

Menadue Camps

SAFEGUARDING ADULT POLICY 2025

The following policy was approved by the Trustees of the Menadue Camps Trust. Menadue Camp is committed to the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our care, including adults who work, volunteer, or visit our camp. While our primary mission is to serve children, we recognise that some adults—particularly those with care and support needs—may also be at risk of abuse or neglect.

In line with the Care Act 2014 and other relevant legislation, we will ensure that adults at risk are protected from harm, abuse, and exploitation in a safe and inclusive environment.

If you have any concerns for a young or vulnerable person, or in relation to any safeguarding matters then speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the relevant camp.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children's Policy for the avoidance of repetition.

Menadue camps Safeguarding Co-ordinators

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The Safeguarding Co-ordinators are the responsible people for reviewing the safeguarding policy and training and acting as a point of contact for consultancy over safeguarding matters for Menadue camps.

Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to:

- All staff, trustees, and volunteers at Menadue camp
- Contractors and visitors
- Any adult present on site
- Vulnerable adults attending events, open days or celebration evenings

Purpose of this Policy

This policy outlines Menadue's commitment to:

- Preventing harm to adults at risk.
- Promoting a culture of dignity, respect, and safety.

- Providing clear procedures for identifying, reporting, and responding to safeguarding concerns for vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities.

Legal Framework

Mendaue camp acknowledge adults' right to protection from abuse, regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs. They will follow legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice in order to protect vulnerable people in our organisation.

This policy is underpinned UK laws and statutory guidance including the Care Act 2014 and Mental Capacity Act 2005

Understanding abuse

Who is a vulnerable adult

Menadue Camp considers a vulnerable adult as any person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect permanently or for the time being. Certain factors can increase the vulnerability of an individual such as:

- a sensory or physical disability or impairment;
- a learning disability;
- a physical illness;
- mental ill health (including dementia), chronic or acute;
- an addiction to alcohol or drugs;
- a permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events, for example bereavement or previous abuse or trauma.

What is abuse of vulnerable adults?

Abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional or psychological
- Financial or material
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Domestic abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Modern slavery
- Self-neglect

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. Abuse can occur in any relationship or institution and may result in harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

Recognising and Responding to Concerns

For the duration of camp if concerns arise for a vulnerable adult via an individual making an allegation or through observation or third-party report then the camp Designated Safeguarding Lead must be informed. This includes where you may have concerns about another leader.

If during any camp events or celebrations concerns arise for a vulnerable adult via an individual making an allegation or through observation or third-party report then the safeguarding coordinator must be informed. This includes where you may have concerns about another leader.

If an adult safeguarding concern is identified the you must...

- Report the concerns to the DSL or safeguarding coordinator
- Complete an incident form
- DSL/safeguarding coordinator to decide on action required and to seek appropriate advice including contacting the Safeguarding Trustees/adult social care/police where necessary
- Medical treatment will be sought where this is appropriate
- Where there is immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted.
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The only exception to following the above procedure is where any concern about abuse includes the DSL. In this case, contact the Camp Manager who will inform the Lead Trustees for decisions to be made.

Additional matters to consider for the DSL/safeguarding coordinator:

- Consent must be sought from the adult before making a safeguarding referral. However, where an adult does not wish a safeguarding concern to be raised, raising a concern may still be justified, for example where there is a vital risk to the person or others; where there is a public interest consideration or issue, or where a best interest decision needs to be made (where the adult lacks capacity to make the decision). It is important to record the rationale for decision-making on this issue. Support with decision-making should be offered where the person has 'substantial difficulty' in being involved.

The Mental Capacity Act says:

- assume a person has the capacity to make a decision themselves, unless it's proved otherwise
- wherever possible, help people to make their own decisions
- do not treat a person as lacking the capacity to make a decision just because they make an unwise decision
- if you make a decision for someone who does not have capacity, it must be in their best interests
- treatment and care provided to someone who lacks capacity should be the least restrictive of their basic rights and freedoms

When making a decision on action needed the DSL to consider the adult continuum of need as set out below:

All adults

Universal: social and welfare services provided to all adults who have support needs, who have apparent need for care and support and can obtain advice and information from public, private, voluntary and faith sector organisations.

Adults who are at risk or experiencing abuse

Targeted services: signpost the adult in need of support to universal and targeted services. Local authorities do have duties to establish, provide and maintain a service, providing adults with information and advice which will prevent, delay, or reduce the need for care and support (Care Act, 2014, S2, S4).

Examples of universal and targeted services include police, victim support, domestic abuse outreach services, accident and emergency departments, GPs, housing support, homelessness services, trading standards, faith organisations.

Safeguarding concerns: Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the following criteria is met; the adult has needs for care and support and is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. Follow your local authority referral pathway for raising safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding concerns will be assessed by the local authority to determine if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the statutory criteria are met and if met they will make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary, in partnership with the adult and partner agencies to decide whether any action should be taken. If the criteria is not met the local authority will advise on other more appropriate pathways to follow.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

- Information will only be shared in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and Care Act 2014.
- Confidentiality is respected, but safeguarding concerns override data protection if someone is considered at risk of harm.
- Safeguarding records will be stored securely.

Safer Recruitment and Training

As stated in the Safeguarding Children's Policy Menadue camp follow safer recruitment guidance for all adult volunteers on camp. These same requirements are in place for any adults who wish to volunteer and would be considered a vulnerable adult.

Needs assessment

Should someone who falls under the definition of a vulnerable adult wish to volunteer with Menadue camp, then the camp manager and DSL for that camp will need to undertake an assessment considering that person's individual needs and vulnerabilities within the context of the camp environment. There should be consideration of how these needs can be met and if reasonable adjustments can be made in order that the volunteer can contribute meaningfully to the camp aims and within the resources available. The assessor should be clear that the primary aim of the volunteers is to support the running of a children's camp. The potential volunteer should be involved in this assessment alongside any other person who supports/cares for that person in their day-to-day life. This assessment is to be shared with and approved by the safeguarding trustees in advance of the volunteer being accepted as a camp volunteer.

Considerations include:

- Physical needs
- Emotional needs
- Health needs
- Communication style
- Known triggers that may cause distress
- Known coping strategies

Example assessment attached

Policy Review and Oversight

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to:

- Legislative changes
- Safeguarding incidents
- Organisational learning or external recommendations