

**Dulwich Society**  
**Charity Registration Number: 234192**

**Safeguarding Policy Statement**

Introduction

*The Charity Commission issued a regulatory alert in December 2017 and published new guidance on safeguarding. Their key message “makes clear that safeguarding should be a key governance priority for all charities, not just those working with groups traditionally considered at risk. The Commission has published an alert, reminding charities how important it is to provide a safe and trusted environment and safeguard anyone who comes into contact with it including beneficiaries, staff and volunteers.”*

Overview

The Dulwich Society takes the protection of children and vulnerable adults very seriously and in line with best practice and current legislation aims to take all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of members, participants and volunteers, especially children and vulnerable groups and that those participating are not harmed in any way through contact with the Society.

The Society comes into direct contact with members and other participants mainly through meetings and events in public and private venues. On occasion individual Executive Committee members may visit members at their homes to discuss planning and other issues. The Society’s business is conducted primarily with adult members and residents. The Society does not ordinarily come into contact with children, but children do occasionally attend Society events. The Society also conducts a large amount of email correspondence with stakeholders and individuals.

The Policy

The Society is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults who attend Dulwich Society events or participate in our activities.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

The Society will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all at its meetings.

- Have a named Safeguarding Officer (SO) to work with the trustees and Executive Committee to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensure all trustees are familiar with the policy and with the principles of safeguarding. Training may be arranged through the local councils if required.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults.
- Display on the Society website this policy and the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises including notifying statutory agencies immediately, following the Charity Commission's Safeguarding Guidelines <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees> ; and the London Child Protection Procedures and the London-wide Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Further information on the arrangements at Southwark and Lambeth are here <https://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk/policies-procedures-guidance/> <https://www.lambethsab.org.uk/> <https://www.lambethsaferchildren.org.uk/>
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually. Risk assessments will be produced for all Society events.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and practice annually.

#### Dealing with complaints, feedback and concerns.

- a. The Society promotes a fair, open and positive culture and ensures all involved feel able to report concerns, confident that they will be heard and responded to.
- b. Any concerns about Safeguarding should be raised immediately with the Society's Safeguarding Officer and the Society's Chairman. The Chairman will initiate the Society's investigation process.
- c. Any serious safeguarding issues arising may be referred to the local authority safeguarding board and the police for action.
- d. All feedback is welcomed and dealt with by the Executive Committee and reviewed at Executive meetings.
- e. Feedback that takes the form of a complaint is dealt with in accordance with the Society's Complaints Policy at <https://www.dulwichsociety.com/about-the-dulwich-society>. The Policy also provides details of the investigation process which is used for all incidents.

#### Communication

Members and participants will find full contact details for the Society on the website [www.dulwichsociety.com](http://www.dulwichsociety.com)

## Responsibilities

The Society's Executive Committee is responsible for safeguarding issues for the Dulwich Society reporting to the Chairman. The lead responsible person is the Society Chairman. The Society's Safeguarding Officer is Sue Badman, Secretary. If the Chairman is unavailable, the Safeguarding Officer should be contacted.

Five members of the Executive Committee have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates and have received safeguarding training in connection with roles in schools, churches and charities.

The Dulwich Society Secretary is responsible for the log of incidents.

Approved: January 2020