

# Towcester Community Fridge Safeguarding Policy

**Approved By:** Committee

**Status:** Approved 10/02/2026

**Next Review Date:** [set later]

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## Purpose

Towcester Community Fridge is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all individuals involved in its activities. This policy sets out how safeguarding concerns are prevented, identified, and responded to.

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## Scope

This policy applies to:

- All volunteers
- Committee members
- Visitors and members of the public
- Any vulnerable adults engaging with the Community Fridge

This policy applies to **all activities**, including sessions

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## Safeguarding Principles

Towcester Community Fridge operates on the following principles:

- Everyone has the right to feel safe, respected, and treated with dignity
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Concerns are taken seriously and acted upon promptly
- Actions are proportionate and appropriate to risk

- Confidentiality is respected, but safeguarding takes priority where harm may occur
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## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- **The Committee** holds collective responsibility for safeguarding and ensuring this policy is followed
  - **The Chair/Coordinator** is the primary point of contact for safeguarding concerns
  - **All volunteers** are responsible for reporting concerns and following safeguarding guidance
  - No individual role owns safeguarding independently of the committee
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## **Duty of Care**

Towcester Community Fridge has a duty of care to ensure that activities are carried out in a safe and supportive environment. This includes:

- Providing appropriate supervision
  - Managing risks sensibly
  - Acting promptly where concerns arise
  - Ensuring volunteers understand expected behaviour
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## **Reporting Safeguarding Concerns**

Safeguarding concerns may include (but are not limited to):

- Unsafe behaviour
  - Abuse or neglect
  - Harassment, bullying, or discrimination
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- Situations placing someone at risk

Concerns should be reported as follows:

- Report immediately to the Chair
  - If urgent or serious risk is identified, emergency services or relevant authorities may be contacted
  - A factual record will be made and stored securely in accordance with the organisation's Privacy Policy
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## **Confidentiality**

Information relating to safeguarding concerns is handled sensitively and shared only on a need-to-know basis. Confidentiality will not prevent action where someone may be at risk of harm or where information must be shared in line with safeguarding, legal, or regulatory obligations, in accordance with the organisation's Privacy Policy.

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## **Training and Awareness**

- Volunteers are made aware of safeguarding expectations
  - This policy is available to committee members and relevant volunteers
  - Safeguarding awareness is reinforced through clear procedures and communication
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## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the committee or sooner if legislation, guidance, or organisational activities change.