

Infinity Dogs Community Interest Company

Registered company: 14947355

Safeguarding Guideline

1. Policy Purpose and Scope

- **Core Commitment:** Infinity Dogs CIC (ID) is committed to creating a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment.
- **Scope:** Applies to all directors, staff, trainers, volunteers, members, and service users.
- **Dual Protection:** Applies equally to handlers, participants, and members of our own team.
- **Core Principles:** Equips team members to **Recognise, Record, Report, and Respond** to all concerns.

2. Definitions and Legal Framework

- **Safeguarding Definition:** Protecting a person's health, wellbeing, and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect (Care Quality Commission).
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Children (under 18) and adults at risk are disproportionately vulnerable to harm, discrimination, and exploitation.
- **Forms of Abuse:** Including but not limited to physical, emotional, psychological, financial, sexual, neglect, and institutional abuse.

3. The 4 Rs Action Plan

Recognise

- **Awareness:** Team members must remain vigilant to signs of physical, emotional, or psychological abuse.
- **Inclusivity:** All individuals must be treated with respect regardless of disability, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexual orientation or other personal characteristics.

Record

- **Fact-Based Notes:** Document exactly what was witnessed, said, or observed immediately.
- **Objective Language:** Record dates, times, and clear facts without inserting personal opinions.
- **Data Protection:** Keep records confidential and secure, ready for legal or social care escalation if required.

Report

- **Internal Escalation:** Report all concerns immediately to the designated Safeguarding Leads.
- **Safeguarding Lead :** Anne Richley Safeguarding@infinitydogs@org.uk 07897613076
- **External Escalation:** In cases of immediate danger, contact emergency services (999) or local social care directly.

Respond

- **Immediate Reaction:** ID will react and respond appropriately to all expressed concerns, disclosures, and allegations.

- **Supportive Culture:** We maintain an environment where individuals feel secure, encouraged to talk, and actively listened to.

4. Safe Recruitment and Training

- **DBS Checks:** All volunteers and trainers holding contact with handlers must undergo robust Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.
- **Annual Training:** ID provides a mandatory annual safeguarding training update for all active staff and volunteers.

5. Digital Conduct and Communication

General Communication

- **Professionalism:** All interactions—written, verbal, or digital—must reflect the highest professional standards.
- **Minor Protection:** Minors participate in various ID groups; strict communication boundaries must be maintained to prevent safeguarding breaches.

Messaging Platforms (WhatsApp & Social Media)

- **Strict Scope:** Conversations on official group chats must strictly relate to ID training events.
- **Prohibited Content:** Discussions of a personal or intimate nature, medical details, relationships, or offensive language are strictly forbidden.
- **Admin Interventions:** Group administrators will immediately delete inappropriate content upon discovery.
- **Sanctions:** Violations will result in a direct warning and potential permanent removal from all digital groups.

6. Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying

- **Zero Tolerance:** Bullying is a form of abuse and is strictly prohibited within Infinity Dogs CIC.
- **Typologies:** Covers physical, emotional, psychological, and digital harassment (cyberbullying).
- **Cyber Abuse:** Includes sending threatening messages, creating/sharing malicious images, or posting menacing social media content.
- **Discrimination:** Bullying targeted at disability, race, religion, belief, gender identity, or sexuality will be treated as unlawful discrimination.
- **Resolution:** ID will intervene immediately to protect the victim while appropriately managing the individual displaying the abusive behaviour.
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7. Policy Review and Associated Documents

- **Cross-Reference:** This document must be read in full, in conjunction with the **Conduct and Behaviour Policy**
- **Policy 1 (Version 1)**
- **Effective Date:** June 2026
- **Next Review Date:** June 2027 (or sooner if legislative changes occur).