



The National Vegetable Society

Registered Charity 1088979



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Revision 1

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The National Vegetable Society (NVS) is committed to ensuring all who engage in its' activities do so in a safe and enjoyable environment. Everyone within the Society including Trustee's, Officers, Members, Judges, Stewards, Lecturers, Volunteers (hereafter, known as "members") have a role to play in supporting and promoting the Society's inclusive and positive culture.

Having The Right People in the Right Place

Whilst everyone has a responsibility for Safeguarding, the NVS has a designated National Safeguarding Officer who has completed appropriate training in accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines.

The NVS Safeguarding Officer

The NVS Safeguarding Officer is

- The first point of contact for all members of the Society
- A source of safeguarding advice for NVS Trustees, Committees and members.
- The Societies main point of contact should the need arise for involvement or referral to external safeguarding agencies.
- The person responsible for ensuring correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing any safeguarding concerns.
- Recording concerns appropriately in a confidential and sensitive manner.
- Ensuring members are aware of our safeguarding procedures and that Trustees understand their specific safeguarding responsibilities on induction, with regular updates/reminders, as necessary.
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Contact details for the Safeguarding Officer can be found on the NVS website (<https://www.nvsuk.org>) within the Trustees section and on page 3 of the NVS Simply Vegetables Magazine.

Applicability

This policy applies to any NVS members and other volunteers.

Partner organisations are responsible for their own safeguarding procedures and include any additional legal or regulatory requirements specific to their work. These include, but are not limited to other UK regulators and Irish regulators if applicable.

Principles

We believe that:

- Nobody who is involved in our work should ever experience abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation.
- We all have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all our beneficiaries, members, volunteers, to keep them safe and to work in a way that protects them.
- We all have a collective responsibility for creating a culture in which our people not only feel safe, but also able to speak up, if they have any concerns.

Creating the Right Culture and Environment

All members regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability, have the right to engage in NVS activities in an environment that is both safe from abuse of any kind and promotes positive experiences for its members.

The Trustees and Safeguarding Officer complete regular safeguarding training and promote safeguarding awareness to the wider membership .

Reporting and Responding to Safeguarding Concerns

It is our aim that everyone in the NVS should feel confident in raising a concern. We believe that raising and dealing with concerns quickly promotes a safeguarding culture within the Society.

All suspicions, concerns and allegations will be taken seriously. The Society will follow best practice by utilising the safeguarding 3 R's guidance :-

RESPONDING appropriately

RECORDING confidentially

REPORTING where necessary, ensuring concerns are dealt with in a fair and prompt manner.

Reporting Concerns

If a crime is in progress, or an individual in immediate danger, call the police, as you would in any other circumstances.

The NVS recognise that it is not the responsibility of its members to determine or investigate if abuse has taken place, but to act on any concerns promptly and report accordingly to relevant safeguarding organisations.

We will ensure that confidential information relating to safeguarding matters is shared appropriately and only with those individuals or agencies who need to know.

If members of the public highlights a concern known to a member of our team, they will alert the NVS Safeguarding Officer.

For members of the charity, you can make your concern known directly to the NVS Safeguarding Officer.

Please refer to Appendix A for guidance.

The trustees are mindful of their reporting obligations to the Charity Commission in respect of Serious Incident Reporting and, if applicable, other regulator. They are aware of the Government guidance on handling safeguarding allegations.

Types of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms, such as physical, psychological or emotional, financial, sexual or institutional abuse, including neglect and exploitation.

Responsibilities

The NVS is committed to this policy and the Trustees will review it on an annual basis.

Safeguarding training will be updated in accordance with guidance from the Charity Commission.

Trustees are aware of and will comply with the Charity Commission guidance on safeguarding and protecting people and also the 10 actions trustee boards need to take to ensure good safeguarding governance.

Online Safety

We will identify and manage online risks by ensuring:

- Members and trustees understand how to keep themselves safe online.
- The online services we provide are suitable for our members.
- The services we use and/or provide are safe
- We protect personal data and follow data protection legislation.

- We have permission to display any images on our website or social media accounts, including consent from an individual, parent, etc.
- We clearly explain how users can report online concerns. Concerns may be reported using this policy, or direct to a social media provider using their reporting process.
- We will not permit Junior members to join the NVS members facebook group to protect from potential risk.
- The NVS members facebook group has a set of rules to abide by. (refer Appendix B)

Online Safety Act

- We apply proportionate measures to prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content.
- We have carried out a risk assessment and put in place measures to combat risks identified

