

Safeguarding Policy for Comberton Twinning Association

Organisation and Mission

Comberton Twinning Association (CTA) exists to facilitate communication and visits between residents in the area around Comberton in the UK, and those around Le Vaudreuil in France. CTA is a small “Voluntary Association” rather than a company or charity, so its administration is minimal.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding refers to the processes of keeping people safe from abuse and promoting their wellbeing, where a child or adult is unable to protect themselves from abuse. Safeguarding usually refers to all children (up to 18yrs old) and adults at risk (also known as vulnerable adults).

CTA and Safeguarding

CTA acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk and is committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities (such as the Care Act 2014), government guidance, and complies with best practice.

The policy aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and adults at risk:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of the activities of the Association in a safe environment;
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in the activities of the Association.

CTA accepts the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. As part of our safeguarding policy, CTA will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk;
- ensure everyone is aware of their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding;
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse, and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern;
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of safeguarding concerns are maintained and stored;
- minimise the risk of involvement of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure that the French partner twinning association is aware of this policy, approves of it, and takes appropriate action commensurate with French legal requirements.

Note however, that the unit of membership of CTA is the family, and primary responsibility for children remains with the responsible adults of the family. The Association does not accept unaccompanied children (under 18) on its trips.

Contacts

Within the Association, any suspected abuse should be reported to a member of the Management Committee (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, etc) for escalation. Outside the organisation, official contacts are available on the Cambridgeshire County Council website at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/report-abuse-of-a-vulnerable-adult/> and <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/>.

Deployment and Monitoring

This safeguarding policy will be promoted to the membership through the AGM, website, and membership email. Its processes are mandatory for everyone involved in the Association. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may result in exclusion from the organisation.

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or following changes in legislation and/or government guidance, or as a result of any other significant change or event.

[Paul Hardy, Chairman, 23-Jan-2019, revised 06-Dec-2019, reviewed 21-Sep-2021.]