

Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

Child Protection Policy

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Introduction to the work of BEAT

We are a non-profit community group based in West Yorkshire. BEAT is a fully constituted unincorporated association.

Further information, constitutional documents and copies of this and other policies can be downloaded from the BEAT web site: <http://www.blackshaw.net/BEAT>

BEAT's Aims

- a. To protect nature, wildlife and the general environment in Blackshaw.
- b. To ensure that local and national authorities and organisations act to conserve the area, involving local people in the process.
- c. To monitor and oppose any activity detrimental to nature, wildlife and the general environment in the area.
- d. To assist and/or develop any plan which enhances nature, wildlife and the general environment in the area.
- e. To encourage, promote and assist the introduction of domestic renewable energy technologies and similar sustainable initiatives, sympathetic to the general environment in the area.
- f. To promote, develop and sustain measures for the benefit of the environment in the area.

Policy Statement

BEAT recognises that anyone working with children has a duty under the Children Act of 1989, to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people in its care. BEAT acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

Aim of the Policy

The policy recognises that child protection covers a range of issues that require careful consideration including:

- Volunteer recruitment
- Action to be taken
- Code of conduct
- Definition of child abuse

The policy aims to set out in clear terms how the procedures of BEAT are designed to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people.

Scope of the Policy

This policy is also to be applied to vulnerable adults.

The activities of BEAT are community and family orientated and children and vulnerable adults are likely to attend some of our events. It is not anticipated that BEAT members or volunteers will be responsible for children and vulnerable adults who are unaccompanied by their own parents, carers or other responsible adults. If this should change, then this policy will be reviewed.

Child Protection Officer

A member of BEAT will be appointed to take on the role of Child Protection Officer. In the event that there is no CPO in post, this role will be taken on by the Treasurer. This person will act as a contact between any member or volunteer who has a concern and the appropriate service or agency who will deal with the problem.

This person will not be expected to be a Child Protection expert, but will be a channel for information. They will not be expected to deal with any child Protection issues on their own.

Child protection Officer:

Currently BEAT treasurer:

Finn Jensen

Tel: 01422 846863

Email: finn.jensen@rocketmail.com

The Child protection Officer will ensure that all BEAT volunteers receive copies of policies and procedures relating to the safety and protection of children. The Child protection officer will also ensure that the policy is relevant, compliant and up to date.

The Child Protection Officer will establish an Incident Book, where they will record any reported incidents or breaches of Child Protection policies and procedures. This will be kept in a secure place and its contents will be confidential.

Code of Conduct

BEAT will ensure that our code of conduct for those working with children and young people is followed at all times.

The code is designed to minimise situations where abuse might occur by stipulating that:

- volunteers avoid situations where they are alone and unobserved with individual young people;
- all activity, as far as possible is publicly observed or conducted in a group setting;
- inappropriate touching of any form is never permitted;
- the use of inappropriate language never goes unchallenged;
- appropriate action will be taken in all cases and instances of child protection concerns involving young people;

Definition of Abuse

BEAT recognises that it has a duty to act on reports or suspicions of abuse. It also acknowledges that taking action in cases of child abuse is never easy. However we believe that the safety of the child must override any doubts or hesitation.

Abuse refers to:

- Physical abuse- e.g. being kicked, shaken, slapped beaten or punched;
- Sexual abuse- e.g. being touched inappropriately;
- Emotional abuse - e.g. being called insulting names;
- Neglect - e.g. not being given enough to eat or having inadequate clothing;

Action to be taken

BEAT recognises that it has a duty to act on reports or suspicions of abuse. It also acknowledges that taking action is never easy. However we believe that the safety of the child must override all doubts and hesitations.

Stage 1

When a member, volunteer or committee member is alerted to an incident of possible child abuse, in all cases they will:

- Listen carefully to what the young person has to say and take it seriously;
- Record what has been said as soon as possible after the disclosure;
- Date and sign the record;

- Respect confidentiality;
- Not take sole responsibility
- Notify the organisation's Child Protection Officer
- Where appropriate discuss the concerns with an agency worker

Stage 2

- BEAT Child Protection Officer will take advice from the NSPCC National Child Protection Help-Line on 0808 800 5000
- BEAT child protection Officer will ensure that the allegation is reported to Social Services if appropriate.

Contact Numbers:

NSPCC National child Protection Help-line 0808 800 5000

Social Services:

Leeds Referral hotline 01133984702 Bradford 01274 435361

Wakefield Child protection Unit 01924 302195 Kirklees 01924 483745

Calderdale Initial Response Team 01422 353279

All verbal referrals to Social Services will be followed up in writing.

This policy was adopted on 3rd April 2012

Signed

Position in organisation: Treasurer