

SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2023-2024



The trustees and volunteers who help maintain Gazen Salts Nature Reserve and/or run activities and events at the site are committed to the safeguarding of all users of the site.

This policy applies to all trustees and volunteers, and provides guidance to all users of the site of how to direct any concerns.

1. Gazen Salts Nature Reserve volunteer activities do not usually involve working or otherwise coming into contact with children or vulnerable adults who are not with an adult carer. However, the Reserve is free to access at all times, so unaccompanied minors or vulnerable people may from time to time enter the Reserve. Engagement with these individuals is on an emergency-only basis and will if possible not be alone.
2. Gazen Salts Nature Reserve activities are not regulated activities and reserve volunteers are not subject to DBS checks. Nonetheless, we recognise that safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is vital and that as group members we have a duty of care towards any children and vulnerable adults who use the reserve.
3. We are committed to the principle that all children and vulnerable adults without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
4. The reserve does not employ paid staff – but it does have ‘members’ who are trustees and/or volunteers. Their responsibilities are to ensure the health and safety of the environment and to manage the reserve in line with the objectives referred to above.
5. At no time are reserve group trustees or other volunteers permitted to take responsibility for the care of children or vulnerable adults, in the absence of an authorised adult carer.
6. While contractors are on-site for any work at no time are they required or permitted to take any responsibility for the care of children or vulnerable adults.
7. In the event that- notwithstanding the above we will signpost users to allow the reporting of any concerns about the welfare of children or vulnerable adults. If raised, the reserve group members are committed to working with all relevant agencies to take appropriate actions, working to agreed local policies and procedures and legal requirements.

This policy will be reviewed October 2024

Signed *pp Daniel Friend* (Chair Gazen Salts Nature Reserve)

Date 30th November 2023

Actions in response to any concerns about children and vulnerable adults using the Reserve

Contact Kent Social Services

Concerned about an adult

To tell us about an adult safeguarding concern, either:

- [complete our online form](#)
- call [03000 41 61 61](tel:03000416161)
- email social.services@kent.gov.uk
- [text relay](#) 18001 03000 41 61 61.

Concerned about a child

To tell us about an child safeguarding concern, either:

- call [03000 41 11 11](tel:03000411111)
- email social.services@kent.gov.uk
- [text relay](#) 18001 03000 41 11 11.

Out of hours and in an emergency

If you need to contact us outside of normal office hours, for example during the night, call [03000 41 91 91](tel:03000419191).

If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services.

If your query relates to a concern or question that is related to activities or occurrences on the site, or potentially the site being used in a dangerous manner, but does not meet the threshold for social services then email info@gazensalts.co.uk and direct it to the safeguarding officer (we cannot guarantee a response time but will deal with all concerns)



Committed to safeguarding all users