Evesham Adventure Playground Association

Reg.charity no.513526



-more than just a place to play

Safeguarding Statement

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe is a priority for Evesham Adventure Playground.

This means:

- All children up to the age of 18 years whether living with their families, in state care, or living independently.
- Adults who require care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), or is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.
  - requires care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)

Policies have been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004, the Education Act 2002,the Childcare Act 2006, and in line with 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' 2026, “Keeping Children Safe in Education” Sept 2026 and the recommendations of Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	**Dave Boucker** 07855734393
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Deputy DSL)	**Jason Cooper/Maria Warwick Wrap around Care** 07498242810 / 07921465220 **Beck Boucker Alternative Provision Lead** 07870667643
Registered Provider:	**OFSTED 205234**
Senior Management Safeguarding Officer	**Kath Cordwell** 07964549902

Last reviewed on	**September 2026**	**Next review date**	**September 2027**

Our policies are driven by 4 key commitments:

Key commitment 1

- Managing a safe working practice

Key commitment 2

- Safer staff and volunteers –recruitment, training, continuous development and supervision.

Key commitment 3

- Reporting concerns and allegations

Key commitment 4

- Providing safe activities- Trips, events and residential

Key commitment 1

Managing a safe working practice

The charity is committed to building a 'culture of safety' in which children and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse and harm in all areas of its service delivery.

We have a clear and accountable leadership and management of the safeguarding process including owned and reviewed policies and procedures that allow staff and volunteers to operate safely.

- There is a clear relationship with the local LSCB in line with the government publications The Teachers' Standards 2021; "Working Together to Safeguard Children"2026 and "Keeping Children Safe in Education" 2026
- There is a procedure in place on how parents/carer details are recorded and kept. The record state whether a child or young person is subject to any particular care arrangements or court orders and give guidance on how staff should deal with any conflicts between parents/carers concerning the participation of a child or young person in the activities of the organisation
- There is clear reference within the policy and procedures for gaining parental/career consent.
- There are clear structures for reporting and giving/receiving advice on child protection within the organisation as well as externally to Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (WSCP)
- When working in partnership, there is a clear line of communication that supports child protection procedures which may include additional risk assessing, collection of data, agreed lines of referral and specialist training.
- There is a formal induction or introduction to the codes of conduct and policies and procedures for keeping young people safe, which clearly identifies who they should report any concerns to or seek advice from.
- There is a clear organisation wide strategy that demonstrates how young people are involved in safeguarding, and encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings
- Effective monitoring and evaluation occurs to ensure procedures are known and understood by all staff and volunteers.
- There is a clear e-safety policy giving the organisations role and responsibility in ensuring children and young people are as free from potential risk as possible –the policy gives guidance on content, commerce, contact and culture.
- All paid and unpaid staff are given an agreed level of group or individual supervision appropriate to their role. Supervision takes place every 6 Months.

Related policies: Information Sharing, Health and Safety, GDPR & Data Protection, Open Access , Play, E-safety, Admissions, Accessibility and inclusive

Appendix: Supervision, Registration/consent Forms, Incident form, Accident form, Code of conduct,

Key commitment 2

Safer staff and volunteers –recruitment, training, continuous development and supervision.

To minimise risks and to ensure the safety of children and young people and vulnerable adults, the Adventure Playground has current safe recruitment, training and retention arrangements and a written safeguarding policy and procedures.

