

Safeguarding Policy Statement

This policy applies to all volunteers, including team leaders, members of the Board of Trustees and any other persons who are undertaking any activity on behalf of the Waterways Experiences (WEXP) charity.

The purpose of this policy:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive Waterways Experiences services. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- to provide ALL volunteers, team leaders and trustees with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection

WEXP believes that a child, young person or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and to keep them safe. We are committed to deliver our services in a way that protects them.

WEXP 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. We are 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.

WEXP acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all children, young people and adults involved.

We recognise that health, well-being, ability, disability and the 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.

We also recognise that there is a legal framework within which we need to work to safeguard children, young people and 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 legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Actions taken by WEXP will be consistent with the principles of child, young people and adult safeguarding, ensuring that any action taken is prompt, proportionate and that it includes and respects the voice of the child, young person or adult concerned.

Signature
Andrew Thomson
Chair of Trustees
24th July 2025