

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE/VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

1 - Introduction

1. CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy is a not-for-profit organisation run by:
Suzanne Adamthwaite Equines Specialist
Susan Chambers Equine Assisted Psychotherapist
2. CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy is based at:
The Stables, Lower Gravehurst, Beds. MK45 4HL
3. CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy is managed by a management team (the Team).
One of the management team has responsibility for safeguarding children.
4. The Team has adopted this safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policy and expects every adult working or helping at CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy 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 CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy.

2 - Purpose of the Policy

1. This policy is intended to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive any service from us, including those who are the children of adults who may receive services from us.
2. As an organisation we believe that no child, young person or vulnerable adult should experience abuse or harm and are committed to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults, 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/Young People & Vulnerable Adults

Most experience a safe and happy environment, and it is important not to exaggerate or overestimate the dangers. Nevertheless, there are situations where children/young people /vulnerable adults need protection including:

- Sexual abuse
- Grooming Physical and emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic violence
- Inappropriate supervision by staff or volunteers
- Bullying, cyber bullying, acts of violence and aggression within our schools and campuses
- Victimisation
- Self-harm
- Unsafe environments and activities
- Crime
- Exploitation

4 - Universality of Protection

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child/young person/vulnerable adult is paramount
- all regardless of race, gender, religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity have a right to equal protection from harm.
- some are more vulnerable to harm as a result of their circumstances, prior experiences, communication needs or level of dependency.
- working with children, young people, vulnerable adults, their parents and/or guardians, carers or other agencies is essential to protecting their wellbeing.

5 - Safeguarding children/young people/vulnerable adults at events / activities

1 There are three kinds of events/activities:

- 1.1 those open to adults and children of all ages,
- 1.2 those for children accompanied by a 'parent',
- 1.3 those for unaccompanied children, which are sometimes run alongside other events/activities.

2 At events and activities open to all ages, children under 16 must be accompanied throughout by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child but also takes the child home again afterwards. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

3 At events and activities for children accompanied by a 'parent', children under 16 must be supervised throughout the event by an adult over the age of 18 who not only brings the child to the event but also takes the child home again afterwards. If a lone adult brings more than one child, then the children will have to stay together, so that the one adult can supervise them. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

4 At events and activities for unaccompanied children, children under the age of 16 must be enrolled by a responsible adult before being left with the event leader. The enrolment must record the child's name, age and address and the names and addresses of the child's parents, plus the parents' mobile telephone numbers. Young people aged 16 or 17 may attend unaccompanied if they bring the written consent and mobile telephone number of one of their parents.

- 6 Both events and activities are to be defined broadly to include any occasions where CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy will be providing a service.

Disclosure and barring

1 CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy offers the following activities for children:

Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy

2 Some of our activities may therefore require adult participants or adult leaders to undergo DBS and/or police checks under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The required level of checking (if any) will broadly reflect the degree and frequency of unsupervised access given to other people's children.

3 The Team will take very seriously any allegation of impropriety on the part of any member of CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy. A member of CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy who discovers anything amiss should get in touch immediately with the following:

Suzanne Adamthwaite & Susan Chambers

4 The Team will review the allegation and the likely risk to children and, if appropriate, will consider banning the member from future events or revoking his or her membership or both, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy.

- 7 Health and safety aspects of safeguarding children

1 Before starting any event for unaccompanied children/young people/adults, the Team will carry out a risk assessment and then take steps to minimise all risks to health and safety. Parents and children will be made aware of any risks and of the steps to be taken to minimise those risks. The Team will keep a record of all risk assessments.

2 Sufficient adults must be present at any event for unaccompanied children to enable one adult to deal with any emergency while another adult supervises the children not directly affected by the emergency.

- 8 Policy on the prevention of bullying We will not tolerate the bullying either by adults or by children. If any incident 3 of child-on-child bullying should arise at a CANter Equine

Assisted Learning & Therapy event, those involved will be separated immediately and the parents of the children involved will be asked to deal with the matter. The Team will review all incidents of child-on-child bullying and assess the likely future risk to children. If appropriate, the Team will consider banning a child from future events, but only in full accordance with the rules and procedures of CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy. Allegations of adults bullying children will be dealt with under paragraph 6.3 above.

9 Photographing service users

CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy will adopt the following policy towards taking and using photographs at events or activities:

CANter has an official form requesting written signed permission to permit photos or if the participants or parents/carers do not permit photos this can be officially acknowledged & ensured.

10 Managing behaviour, discipline and acceptable restraint

1 Adults supervising children at CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy events must never use any form of corporal punishment. If physical restraint is absolutely necessary to prevent injury to any person or to prevent serious damage to property, then the minimum necessary restraint may be used — but for that purpose only.

2 Unacceptable behaviour at CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy events for unaccompanied children will generally be stopped by separating the children from each other and from the group. The miscreants will be suitably supervised and will be returned as soon as possible to the care of their parents.

3 CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy may apply a further disciplinary sanction: namely the banning of the child from one or more future events over the following 18 months. Any such sanction would be determined and applied by the following officer:

Suzanne Adamthwaite & Susan Chambers

4 A parent who is aggrieved by this ban may appeal to CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy who will hear the views of all relevant persons. The decision of CANter Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy is then final. Any such appeals should be made to, and will be determined by the following officer:

Suzanne Adamthwaite & Susan Chambers

11 Other Policies

This safeguarding policy should be read together with the following policies and resources:

Business Plan

Both of us hold Enhanced DBS Checks

Safeguarding Policy of Pony Club

Safeguarding ethics within BACP.

13 Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with the following:

Children Act 2004

United Convention of the Rights of the Child 2010

General Data Protection Regulation

Human Rights Act 1998

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Care Act 2014

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Children and Families Act 2014

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice - Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014 – updated Sept. 2024

Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services

Working together to safeguard children (updated March 2026)

Children's Wellbeing & Schools Act 2026

NOTE:

This Policy was approved by the following officer on 11/08/2026 and is due for review every

1 Year:

Susan Chambers – Designated Safeguarding Lead :-  11/08/26

Safeguarding reporting procedure

If the concern is about a staff member / volunteer, the designated safeguarding lead should refer to the LADO

