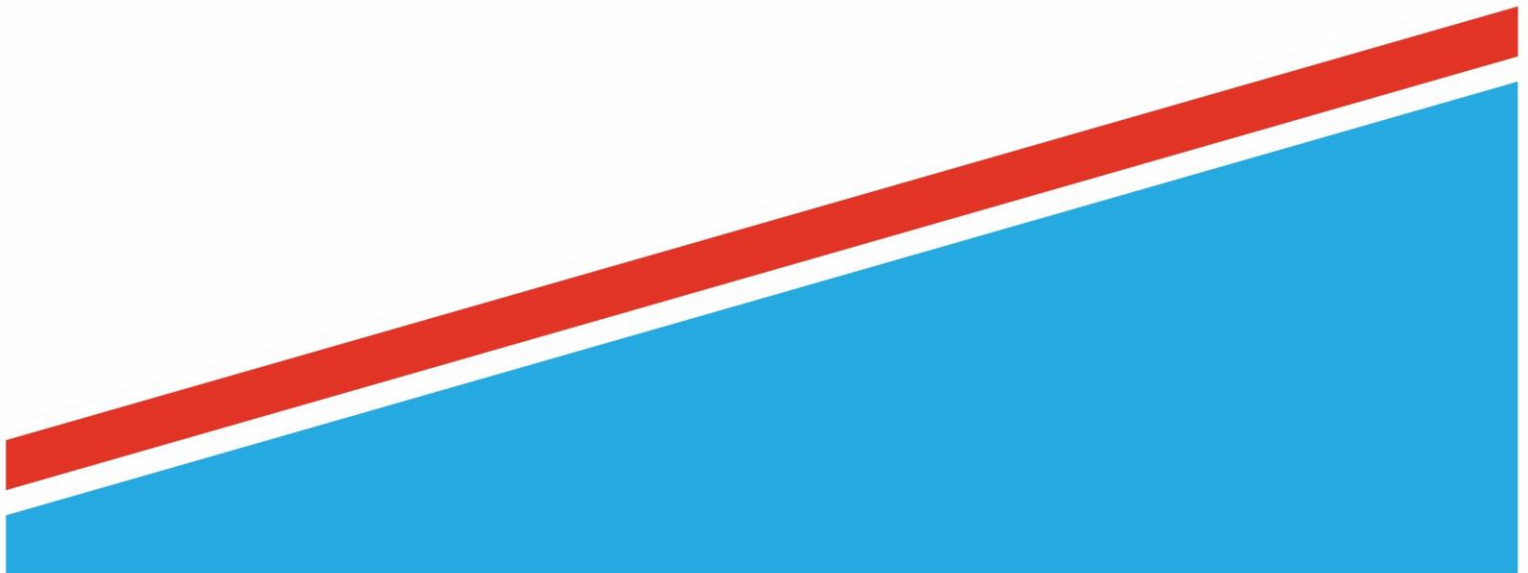




Conservative Party Safeguarding Policy

Policy Number – GC/003
Version 3.1 25/03/2024



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Document history

Version	Date	Change By	Description	Approved by	Approval Date
1.0	01/09/2019	Alan Cullens	Initial Draft	CEO	09/2019
2.0	01/03/2022	Jas Singh	Revised Policy	Board	03/2022
2.1	01/02/2023	Scott Grace	Minor Amends to Policy	Board	02/2023
3.0	18/09/2023	Scott Grace	Full Policy Redraft	Board	18/09/2023
3.1	25/03/2024	Scott Grace	Policy Approved by KC for Final Board Review	Board	25/03/2024

