



RAW – Restoring Annan’s Water -Safeguarding Policy

Within RAW activities, communications and relationships, there are opportunities for anyone to harm others and develop abusive relationships. Vulnerable adults and children who have been abused will be involved in RAW activities and be susceptible to further abuse. Single incidents and abusive relationships are by their nature, not always noticeable nor obvious. Therefore, RAW seeks to be vigilant in preventing harm and observing incidents

RAW recognises the responsibility it has regarding safeguarding and promoting RAW fully the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. This policy sets out how the organisation will meet these responsibilities.

RAW recognizes that this policy relates evidence of harm that has occurred within the organization and out with the organisation

Everyone in RAW and its associates have an important role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect through their contact with children and vulnerable adults. It is important that everyone knows what to do if they have any concerns. RAW will create and maintain an ethos where children and vulnerable adults are encouraged to talk and are listened to. They will have an awareness of the indicators of abuse and always take any concerns seriously.

If anyone has any suspicion that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused, they will report this to:

The designated Safeguarding Officer (currently Peter Dreghorn) and if serious, Police Scotland directly.

If a child or vulnerable adult discloses that they have been abused, RAW cannot promise that this will be kept a secret. Everyone in RAW who has unsupervised access to or contact with children or vulnerable adults are required to:

- Recognise and accept their responsibilities.
- Develop awareness of the issues which can cause children harm.
- Report concerns following the procedure below.
- Document all that has happened using an incident report form.
- No interrogation should take place for names, events, or regularity.

RAW will endeavour to safeguard children and vulnerable adults by:

- Ensuring all RAW members have attended a safeguarding awareness meeting
- Share the policy amongst new members and associates
- Reporting concerns to the authorities.

RAW is committed to reviewing its Safeguarding Policy and codes of practice at least once a year. It is our policy that:

1. RAW accepts responsibility for the welfare of children and vulnerable adults who come into contact with RAW in connection to the services we offer and that they will report any concerns about a child or somebody else's behaviour using the procedures laid down.
2. There are Designated Safeguarding Officers who will act following any expression of concern and the lines of responsibility in respect to safeguarding are clear.
3. The Designated Person knows how to make appropriate referrals to safeguarding and child protection agency
4. Information relating to any allegation or disclosure will be clearly recorded as soon as possible and there is a procedure setting out who should record information and the timescales for passing it on.
5. Physical contact between adults and children should be kept to the minimum required. Younger children may need more physical contact than older children. Adults should avoid contact that could be misconstrued.
6. It is not permissible to transport children or vulnerable adults, without a responsible adult or guardian
7. RAW members should not make suggestive or inappropriate remarks to or about a child or a vulnerable adult, even in fun, as this could be misinterpreted.
8. The Children Act of 1989 states that the 'welfare of the child is paramount'. This means that considerations of confidentiality which might apply to other situations should not be allowed to override the right of the children to be protected from harm. However, every effort should be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned when an allegation has been made and is being investigated.
9. RAW's Safeguarding Policy will be referred to or included in recruitment, training, moderation, and policy materials where appropriate, and the policies are openly and widely available to staff and actively promoted within the organisation.
10. It is important not to deter children or vulnerable adults from making a disclosure of abuse through fear of not being believed, and to listen to what they have to say. It is important to

follow RAW's procedure for reporting concerns, and never attempt to investigate the concerns personally.

11. Accept that abuse of children and vulnerable adults can happen at any age (even from other children), gender, ethnic background, or class and not to allow personal preconceptions about people to prevent appropriate action taking place.
12. A culture of mutual respect between children, vulnerable adults, and RAW members in all our activities will be encouraged, with our staff modelling good practice in this context.
13. Anyone in connection with RAW with unsupervised access to children and vulnerable adults will be checked appropriately.
14. It is part of RAW's acceptance of its responsibility of duty of care towards children and vulnerable adults that anybody who encounters safeguarding concerns in the context of their work on behalf of RAW will be supported when they report their concerns in good faith.
15. No casual conversation about anyone may occur in relation to any suspected harm or abuse
16. Accusation of abuse from a RAW member or Volunteer to another must be reported to the SO

Roles and Responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Person

Peter Dreghorn is currently responsible for dealing any safeguarding concerns.

The roles of the designated person are to:

1. Know which outside social services or child protection agency to contact in the event of a safeguarding concern.
2. Provide information and advice on safeguarding to all in RAW
3. Ensure that appropriate information is available at the time of referral and that the referral is confirmed in writing confidentially.
4. Liaise with local social services and other agencies as appropriate.
5. Keep any relevant people within RAW informed about any action taken and any further action required, for example, disciplinary against a member of staff.
6. Ensure that a proper record is kept of any referral and action taken, and that this is kept safely and in confidence.
7. Advise all staff of safeguarding training needs.
8. Liaise with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to review the operation of Safeguarding Policy regularly to ensure the procedures are working and that it complies with the current best practice.

Evidence of abuse

RAW members should not seek evidence of abuse but notice signs, especially if they are marked and occur regularly. If someone has been emotionally or mentally abused, they could be attention seeking, regularly angry, lacking in confidence. Sexual abuse can make someone recoil

from the slightest touch or be over intimate in their behaviour. Physical abuse can cause people to be overanxious, flinch regularly and physically abuse others readily. **It is the seriousness and the regularity of evidence which are key criteria for concern.**

Evidence of harm and abuse occurring outside the RAW Programme.

Policy Reviewed July 2022