

# Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Tor View Farm Ltd (the company) offers a programme of 'Equine Assisted Learning' to a range of participants. The programme is called 'Happy Hoofers' and is intended to help participants regulate their emotions, become more self-aware, improve mental health and wellbeing. The Company has adopted this safeguarding child policy and expects every adult working or helping at the Company to support it and comply with it. Consequently, this policy shall apply to all staff, managers, trustees, directors, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Company.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

This policy is intended to protect children who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us. Under this policy, the term children shall mean any person who is under eighteen years of age. The Company believes that no child or young person should experience abuse or harm and is committed to the protection of children and young people. This policy is intended to provide guidance and overarching principles to those who represent us as volunteers or staff, to guide our approach to child protection and safeguarding.

## **3. THE RISKS TO CHILDREN**

Children can be vulnerable to different forms of abuse and harm. It is important to recognise that abuse and harm of children can cover a wide range of circumstances and behaviours.

For example, children can be at risk of:

- a) Physical or emotional abuse
- b) Neglect
- c) Sexual abuse
- d) Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- e) Grooming and exploitation
- f) Trafficking and modern slavery
- g) Exposure to or infliction of domestic abuse
- h) Bullying or cyber bullying
- i) Exposure to other inappropriate content or behaviour, such as violence or criminal behaviour
- j) Self-harm
- k) Physical harm when engaging with activities without adequate supervision.

The causal factors of any such harm and/or abuse can also be wide-ranging. For example, children can be placed at risk by family members or by members of the community.

## **4. SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES**

Safeguarding children from harm and abuse is an essential responsibility for our Company. We are committed to ensuring that any child who comes into contact with our services is properly safeguarded. Every person under this policy must ensure that they play an active role in ensuring that children are properly safeguarded.

Every person under this policy holds responsibility for:

- a) Remaining alert and aware of possible safeguarding risks to children
- b) Guarding children against harmful environments with appropriate actions (for example, adequate supervision or ensuring safe environments)

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- c) Taking positive steps to maintain the safety and wellbeing of children engaging with us
- d) Reporting concerns expeditiously and appropriately, in line with child protection procedures
- e) Understanding the duty to report specific concerns and understanding how these interplays with confidentiality
- f) Challenging any inappropriate or harmful behaviour of any other adult and reporting this accordingly
- g) Acting appropriately in the presence of children
- h) Not taking any inappropriate risks
- i) Not smoking, drinking or taking any form of illicit substances in the presence of children

## **5. SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

Any question, report or concern in relation to the safeguarding of children should be shared with our Safeguarding Officer: Gina Banfield

Email: [info@torviewfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@torviewfarm.co.uk)

Telephone: 07969053713

\*For school or other organisation sessions, safeguarding concerns will be passed onto their Safe Guarding Officer

## **6. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION**

All personal information we may process relating to children, shall be processed, and stored in accordance with our data protection privacy policy

## **7. RESPONDING TO A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN**

Where a child is at immediate risk of serious harm, any adult present should call 999. Thereafter, the Safeguarding Officer should be contacted as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Where there is a safeguarding concern but no immediate risk of serious harm, the adult who has heard or witnessed this concern should consult with the Safeguarding Officer as soon as practicable and by no later than the end of that same day.

Where any child makes a disclosure relating to harm or abuse to an adult, it is important to:

- a) Listen calmly and carefully, showing that their views are taken seriously
- b) Provide an appropriate and honest level of reassurance
- c) Avoid interrogating children and asking probing, intrusive and/or leading questions
- d) Avoid making false promises regarding secrets and confidentiality with the child (because any concern of abuse/harm must be shared with the Safeguarding Officer and any subsequent safeguarding referral)
- e) Make a confidential written record of the discussion either during the discussion or immediately afterwards. The record should include the key details of the disclosure together with any relevant times, dates, places and people concerned. Audio and video recordings of children making disclosures should be avoided
- f) Refer all relevant information to the Safeguarding Officer as soon as practicable afterwards, and by no later than the end of the day

Upon receipt of any safeguarding concern, the Safeguarding Officer shall consult with any other relevant persons and will make any appropriate referrals to the relevant authorities, such as the applicable Local Authority Children's Services department.

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## **8. REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT OTHER ADULTS WITHIN THE COMPANY**

Where any person has a concern regarding the conduct of an adult connected to the Company, which poses or may pose a safeguarding risk to children such as:

- a) Harming a child either physically or emotionally
- b) Exposing a child to behaviour which may cause physical or emotional harm
- c) Engaging in criminal activity concerning a child

This must be raised in the first instance with the Safeguarding Officer (or where this is not appropriate, a different senior member of the organisation) so that the next appropriate steps may be agreed and actioned. We recognise that there could be circumstances where a person may need to report a matter that has taken place in a setting outside of the person's engagement with the Company. Usually, any appropriate steps following a safeguarding referral in respect of an individual connected to the Company will include either:

- a) Further initial enquiries
- b) Escalation to the applicable Local Authority Children's Services department for assessment and/or the police for investigation
- c) Instigation of any appropriate disciplinary, formal investigation processes and suspension of any person concerned within the Company
- d) A referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), or any other relevant regulatory bodies.

