**Tandem Trekkers Safeguarding Policy 2024**

Tandem Trekkers is a charity that promotes cycling for visually impaired and sighted people on tandem bicycles. It aims to enrich the quality of life for its members by providing cycling opportunities.

**Aim of safeguarding policy**

Tandem Trekkers is committed to providing a safe and positive environment where everyone can enjoy cycling. This policy aims to provide everyone with the overarching principles that guide Tandem Trekkers approach to safeguarding.

Some of our members may be vulnerable adults and be at increased risk of harm. This may be because they are affected by disability and are as such more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected. It may also be because their exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their personal characteristics and or life circumstances such as disability, isolation, health issues etc.

**Approach to safeguarding**

* Everyone involved in Tandem Trekkers has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.
* Tandem Trekkers is committed to maintaining an atmosphere where people can speak up and voice concerns and be listened to and treated with respect.

**Tandem Trekkers will:**

* Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in place and followed by everyone in the organisation.
* Ensure that safeguarding concerns are reported and action is taking swiftly and efficiently.
* Have a trustee with a designated safeguarding role to whom any safeguarding concerns should be reported.

**If you have a safeguarding concern**

This should be reported to the safeguarding officer or if they are not present to a trustee who will communicate with the safeguarding officer.

Concerns could be for example a complaint about a member’s behaviour, a concern about an individual’s ability to ride safely, or a concern about the organisations policy or practice.

The safeguarding officer will manage safeguarding concerns, allegations and incidents.

**General principles**

Tandem Trekkers does not have the resources or training to support adults with personal care. Members are responsible for bringing a family member or trusted person who may be able to fulfil this role.

Situations where members may be alone for any length of time with an individual should be avoided where possible. This precaution protects all parties by removing the feeling of threat from an insecure/vulnerable individual and by providing a witness in case of allegations.

Where possible lifts to ride locations should be from headquarters to and from the ride location and members should be responsible for making their own way to and from headquarters. Lifts should be arranged so that there are multiple occupants in a vehicle where possible.

Members should communicate with individuals through the organised channels of communication and not message individuals directly. This is to encourage transparency and to protect vulnerable individuals.

Members should be mindful of respecting members privacy and should not post any material that could identify an individual on social media without their consent.

The current safeguarding officer is Louise Sugden:

07714810997

lousugden6@outlook.com