



POPPY COMMUNITY  
GARDEN, AUGUSTA PARK

# Rooting for Andover

## Safeguarding Children Policy

*Policy Owner: Vicki Cunningham*

*Policy approved by: Michael Parker & Maureen Treadwell*

*Date Policy approved: 5 January 2025*

(Rooting for Andover)  
(January 2025)

## **Introduction**

Rooting for Andover 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 three small community orchards in the surrounding area. We run regular events and have volunteer sessions at Poppy Garden several times each week.

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

Rooting for Andover will safeguard children by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all children safe. However, Rooting for Andover require all children who attend an event at the community garden to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Access to events or the garden can be denied if appropriate parental supervision is not in place.

Any volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Rooting for Andover will ensure that if there is an event at a school/nursery or visit from a school/nursery that at least one trustee/volunteer in attendance will be DBS checked.

## **Policy Statement**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from [nspcc.org.uk/childprotection](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/childprotection).

Rooting for Andover acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all children who visit the community garden or attend a Rooting for Andover event.

Rooting for Andover recognises that there is a legal framework within which organisations need to work to safeguard children and will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding child legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is:

- to protect children and young people who come into contact with the Rooting for Andover team and the community garden from harm. This includes the children of adults who volunteer for Rooting for Andover.
- to provide children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

## **Scope**

This policy and associated procedures apply to all individuals involved in Rooting for Andover including trustees, volunteers and members and to all concerns about the safety of children 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 Children Policy and associated procedures.

## **Commitments**

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

- children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind
- we have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people, to keep them safe and to practise in a way that protects them.
- Rooting for Andover is committed to creating a culture of zero-tolerance of harm to children which necessitates: the recognition of children who may be at risk and the circumstances which may increase risk; knowing how child abuse, exploitation or neglect manifests itself; and being willing to report safeguarding concerns.
- Rooting for Andover shares information about anyone found to be a risk to children 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 children from abuse and neglect and designates a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.
- We recognise that the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare

- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse

We will seek to keep children and young adults safe by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- appointing a nominated a lead trustee/volunteer for safeguarding
- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- providing effective supervision, support, and quality assurance measures so that all trustees and volunteers know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern
- using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against trustees and volunteers
- appropriately
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, trustees and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- building a safeguarding culture where trustees and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.
- Rooting for Andover will cooperate with the Police and the relevant Local Authorities in taking action to safeguard a child.
- Rooting for Andover will continually assesses the suitability of volunteers and trustees to prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals in this organisation.
- Rooting for Andover will share information about anyone found to be a risk to children 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 children from abuse and neglect

and designates a person who will be in attendance as a safeguarding lead for that event.

**Rooting for Andover's nominated child protection lead is:**

**Name – Michael Parker**

If you have any queries about this policy, please email [info@rootingforanover.co.uk](mailto:info@rootingforanover.co.uk)