) and small community orchards in the Roman Way and Smannell Road areas. We run regular events and have volunteer sessions at Poppy Garden several times each week. We are also engaged in the Healthy Communities project run by TVBC and the NHS and regularly join their events as a contributor.

Rooting for Andover is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines.

We will safeguard adults by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe.

Rooting for Andover is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to adults which necessitates: the recognition of adults who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how adult abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.

This extends to recognising and reporting harm experienced anywhere, including within our activities, within other organised community or voluntary activities, in the community, in the person's own home and in any care setting.

Rooting for Andover is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all adults to live a life free from harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Policy Statement

Rooting for Andover believes everyone has the right to live free from abuse or neglect regardless of age, ability or disability, sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status.

Rooting for Andover is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and an open, listening culture where people feel able to share concerns without fear of retribution.

Rooting for Andover acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

Rooting for Andover recognises that health, well-being, ability, disability and need for care and support can affect a person's resilience. We recognise that some people experience barriers, for example, to communication in raising concerns or seeking help. We recognise that these factors can vary at different points in people's lives.

Rooting for Andover recognises that there is a legal framework within which organisations need to work to safeguard adults who have needs for care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves and will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding adult legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Actions taken by Rooting for Andover will be consistent with the principles of adult safeguarding ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the adult concerned.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of Rooting for Andover to safeguarding adults and to ensure that everyone involved in Rooting for Andover is aware of:

- The legislation, policy and procedures for safeguarding adults.
- Their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults.
- What to do or who to speak to if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult within the organisation.

Scope

This safeguarding adult policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Rooting for Andover including Trustees and Volunteers and to all concerns about the safety of adults whilst taking part in our organisation, its activities and in the wider community.

We expect our partner organisations, including for example, affiliated community groups, suppliers and sponsors to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice as set out in this Safeguarding Adults Policy and associated procedures.

Commitments

In order to implement this policy Rooting for Andover will ensure that:

- Everyone involved with Rooting for Andover is aware of the safeguarding adult procedures and knows what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.
- Any concern that an adult is not safe is taken seriously, responded to promptly, and followed up in line with Rooting for Andover Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures.
- The well-being of those at risk of harm will be put first and the adult actively supported to communicate their views and the outcomes they want to achieve. Those views and wishes will be respected and supported unless there are overriding reasons not to.
- Any actions taken will respect the rights and dignity of all those involved and be proportionate to the risk of harm.
- Confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored in line with our Data Protection Policy.

- Rooting for Andover acts in accordance with best practice advice, for example, from Test Valley Borough Council, the Charities Commission and National Governing Bodies.
- Rooting for Andover will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard an adult.
- All Trustees understand their role and responsibility for safeguarding adults and are up to date with safeguarding learning opportunities appropriate for their role.
- Rooting for Andover continually assesses the suitability of volunteers to prevent the deployment of unsuitable individuals in this organisation.
- Rooting for Andover will share information about anyone found to be a risk to adults with the appropriate bodies. For example: Disclosure and Barring Service, Services, Police, Local Authority/Social Services.
- When planning activities and events Rooting for Andover includes an assessment of, and risk to, the safety of all adults from abuse and neglect and designates a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- Actions taken under this policy are reviewed by the Trustees as required.
- This policy, will be reviewed whenever there are changes in relevant legislation and/or government guidance as required by the Local Safeguarding Board, and/or National Governing Bodies, Charity Commission or as a result of any other significant change or event.

Implementation

Rooting for Andover is committed to developing and maintaining its capability to implement this policy and procedures.

In order to do so the following will be in place:

- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for the safety and welfare of all adults.
 - Access to relevant legal and professional advice.
 - The Trustees will discuss how risks to adult safeguarding are being addressed and how any reports have been addressed.
 - Safeguarding adult procedures that deal effectively with any concerns of abuse or neglect, including those caused through poor practice.
 - Have a Safeguarding Lead at each gardening session.
 - Have a delegated Safeguarding Lead for events.
 - Arrangements to work effectively with other relevant organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults, including arrangements for sharing information.
 - Codes of conduct for Trustees, Volunteers and other relevant individuals that specify zero tolerance of abuse in any form.
 - Risk assessments that specifically include safeguarding of adults.
 - Policies and procedures that address the following areas and which are consistent with this Safeguarding Adults policy.
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| ✓ Safeguarding Children | ✓ Code of Conducts and a process for breach of these. |
| ✓ Bullying and harassment | ✓ Discipline and grievance process |
| ✓ Social Media | ✓ Complaints |
| ✓ Equality, diversity and inclusion | ✓ Data protection and information sharing |
| ✓ Safe activities risk assessments | |

Rooting for Andover's nominated adult safeguarding lead is:

Name – Michael Parker

If you have any queries about this policy or would like to report a concern, please email info@rootingforanover.org.uk