



# The Steam Boat Association of Great Britain

## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

### Introduction

**Safeguarding** is the responsibility that an organisation has to ensure that their employees, members and volunteers and their activities do no harm to children, young people or vulnerable adults (together referred to as 'vulnerable people' under this policy); that they do not expose them to the risk of discrimination, neglect, harm and abuse; and that any concerns the organisation has about the safety of vulnerable people in the context of its activities, are dealt with and reported to the appropriate authorities. It is also the responsibility that the organisation has for protecting its members and volunteers when they are vulnerable, for example, when ill or at risk of harm or abuse.

**Child protection** is a central part of but not separate to safeguarding. It is the process of protecting individual children identified as either suffering or at risk of significant harm as a result of abuse. It also includes measures and structures designed to prevent and respond to abuse.

Whilst not a specific part of the purpose and aims of the Steamboat Association ("SBA"), SBA members and volunteers may engage with young people and vulnerable adults either directly or indirectly as part of SBA events and activities.

The SBA recognises it has an obligation to put in place all reasonable safeguarding measures to ensure, as far as possible, the safety and protection of vulnerable people as part of its organised events and activities.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy and associated procedures is to provide clarity to **ALL** on how they should engage with vulnerable people when attending or organising SBA events and activities. It is also to help us make sure that members, volunteers and other representatives are protected.

This policy constitutes the SBA's global policy. Whilst it is recognised that local legislation may vary from country to country, this policy identifies our minimum standards and may exceed the requirements of local legislation.

Any breach of this policy may result in immediate termination of membership, withdrawal of volunteer status, and reporting to the police, relevant regulatory authority or other body.

### Definitions

**Abuse** - a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It can take the form of physical, psychological, financial or sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or

commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the health, survival, development or dignity of a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Abuse can be a single act or repeated acts and can be unintentional or deliberate. Abuse often involves criminal acts.

**Discriminatory abuse** – abuse motivated by a vulnerable person’s age, race, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or other personal characteristic.

**Financial or material abuse** - including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

**Neglect** - the persistent failure to meet a vulnerable person’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of his/her health or development. Examples include failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, failure to protect them from physical or psychological harm or danger; failure to ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a vulnerable person’s basic emotional needs.

**Physical abuse** – includes hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

**Psychological abuse** - includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. Examples include not giving a vulnerable person opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a vulnerable person, which may include interactions that are beyond a vulnerable person’s developmental capability. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), or the exploitation or corruption of a vulnerable person.

**Sexual abuse** - involves forcing, enticing or coercing someone to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the vulnerable person is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving a vulnerable person in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse can be carried out by adults or other children.

**Child** – The SBA regards a child as anyone under the age of 18 years, irrespective of the age of majority in the country in which the child lives or in their home country. It is widely recognised that children are generally more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation due to factors such as age, gender, social and economic status, developmental stage, and dependence on others.

**Vulnerable person/people** – for the purposes of this policy this is an umbrella term which covers children, young people and vulnerable adults.

**Vulnerable adult** - a person, 18 years and above, who by reason of disability, age, gender, social and economic status, or illness, the context they are in, may be unable to take care of or to protect him or herself against abuse, harm or exploitation.

**Youth or young people** - individuals aged 15 to 25 (15 to 35 in some countries) – the SBA recognises that this group spans the categories of ‘children and ‘adults’ but regards young people as having particular safeguarding needs and requiring distinct consideration aside from younger children and older adults.

## Scope

This policy is mandatory for all SBA members worldwide. For the purposes of this policy, ‘member’ is defined as anyone who is a member of the SBA and also anyone volunteering or assisting with SBA events or activities.

This policy applies to all SBA events and activities.

## Policy Statement

The SBA has zero tolerance against abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people. The SBA also recognises that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

The SBA will take responsibility to meet our obligations regarding our duty of care towards vulnerable people, and take action where we believe that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is at risk or is actually harmed.

The SBA commits to monitoring the implementation of this Safeguarding Policy. This policy will be reviewed every three years and earlier if necessary.

## Responsibilities & Good Practice

### All

All members and volunteers are obliged to follow this Policy.

The SBA and its members will not undertake events or activities with vulnerable people in the absence of their parents or carers. Parents/carers remain responsible for their vulnerable people.

### SBA members will:

- Read, understand and adhere to the SBA Global Safeguarding Policy and the SBA Safety Policy
- Avoid engaging in a one to one situation with vulnerable people
- Report any concerns they may have about the welfare of a vulnerable person
- Report any concerns they may have about the behaviour of a SBA member or representative in relation to safeguarding

### The SBA Committee

The SBA Committee is responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of this Policy and any associated procedures.

## Raising and responding to concerns

The SBA places a *mandatory obligation* on all members to report concerns, suspicions, allegations and incidents which indicate actual or potential abuse or exploitation of vulnerable people or which suggests this policy may have in any other way been breached.

Reports may be made to any SBA Committee member or by using this email address – [reportingconcerns@thesteamboatassociation.org.uk](mailto:reportingconcerns@thesteamboatassociation.org.uk)

To ensure that all such situations are handled appropriately and effectively:

- Reports must be made and decisions and actions taken
- The SBA is not an investigative authority. It is essential that referrals are made to the relevant law enforcement agency to ensure that appropriate protection and support is given to the vulnerable individual, and that any evidence is collected in accordance with the law
- All sensitive and personal data must be kept confidential (including the names of anyone who makes a report of abuse), and be shared on a strictly '*need to know basis*'.

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Responsible owner: Chair of the Steamboat Association of Great Britain