

NEWTOWN TEXTILE MUSEUM

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Statement of purpose

The Newtown Textile Museum is a charitable trust (No 1188651) and run by a group of volunteers. The Trustees are responsible for all matters relating to the day-to-day activities of the Museum. The Trust is committed to ensuring that adults and children are protected from abuse and neglect when visiting the Museum. This safeguarding policy applies to all Trustees and volunteers and anyone working on behalf of the Newtown Textile Museum.

Definitions

In Wales, *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* is the latest legislation covering safeguarding, in force from April 2016 and applies to:

Children - a person aged under 18 years. (in certain circumstances children's legal rights can apply to a person up to the age of 25; who has a learning disability or who has been looked after by a local authority at any time after reaching the age of 16)

Vulnerable Adults – someone who is over 18 and has the dependency on others for the performance of or the requirement for assistance in basic functioning, a severe impairment in communication ability or a reduced ability to protect themselves from abuse, assault or neglect.

All NTM volunteers have a duty with respect to safeguarding.

Principles

The welfare of the child or vulnerable adult is paramount and is the responsibility of everyone. All children and vulnerable adults, without exception, have the right to protection from abuse, whether physical, verbal, sexual, financial, bullying, exclusion or neglect. Bullying, shouting, physical violence, sexism and racism towards them is not permitted or tolerated.

Policy Statement

All children and vulnerable adults who visit the Museum are expected to be accompanied by an adult who would be responsible for ensuring their safety.

But if a volunteer has any suspicion that a child or a vulnerable adult is being abused it needs to be raised with the Museum's Safeguarding Officer who has the responsibility for reporting concerns that arise, as a matter of urgency, with the appropriate agency. In the first instance this would be the organisation employing the responsible adult who accompanied the child or vulnerable adult. If this is not feasible for some reason, the matter would be reported to the appropriate agency of the local authority, or the police by the Safeguarding Officer.

All volunteers will be made aware of this policy as part of their induction to the role.

The nominated person should:

- Know who to contact in Social Services for advice and referrals.
- Ensure that volunteers are made aware of this policy and who the safeguarding officer is.

- All Local Authorities in Wales have their own contact for safeguarding issues. In Powys it is ASSIST (formerly PPD) on **01597 828649**.

Dealing with disclosures

If a child or adult at risk tells you that they are being abused, or if an allegation is raised by a third party, the following steps should be followed:

- Try not to appear shocked and show that you accept what they are saying and that you take their allegation seriously. Listen carefully and sympathetically and bear in mind communication in relation to age or any learning disabilities.
- Do not prompt or ask leading questions.
- Explain what action you must take i.e. immediate referral to a designated person.
- Do not promise confidentiality, as information on abuse must be reported.
- Make a note of the date, time, place, and people who were present and write down exactly what you have been told, using the exact words if possible.
- Do not confront the alleged abuser.
- Refer all information immediately to the relevant designated person.
- All allegations of abuse of children or adults at risk must be reported to the designated person on the day that they are raised, who will then take all further necessary action.

Individuals should never deal with abuse disclosures in isolation and should always refer to the nominated person.

The Museum's Safeguarding Officer in 2022 is Christine Davies, on committee02@newtowntextilemuseum.co.uk.

Approved: 25 April 2022. To be reviewed: January 2025