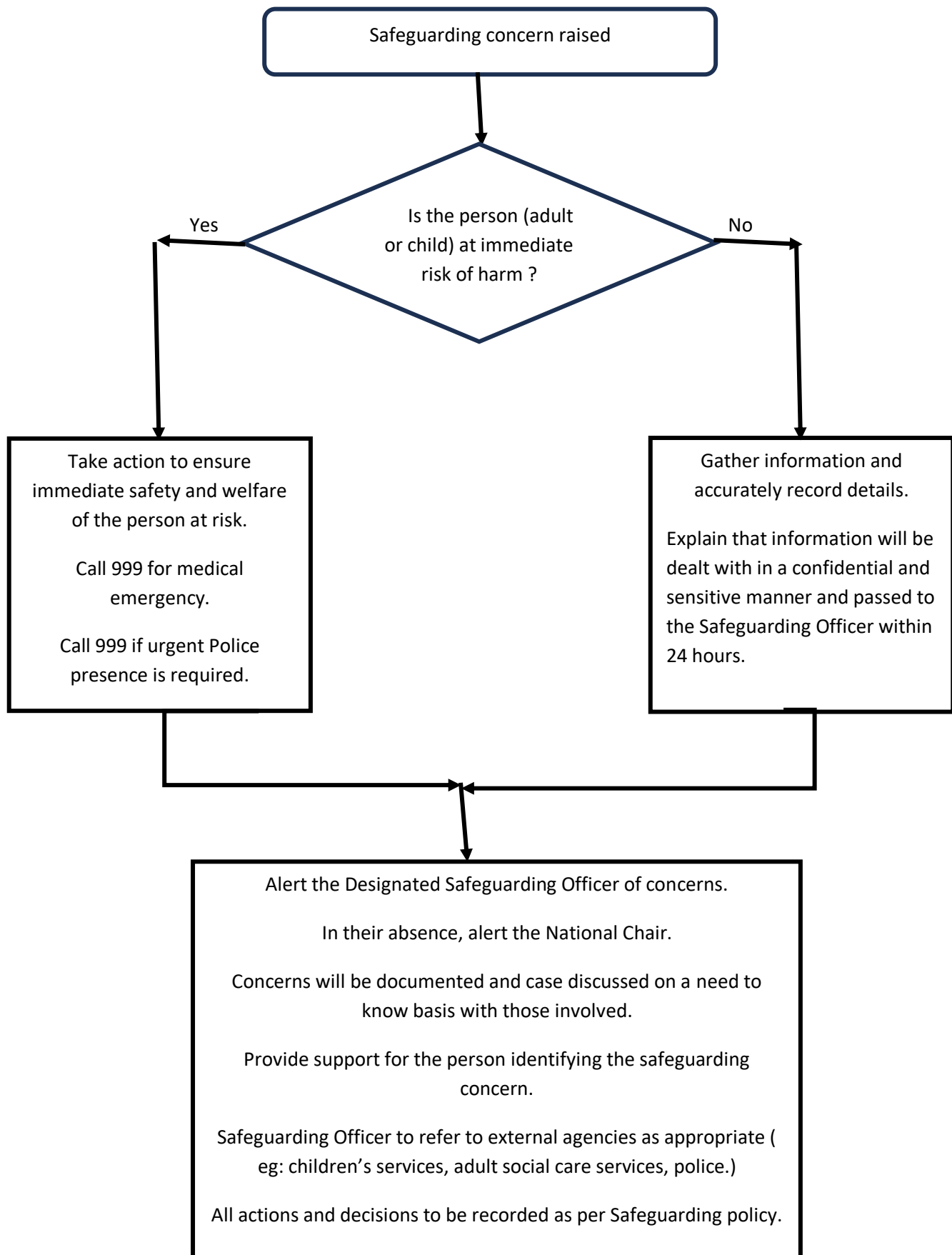
We also have measures in place to ensure we remove illegal content, including:

- Our Social Media Officer, Webmaster and our Moderators ensure that our members online safety is maintained.
- Our website forum and Members only Social Media Groups have terms and conditions and/or group rules.
- We have a process to monitor content and take it down quickly if it is inappropriate.

AI Safety

We recognise the growing use of AI and are committed to ensuring our use is both safe and ethical, and to safeguard our community from abuse by others using AI.

Appendix A Process flow



Appendix B - NVS - Facebook members group rules

1. Be Kind and courteous

We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but politeness is required.

2. No Hate speech or bullying

Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.

3. No promotions or spam

Give more than you take to this group. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.

4. Respect everyone's privacy

Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

5. Personal details

Do not give out personal details. If other members get in touch with you and you aren't sure about the content of the message, please alert the NVS Team by sending a private message to the page.

Appendix C - REFERENCES TO STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Human Rights Act 1998

Care Act 2014

Section 4 of the Adult Support and Protection 2007 (Scotland)

Children's Act 2004

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

Working Together to Safeguard People 2022 (Wales)

Data Protection Act 2018

Online Safety Act 2003

Charity Commission (England and Wales)

Version Control - Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and/or or following an incident, change in legislation, or other significant factors. It will also be reviewed as part of any safeguarding incident investigation, to test that it has been complied with and to see if any improvements might realistically be made to it.

Revision No.	Approval Date	Main Changes
1	14 th April 2026	Initial Release