- All paid staff and volunteers complete an application form, which includes address details, evidence of relevant qualifications, experience and a declaration of all criminal convictions as appropriate to current legislation
- All new staff and volunteers are asked to provide two pieces of identification: at least one of which must show their current address, at least one must confirm their date of birth, at least one must be photographic evidence
- A minimum of two references are taken up before the post is confirmed or offered conditionally subject to DBS disclosures-one of which should be from the last employer or an organisation that has knowledge of the applicants work with children and young people. If the applicant has not worked with children or young people before, they should confirm this and give an alternative referee.
- All interviews being held are carried out by at least two interviewers who have had training and involve where possible children, young people or users of the service
- Disclosure checks must be received and acknowledged by a manager before they have any direct or unsupervised contact with the service users.
- A thorough and effective induction programme is in place for all paid staff and volunteers which communicates information on the Adventure Playground relevant policies and procedures including those relating to safeguarding children and young people
- All staff and volunteers are provided with a clear job or role description which details their roles and responsibilities in terms of safeguarding.
- All staff and volunteers complete a probationary period (usually 3-6 months) from their start date, with mid and end term reviews. Reviews will have a positive outcome before appointments are confirmed and where appropriate an annual development review is available.
- Designated safeguarding lead and senior management safeguarding officer receive appropriate update training and access to CPD in order to ensure good practice and the continual reviewing of procedures.
- All paid and unpaid staff are given an agreed level of group or individual supervision appropriate to their role. Supervision takes place every 6 months.
- There is a clear understanding of the legal duty to make a safeguarding referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service if a worker or volunteer has been dismissed or removed from work due to harm or risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult.

• of suspected abuse and neglect to the local authority children's social care as required and support staff who make referrals to local authority children's social care,
• to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern as required and support staff who make referrals to the Channel programme,
• where a crime may have been committed to the Police as required

- Those working with children young people and vulnerable adults will undertake safeguarding training in line with statutory and organisational guidance.

Related policies: Safer recruitment, Student Placement , GDPR, Code of Conduct, Equality and Diversity

Appendix: training matrix, safer recruitment checklist ,induction checklist, job description

Key commitment 3

Reporting concerns and allegations

Real or perceived safeguarding incidents are acted upon, resolved recorded and reported in a timely and appropriate manner.

- There is a clear leadership and management accountability so as to protect and support both the staff and volunteers and the children and vulnerable adults throughout the process of managing allegations
- Children and vulnerable adults have clear access to advice, support and guidance around expected behaviour (code of conduct) as well as for reporting concerns or suspicions and making allegations
- We are alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), those with relevant health conditions and young carers .
- staff have an awareness of safeguarding issues that often overlap and can put children at risk of harm
- Clear policies and procedures for information sharing are in place when reporting concerns, welfare concerns, suspicions and allegations to a designated safeguarding officer in line with advice in “Working Together to Safeguard Children” 2026 and “Keeping Children Safe in Education” 2026. This includes how and when the information should be reported and to whom.
- There is a named designated safeguarding lead who is clearly accessible to all staff, volunteers and children, and a senior management safeguarding officer elected from the management committee.
- The designated safeguarding lead receives direction from senior management safeguarding officer and their role is clear within their job description.
- The designated safeguarding lead and senior management safeguarding officer have joint responsibility for disseminating and implementing child protection and safeguarding procedures
- Clear policies and procedures, including support systems are in place and clearly communicated at induction and/or training to enable paid staff, volunteers and children to report, in confidence, any suspicions concerning the conduct of others or the organisation itself.
- staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children that are abusive in nature.
- staff are aware that child-on-child abuse is a safeguarding issue for both the victim and alleged perpetrator.
- Staff have an understanding of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation are both forms of abuse that occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into taking part in criminal or sexual activity.

Related policies: Confidentiality , Data , information sharing , whistleblowing , complaints,Attendance

appendix: induction ,incident report, accident form, types of abuse children/adults,code of conduct

Key commitment 4

Providing safe activities- Trips, events and residential

All activities provided will operate within an environment that supports a culture of safety, whilst, at the same time, encouraging children ,young people and vulnerable adults to develop and grow.

- The environment and activity taking place are risk assessed and risk managed, regardless of whether the activity takes place on site or off.
- When planning external trips and activities, the appropriate licences and accreditations are checked and own risk assessment are carried out.
- Appropriate employers liability insurance, private and public including any additional cover is taken out to ensure all people taking part are suitably covers
- The activities are planned and are age appropriate, and adequately supervised, taking into account staff ratio's, individual needs of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and number of appropriately qualified staff required.
- Adequate and appropriate first aid provision is provided for children, young people, vulnerable adults and staff
- When undertaking planned trips and activities, parents and carers are informed of potential risks and contact and consent details are taken.

