



**Friends of  
Troopers Hill**

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## **Children & Vulnerable People Protection Policy**

Friends of Troopers Hill believes that it is always unacceptable for a child, young person or any vulnerable person to experience abuse of any kind and recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of everyone the group has contact with, by a commitment to practice which protects them.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person/vulnerable person is paramount
- everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse

The purpose of the policy:

- To provide protection for children, young people or vulnerable people who attend events or activities organised by Friends of Troopers Hill.
- To provide volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect anyone may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

This policy applies to anyone volunteering on behalf of Friends of Troopers Hill

We will seek to safeguard children, young people or vulnerable people by application of the following procedures and guidelines. We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice regularly.

### **Procedures and Guidelines – Children & Young People**

#### Public Events

Friends of Troopers Hill do not run activities or events specifically for children. All events are advertised as 'family' events and children are expected to attend with a responsible adult. Any children who appear to be unaccompanied will be asked to return with an adult before being permitted to take part in any activities.

Volunteers assisting at events will be briefed that they should not put themselves in a position where they are alone with children out of sight of the responsible adult.

At each event or activity a member of Friends of Troopers Hill will be nominated as 'Lost Child Contact'. Volunteers will be briefed to report any child that appears to be lost to the Lost Child Contact.

Volunteers will be asked to report any worries they have about possible abuse of any child attending the event to the Lost Child Contact or directly to Bristol City Council or the Police via the contacts below. The Lost Child Contact will pass any reported concerns to BCC or the police as appropriate.

## Guided Walks & Work Parties

Guided Walks and Work Parties are carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in Bristol City Council's 'Health & Safety Support Pack for Community Groups and Volunteers'.

Work Parties are of short duration (max 2.5 hrs). Unaccompanied children under 16 are not permitted on Guided Walks or Work Parties. At Work Parties an adult must sign the attendance sheet to say that they are responsible for any children that they bring to the Work Party.

The Work Party or Walk Leader will be the contact point for any concerns about children attending the event.

## School & Youth Group Visits

Friends of Troopers Hill also promote the use of Troopers Hill for visits and activities by local schools, Scouts or other youth groups. While Friends of Troopers Hill will assist at these events the school teacher or group leader will retain responsibility for the well being of the children and these events should be run in accordance with the school or group's own policies.

## Contact Information

Any Friends of Troopers Hill volunteers who suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm should contact one of the following:

At public events the 'Lost Child Contact' for Friends of Troopers Hill.

At Work Parties or Guided Walks the event leader.

In addition or at other times phone the First Response Bristol team on **0117 903 6444**.

First Response Bristol gives the right help, in the right place, at the right time.

Outside office hours you can call the First Response Emergency Duty Team - 01454 615 165

If the child is at immediate risk call the Police on 999.

More information can be found at [www.bristol.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/childprotection)

## **Vulnerable Adults**

Friends of Troopers Hill also recognises that vulnerable adults have the right to protection from harm or abuse. The above policies will also be applied as appropriate to vulnerable adults attending our events.

Any adults attending these events who have special needs would be expected to attend with a support worker or similar.

Concerns about the welfare of vulnerable adults should be reported to:

Bristol Care Direct Telephone 0117 922 2700

or via the secure form at [www.bristol.gov.uk/safeguarding](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/safeguarding)