

Safeguarding Policy

The following policy was agreed at the LNHS Council meeting held on 11 February 2021

The LNHS is an organisation led by its members which values diversity and which is committed to a culture of inclusion. Our safeguarding policy is intended to ensure that everyone can participate in our activities and develop a shared understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

The LNHS is committed to:

- Promoting a safe environment and culture.
- Ensuring the safety of everyone, including vulnerable adults, involved with the society.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Being welcoming and supportive of both beginners and experts
- Ensuring discussions and debates are carried out in a respectful manner.

The LNHS will:

- Create a safe society for all.
- Have a named Safeguarding Officer (the Secretary) who works with the Council to implement the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
- Support all officers to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the society.
- Display on the website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse and follow the appropriate procedures, which will include sharing concerns with agencies who need to know.
- Direct any victims of abuse to appropriate sources of support.
- Ensure that a Health and Safety Policy and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and procedures at least annually.

Children and young people under 18 who attend LNHS events must always be accompanied by a responsible adult.

LNHS members and volunteers are expected to:

- Treat all people with respect.
- Provide a good example of acceptable behaviour.
- Show understanding when dealing with sensitive issues.
- Use risk assessment for all activities.
- Take appropriate action to report any incidence of abuse to the Safeguarding Officer. This should be done confidentially and in writing.

LNHS members and volunteers should not:

- Permit abusive behaviour.
- Make suggestive or inappropriate remarks or actions.
- Deliberately place themselves or others in a compromising situation.
- Let suspicion, disclosure or allegations go unrecorded or reported.

Date for review February 2025

Anyone who considers that they have experienced, witnessed or been informed about any incidence of abuse should report it to the Safeguarding Officer, who is the LNHS Secretary (see the LNHS website or recent publications for details). This should be done confidentially and in writing.