

Edge Ministries Safeguarding Policy

At Edge Ministries, we want to make sure everyone – especially children, young people, and adults who need extra help – feels safe, valued, and protected. The safety and well-being of everyone who comes to our Edge Centres is our priority. We believe it's everyone's responsibility to stop harm, abuse, or neglect from happening. We want our Edge Centres to be spaces where everyone feels safe, supported, and able to speak up if something is wrong.

Our Promise to Keep People Safe

Safeguarding means keeping people safe, and it is everyone's job to do this. This means:

- All our staff and volunteers at Edge Ministries know how important it is to keep people safe and understand what they should do if there is a concern.
- We make sure that all staff and volunteers get the right training on how to keep people safe.
- Staff can talk openly about any concerns they have and get support if they need it. Everyone has the chance to speak up if something doesn't feel right.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

We think of children as anyone under 18. Here's how we protect young people:

- We provide a safe environment where children and young people can have fun and get help when they need it.
- All staff and volunteers get the right background checks (like DBS checks) before they start working with children and young people.
- If we hear about any concerns of abuse or neglect, we act straight away and tell the right people who can help.

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

An adult at risk is someone who is 18 or older and needs extra care or support because of things like illness, disability, or age. For adults at risk, we:

- Respect that every adult has the right to live free from harm and abuse.
- Encourage adults to live independently but make sure they have the support they need.
- Act quickly if we believe a person is being abused or neglected, and follow the rules to make sure they are protected.

Preventing Abuse

We are committed to preventing all kinds of abuse, including:

- **Physical abuse** (being hurt or injured)
- **Emotional or psychological abuse** (being bullied, threatened, or manipulated)
- **Sexual abuse** (any unwanted sexual behavior or contact)

- **Neglect** (not being cared for properly)
- **Financial abuse** (someone taking your money or belongings without your permission)

We want to make sure that people feel comfortable reporting anything that seems wrong so that it can be dealt with properly.

Safeguarding Coordinator

We have someone called the safeguarding coordinator who is responsible for:

- Making sure we follow our safeguarding practices.
- Helping staff and volunteers with any safeguarding concerns or questions.
- Ensuring that concerns are handled quickly and correctly.
- Working with outside agencies, like social services or the police, when needed

Reporting Concerns

If anyone notices something that doesn't seem right, we take it seriously. Here's what to do if there's a concern:

- **Report it immediately:** Talk to the safeguarding coordinator or another senior member of staff.
- **Follow the process:** We will make sure the concern is looked into properly to keep everyone safe.
- **Don't try to investigate it yourself:** If someone suspects abuse, it's not their job to investigate. The right people (like the police or social services) will handle it.

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Reviewing the Policy

We review our safeguarding policy every year to make sure it's up-to-date and still works. If something goes wrong, we'll review what happened and make improvements to keep people safe in the future.