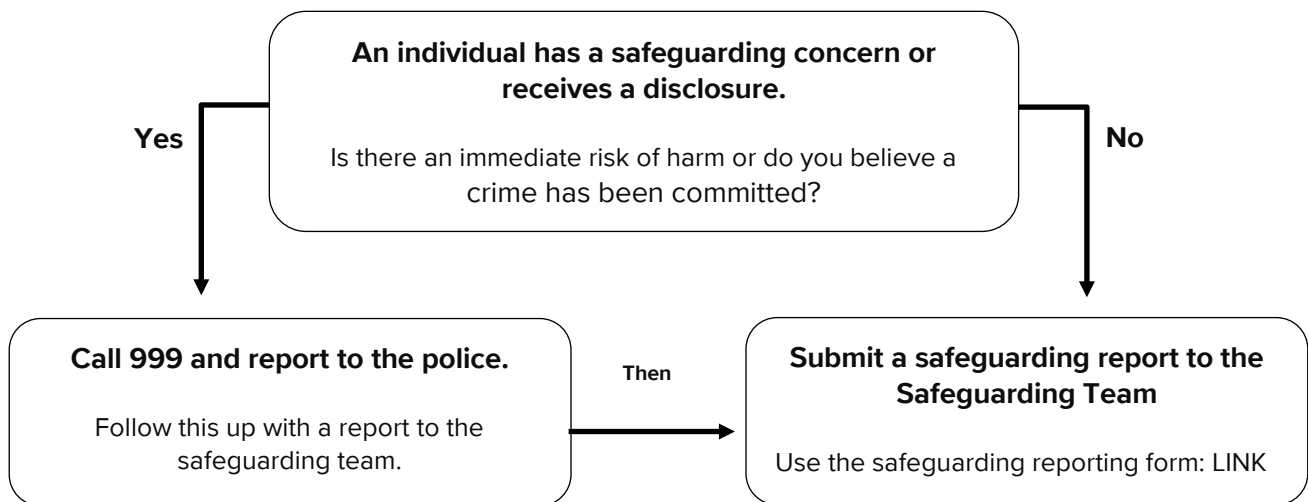


If you have a Safeguarding Concern

If you have any concerns about a child or adult at risk of harm, or wish to report an incident, please contact the Safeguarding Team by emailing: Safeguarding@Conservatives.com or calling: **020 7984 8040**

If there is an immediate risk of harm, this should be reported to the police by calling **999** and then reported to the Safeguarding Team.

For more information, please see Section 7 of this document.



1. Introduction

The Safeguarding Policy expresses the Party's commitment to the protection of children, young people, and adults at risk of harm, in any activities carried out in its name.

Our approach to safeguarding ensures that we:

- Protect and promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk of harm who engage with us, whether assisting with or attending Party events and activities.
- Communicate our approach to safeguarding in a clear and transparent way.
- Demonstrate compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and statutory guidance.
- Have safeguarding processes and responsibilities that are clear so that people understand how to report safeguarding concerns.

A child or young person is generally considered to be a person who is under the age of 18.

2. Scope

The Conservative Party is a national political party, governed by its constitution. The organisation comprises of:

- Conservative Campaign Headquarters (CCHQ)
- The Voluntary Party, volunteers holding elected office or acting under instruction on behalf of the Party.
- Recognised and approved Organisations and Specialist Groups when carrying out activities on behalf of the Party.
- The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

The aim of the Party is to promote the values of conservatism throughout the United Kingdom, including standing for election at local, regional, national and UK government levels.

The policy applies to anyone working on behalf of the Party including all members, employees, candidates, and elected representatives whilst engaging in activities on behalf of the Party and its affiliated groups.

The policy applies at all times when and while stakeholders carry out or perform work or activities directed by or on behalf of the Party. This excludes work undertaken by elected representatives in their roles e.g. Parliamentary casework which is covered by the House of Parliaments policies.

3. Legal Framework

This policy has been produced drawing on relevant legislation, policy and statutory guidance that seeks to protect children and adults at risk of harm across the United Kingdom.

- The Care Act (2014)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
- Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Sexual Offences Act (2003)
- The Childrens Act (1989) (as amended)
- The Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- GDPR and the Data Protection Act (2018)
- The Protection of Freedoms Act (2012)
- The Children (Scotland) Act (1995)



- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act (2014)
- National guidance for child protection in Scotland (2021)
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act (2007)
- Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure (2011)
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014)
- All Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008)
- The Children (NI) Order (1995)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order (2007)

This policy will be reviewed and updated in line with any legislative or statutory changes.

4. Supporting Documents

This policy should be read alongside other organisation policies and procedures including:

- Safeguarding guidance documents
- Guidance on dealing with disclosures and concerns.
- Conservative Party Code of Conduct for Members
- Conservative Party Constitution

5. The Policy

The Conservative Party believes that:

- No-one should ever experience abuse of any kind.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all our stakeholders, including those engaging with the Party, to keep them safe and to operate in a way that protects them.

The Conservative Party recognises that:

- The welfare of everyone is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- Working in partnership with all key stakeholders, including relevant external agencies, is essential.
- All people, regardless of any protected characteristic, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some individuals are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their levels of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

The Conservative Party will seek to keep children, young people, and adults at risk safe by:

- Having a safeguarding culture where everyone is treated with respect and are comfortable sharing their concerns.
- Valuing, listening to and respecting them.
- Appointing a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Officers with oversight by the Governance and Risk sub-committee of the Party Board.
- Adopting a safeguarding culture where all stakeholders are expected to exercise the principles of common sense and decency to everyone.
- Adopting safeguarding best practices in all our activities with a commitment to continually learn and develop.
- Providing effective support for staff and volunteers including training and development so that all stakeholders understand and follow our policies and procedures confidently and competently.



- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely and ensuring that all necessary checks are made.
- Maintaining and storing an appropriate database of safeguarding concerns and disclosures in line with data protection legislation and organisation policies.
- Promoting our safeguarding culture and good practice so that stakeholders know how to seek help and respond appropriately if they have a concern.
- Working in partnership with relevant agencies.
- Responding to concerns in line with our procedures.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that any complaints are dealt with effectively.
- Maintaining effective complaints and whistleblowing policies.
- Providing a safe physical environment in line with the Party's Health and Safety Policy.

