

## 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 where to direct any concerns.

1. Gazen Salts Nature Reserve volunteer activities do not usually involve working with, or otherwise coming into contact with, children or vulnerable adults who are not accompanied by 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 undertaken by one volunteer 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 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. 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.
5. While contractors are on-site for any work, at no time are they required or permitted to take responsibility for the care of children or vulnerable adults who may be visiting the Reserve.
6. We will signpost users to report any concerns about the welfare of children or vulnerable adults (see Kent Social Services information below).

This policy will be reviewed October 2025

***Approved at Trustees' Committee Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024***

# 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](mailto:social.services@kent.gov.uk)

### Concerned about a child

To tell us about a child safeguarding concern, either:

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

## Out of hours and in an emergency

If you need to contact Kent Social Services 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.**



*Committed to safeguarding all users*