Related policies: Environmental policy, Open Access Policy, Transport policy, Health and Safety Policy, Suspension and Exclusion Policy, First aid policy, Attendance Policy

appendix: risk benefit assessments, consent forms

Understanding the child and families need

We use the WSCP Levels of need guidance to support our understanding of the child's needs and our decision making. In some circumstances we may be able to offer additional support ourselves. Sometimes we might need to work with another agency or possibly more than one. If possible, we will avoid a formal process, but when a child's situation becomes more complex or there appears to be increased risk, it may be necessary to draw up more formal plans with the family in order to coordinate the work.

Level 1

Represents children with no identified additional needs. Their needs are met through the routine services they receive from early years services, schools and health services, such as the GP or public health nurses, and hospitals some may also be receiving services from housing and voluntary sector organisations. Most children will successfully develop and thrive at this level of need. These are known as universal services available to all children and young people.

Level 2

Represents children with additional presenting needs which can include parenting support, emotional wellbeing, housing, finances, and vulnerabilities in their community known as contextual safeguarding. These extra needs can be met by a universal service providing single agency additional support and/ or co working with one or more partner or voluntary agencies to address the identified additional needs. An offer of early help and support will build on a family's existing strengths and focusing on whole family working to respond to the child's identified needs, safety and wellbeing with a focus on addressing and preventing an escalation of those needs and vulnerabilities.

If further support is required, we would (with the engagement of the family) carry out an Early Help Assessment and seek consent to involve other professionals as appropriate, and/or talk to a community social worker for advice and support.

Level 3

Represents children and young people who have complex needs themselves and/ or their family do, which impacts upon their safety, wellbeing and family life adversely. This may include multiple adverse childhood experiences, risk of family breakdown, poor emotional and mental health, inadequate parenting, domestic and/ or substance misuse. They will require several agencies working together with the family in a co- ordinated way to help the family make changes and improve the family functioning and outcomes for the children.

Level 4

Represents children who need statutory and/or specialist interventions including:

- Children in need, including those in need of protection
- Children looked after and privately fostered
- Young people who have committed an offence
- Children with acute mental health needs

The definition of **'child in need'** is defined by the Children Act 1989 s17 (10), which provides that a child is to be taken as 'in need' if

- s/he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a local authority . . .; or
- her/his health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him of such services; or
- s/he is disabled. You are disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

A child in need of protection is described in Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, Paragraph (1):

'Where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the authority shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare'.

Children and young people who are looked after children under section 20 or section 31 of the Children Act 1989 will all be receiving services from children's social care at level 4.

Family Front Door

We recognise Family Front Door as the referral point for all referrals where members of the community and professionals refer children and young people living in Worcestershire where they are worried about their safety and welfare.
Where we have concerns about a child, we would contact the Family Front Door on **01905 822666** weekdays 9.00am to 5.00pm (until 4:30pm on a Friday).
https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-social-care/refer-childrens-social-care
Or, if the child concern is not immediate use our local authority online form to raise the concern.
During out of office hours (5.00pm to 9.00am weekdays and all-day weekends and bank holidays) we would contact the Emergency Duty team on **01905 768020.**

However, if the child needs immediate protection, we contact the Police on **999**, and if a child is brought to us with serious injuries, we telephone for an ambulance

Referral forms are printed and saved in the child's safeguarding file.

If we are not in agreement with the Family Front Door about the level of need and appropriate action, we will use the levels of need guidance to support a professional discussion with the decision maker, and if still unsatisfied we would use the WSCP Escalation policy. Escalation-Policy-Resolution-of-Professional-Concerns.pdf (safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk)

In the meantime, we would continue to observe the child and support them and their family.
If necessary, we would make another referral.