Any person within the Company who has allegations made against them shall be informed in a formal meeting of the particulars of the allegations and the relevant next steps which shall be taken. Such a meeting should ordinarily be held by the Safeguarding Officer. On certain occasions, such a meeting may not be convened until this has been approved by any authorities involved (such as the police or the relevant Local Authority).

Any person from within the Company who has allegations made against them shall be treated fairly. All enquires, investigations and decisions taken shall be just and fair, with the safety of any child concerned at the heart of the process.

Any person from within the Company who makes an allegation against another person from within the Company shall be listened to, taken seriously and shall be treated fairly and justly throughout the process of enquiries, investigations and decision-making.

(DBS) Checks and Reporting DBS checks under the appropriate legislation should be undertaken wherever required. DBS CHECKS shall be required for all staff and volunteers at Tor View Farm Ltd who will be unsupervised with children & young people.

Wherever the company deems it is necessary and appropriate to remove any individual from a position of work in an activity which is regulated under the relevant legislation, we shall also be obliged to make a referral to the DBS.

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## **9. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLANNING**

For all types of events and/or activities which could involve children, the Safeguarding Officer shall hold ultimate responsibility for the safety and appropriateness of the event. They may however appoint a delegate for some responsibilities for the purpose of a specific event. Although the Safeguarding Officer and any appointed delegates will hold ultimate responsibility for overseeing the safety for events and activities, all individuals under this policy must also play an active role in ensuring the safety of children always. Appropriate background checking shall be undertaken for any adult engaged by us in connection with an event or activity involving children, wherever this is required by law.

For certain types of events or activities, we may issue an additional code of conduct, policy, or some specific other requirements which is specific to that occasion. Any such additional documentation will be made available to all those concerned (staff members, parents, guardians etc.) in advance. They should be read carefully and adhered to.

Any events or activities held by us will typically take place at Tor View Farm Ltd.

We have carried out a health and safety risk assessment of this location in reference to its safety and suitability for children. Where any events or activities are held at any other location we shall also carry out a separate risk assessment.

## **10. FIRE SAFETY – POLICY**

In the event of a fire, leading adults should calmly walk the participants to the fire assembly point and take a register. There are two assembly points: -

- a) Just inside the main farm gate.
- b) In front of the paddock gate in front of the yurt.

Then call 999 giving postcode TA10 9DL and clear directions to the farm. Take the bumpy lane immediately after 10 Windmill Rd, High Ham, Somerset, TA19 9DL. Follow the all the way to the end.

## **11. FIRST AID - POLICY**

We have the following first aid procedure within the Company: Mrs. Gina Banfield is a trained first aider. Any accident or injury concerning a child should be brought to the attention of the nearest first aider. Where we hold any events or activities whereby a child attends alongside their parent or guardian, parents and guardians should ensure that children are properly supervised. There are three first aid kits around the farm (in the kitchen, in tack room and in the field shelter. There is a burns first aid kit in the kitchen.

## **12. MANAGING BEHAVIOUR OF CHILDREN GENERALLY**

Whenever any adult engaged by us is faced with challenging or inappropriate behaviour from a child or with conflict between children, they must:

- a) treat each child fairly and equally approach the situation in a calm and neutral manner
- b) only ever use physical restraint/intervention to protect the immediate safety of a person, for example to prevent an injury or harm either to the child or others
- c) wherever it is justified to physically restrain a child or to physically intervene, the amount of force used should be kept to the absolute minimum, considering the risk posed
- d) make a written record of the incident and ensure this is reported appropriately to the Safeguarding Lead

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## **13. MANAGING RISKS POSED BY OTHER CHILDREN**

It is important for all adults engaged by us to recognise that children can face harm from their peers.

This can commonly take the form of bullying. Bullying can be defined as any behaviour which is:

- a) Repeated; and
- b) Has the intention of hurting somebody either physically or emotionally?

Bullying can sometimes be motivated by prejudices based on certain groups, for example gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. Bullying can often include:

- a) Physical harm perpetrated against another child
- b) Name calling and threats
- c) Cyberbullying (threats and abusive comments made via technology)

Any instance of bullying or concern relating to possible bullying between children at any event or activities arranged by us will usually be dealt with by us in the first instance as follows:

- a) All children and adults involved will be spoken to ascertain facts and appropriate actions taken to resolve disputes and safeguard everyone.
- b) In cases of persistent bullying, children will be asked to leave the event with their parents/guardians.

All steps in relation to the prevention or management of bullying should be taken in consultation with the Safeguarding Officer.

## **14. PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photographs should be taken only by members of staff. Photographs can only be taken of participants who agree to have their photo taken, and whose parents/guardians have signed to state that they agree to having photographs taken.

Photographs may be used on Happy Hoofers social media, websites and advertising material, ONLY with written permission of Parents/Carers.

Anyone wishing to take photographs of their own child during any activities or events at must ensure that no other participants are included.

All parents/carers/participants must inform a member of staff if they intend to take photographs during an activity or event.

\*\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*\*