

Britain Yearly Meeting Safeguarding Policy

1. Principles

- 1.1 Britain Yearly Meeting recognises that there is that of God in everyone. All adults and children deserve respect, value and appropriate care. Our care extends both to those who are potentially vulnerable as victims of abuse, and those who are perpetrators.
- 1.2 Quakers are committed to:
 - (1) The care, respect and nurture of all vulnerable groups encountered within Quaker activities.
 - (2) The safeguarding and protection of children and other vulnerable people.
 - (3) The promotion of a culture of good practice in relation to activities promoted by Quaker meetings and groups.
 - (4) Maintaining and developing procedures and good practice guidelines.
- 1.3 BYM Trustees, who are responsible for the centrally managed work, have approved this safeguarding policy in relation to any centrally managed work that involves activities for and with children and other vulnerable people. BYM Trustees review this safeguarding policy annually, making amendments as necessary.
- 1.4 This policy is supported by a set of written procedures that contain detailed guidance for implementation. These procedures are made available to all staff and volunteers with relevant responsibilities for centrally managed work. The procedures are reviewed annually and revised as necessary by the BYM governance manager or other designated staff member

2. Policy

- 2.1 Within the centrally managed activities for children, young people and vulnerable adults the responsible staff and volunteers will ensure that:
 - (1) A rigorous recruitment procedure is in place for any person in a position of responsibility in relation to children or other vulnerable people, including volunteers.
 - (2) A culture of 'informed vigilance' about the dangers of possible abuse is created and fostered.
 - (3) Training in all aspects of safeguarding is provided.
 - (4) Appropriate written records are created, kept for the recommended periods and in the recommended places, and are ultimately destroyed in accordance with data protection policies.
 - (5) Staff and volunteers know how to make referrals to statutory agencies and understand that they are expected to do so whenever abuse is known about or suspected.
 - (6) Staff and volunteers are willing to respond, without delay, to any allegation or complaint that is made that suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed.
 - (7) Staff and volunteers co-operate with police and any other statutory body involved.
 - (8) Safer spaces exist around potential threats.

- (9) Where someone is known to have harmed someone or to pose a risk to children, young people or adults, appropriate action is taken to protect all vulnerable people.
- (10) A person who is known to have harmed someone or to pose a risk will only be able to attend centrally managed activities where their local or area meeting is able to put in place appropriate pastoral care to support them during the event.

2.2 In addition, BYM staff available to offer advice and guidance to all area meetings, which are all independent charities. *Quaker faith & practice* 4.14 sets out the need for all area meetings to agree a safeguarding policy of their own.

**Agreed by BYM Trustees
June 2017**