6. Abuse of a position of trust

Adult staff, volunteers and elected representatives should be aware that they may be seen as a role model by children, young people and other adults at risk and therefore must always act in an appropriate manner.

Whilst the age of consent in the UK is 16, in certain circumstances as defined in the Sexual Offences Act (2003) as amended, it is an offence for a person in a specified position of trust to engage in sexual activity with, or in the presence of, a person under the age of 18.

Adult staff, volunteers, and elected representatives must not engage in any sexual activity or allow a sexual relationship to develop with any member under the age of 18. This includes acts such as grooming, sexually touching or causing a child to sexually touch someone else, causing a child to watch a sexual act or participating in sexual activity in front of a child.

7. Responding to a safeguarding concern

If you have any safeguarding concerns or receive a disclosure it is your responsibility to act on these concerns and report it to the CCHQ Safeguarding Team without delay.

If there is an immediate risk of harm, this should be reported to the police by calling 999 and then reported to the CCHQ Safeguarding Team.

The Safeguarding Team will respond to the concerns in line with our safeguarding procedures. It is not your responsibility to investigate further or decide if the concern is valid.

Anyone can contact the Safeguarding Team for advice, support, or guidance.

8. Responsibility to uphold the Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone within the Party.

It is the responsibility of everyone in the Party, including staff, volunteers, elected representatives and members, to ensure that they always act responsibly and respectfully and uphold this policy.

For volunteers, members and elected representatives, a breach of or failure to implement this policy is considered a breach of the [Conservative Party Code of Conduct](#) and may be subject to the Conservative Party's disciplinary procedures. If the allegations constitute a safeguarding concern, they may also be the subject of a referral to an external agency.

For Party employees, a breach of or failure to implement this policy is considered a breach of the Party's employment policies may be subject to the Party's staff disciplinary policy. If the allegations constitute a safeguarding concern, they may also be the subject of a referral to an external agency.

Any breaches of this policy must be reported to the Safeguarding Team:
Safeguarding@Conservatives.com.

9. Key Contacts

The Conservative Party Safeguarding Team

CCHQ Leeds
 10 Wellington Place
 Leeds,
 LS1 4AP

Email: Safeguarding@Conservatives.com
 Telephone: 020 7984 8040

Safeguarding Team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Scott Grace

Safeguarding Officers: Jasbir Singh
 Rachel Oldham
 Mark Roberts
 Jayne West

10. Definitions and terminology

Abuse	<p>Abuse is when someone causes another person or themselves harm or distress and can include abuse that takes place online or where technology is used to facilitate offline abuse.</p> <p>Abuse comes in many forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical abuse • Domestic abuse • Sexual abuse • Emotional abuse • Financial abuse • Discriminatory abuse • Organisational abuse • Neglect • Self-neglect • Modern slavery
Adult at risk	<p>Anyone over the age of 18 (16 in Scotland) or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting those needs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect. • As a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or experience of abuse and neglect.
Affiliated groups or affiliates	Specialist Groups of Party members, recognised and approved by the Party Board. These are commonly referred to as Conservative Friends of groups.
Child or young person	In England, Wales, and Northern Ireland this is a person who is under the age of 18. This generally applies in Scotland but in some instances, it is 16.
Designated Safeguarding Lead	The person employed by the Party to be the organisations lead on safeguarding matters.
Harm	The ill treatment or impairment of the health or development of a person, including impairment suffered from witnessing (seeing or hearing) the ill treatment of another person.
Safeguarding	Protecting people’s health, wellbeing, and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, or neglect.
Safeguarding concern	When there is a concern that someone has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed by someone or themselves.
Safeguarding disclosure	When you are informed about or witness abuse taking place. There are different types of disclosures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct disclosure: when a specific statement is made about abuse that is happening to them or someone else. • Indirect disclosure: ambiguous statements which imply something is wrong. • Behavioural disclosure: Behaviour or changes in behaviours that indicates that something is wrong. • Non-verbal disclosure: communicating in a non-verbal way e.g., drawing pictures or writing letters, to let someone know that something is wrong.

11. Audit

This policy document will be reviewed every 12 months or following a significant incident or change within the CCHQ.

Latest Audit Outcome		
Review of impact against the aims of policy:		
This policy was reviewed following a period of two years implementation of the previous policy and whilst our process and producers were considered to be robust, it was felt that they could be presented in a clearer way which is contained within this policy.		
This policy is available to all relevant staff on workspace, SharePoint, Campaign Toolkit and publicly via the Party website		
Does there appear to be any patterns of equality related issues: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, please provide actions agreed from an Equalities Impact Assessment: N/A		
Reviewed by: Scott Grace, Designated Safeguarding Lead	Date: 03/07/2023	Next audit date: March 2025



Appendix 1: Safeguarding Flowchart

