

Gloucester 10k Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

The Gloucester 10k is an event put on by the local community for the health and enjoyment of the local community with all proceeds going to local charities. It is organized by Gloucester Quays Rotary Club (itself a charity) in coordination with Tewkesbury Running Club, for its knowledge of running and Davies and Partners Solicitors which helps with the organisation (collectively this will be referred to as the Gloucester 10k).

The nature of the event is such that safeguarding risks are not regarded as being high. Runners sign up to undertake the event voluntarily. The whole ethos of the event is that marshals who volunteer are there to assist the participants and to encourage them at all times. Indeed the event prides itself on its high reputation for very positive and encouraging marshals. There will be very little contact with participants in a physical sense. This is only likely to happen if first aid is required. Professional first aiders are used in relation to the event. Nevertheless, the event takes safeguarding very seriously and as such sets out its safeguarding policy in this document. The policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of Gloucester 10k in promoting the welfare of participants and volunteers and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect. All those associated with the Gloucester10k including participants are made aware of this policy through the Gloucester 10k website.

Definition

For these purposes a person at risk of abuse is someone who: -

- a) Has needs for care and support; and/or
- b) Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect; and
- c) As a result of these needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Key principles of safeguarding

Gloucester 10k is guided by 6 key principles: -

- Empowerment – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent;
- Prevention – it is better to take action before harm occurs;
- Proportionality – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented;
- Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need;
- Partnership - local solutions through services working within their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse;
- Accountability – accountability and transparency in delivery safeguarding.

Recognising the signs of abuse

Volunteers are asked to look out for potential abuse. The vulnerable person may do things that let the volunteer know something is wrong. It may come from a disclosure or expression of concern or something which the volunteer may observe in terms of the way in which another person is treating the vulnerable person. Everyone within Gloucester 10k should understand what to do and when to get help, support and advice.

Types of abuse

The Care Act 2014 defines 10 areas of abuse. They are not exhaustive but are a guide to the behaviour which may amount to abuse: -

- Physical abuse – including assault, hitting, slapping, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- Domestic abuse/violence – this could be any of the indicators of abuse relating to physical, psychological/emotional, sexual or financial but by a person with whom the vulnerable has a close family or intimate relationship such as a partner, child or parent.
- Sexual abuse – includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography. Witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable person has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- Psychological or emotional abuse – including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, silent bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.
- Financial or material abuse – includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to the vulnerable person's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possession or benefits.
- Modern slavery – encompassing slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and those who coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- Discriminatory abuse – including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because the vulnerable person is, or is perceived to be different, due to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- Organisation or institutional abuse – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or a care home for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one-off incidents to long term ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes or practices within an organisation.
- Neglect or acts of omission – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate healthcare and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Self-neglect – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

There is a difference between what constitutes a safeguarding incident that requires a statutory response and an incident which is rooted in concern for someone's general wellbeing.

Most of the types of abuse listed above are most unlikely to occur in the context of Gloucester 10k but those involved with the event are required to be vigilant and to report any concerns they may have.

Radicalisation to terrorism

The Government through its PREVENT programme has highlighted that some vulnerable adults may be vulnerable to exploitation and radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. Signs and indicators of radicalisation may include: -

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Articulating support for violent extremist cause or leaders;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing of violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to sell societal issues;
- Joining extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.

Reporting concerns

Any person involved with Gloucester 10k who becomes aware that a vulnerable person is or is at risk of being abused or radicalised must raise the matter immediately with their supervisor and/or with the Gloucester 10k designated safeguarding person.

Early sharing of information is the key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns. To ensure effective safeguarding arrangements no one should assume that someone else will do it.

The Gloucester 10k will: -

- Inform the vulnerable person of the action it proposes to take;
- Seek the vulnerable person's agreement to that action;
- Ensure that the vulnerable person is kept informed about what will happen next so that they can be reassured about what to expect;
- Endeavour to ensure that the vulnerable person is safe and supported before proceeding with any other action;
- Inform the vulnerable person if the Gloucester 10k is planning to seek advice from or report concerns to an external agency.

Safe recruitment of volunteers

Gloucester 10k recruits marshals and volunteers from those known to it. These are predominantly members of Gloucester Quays Rotary Club.

Training and awareness

Gloucester 10k will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its volunteers and others associated with the event who require it e.g. contractors.

Volunteers and those associated with the event will be referred to the Safeguarding Policy on the website and will be provided with appropriate awareness training to enable them to: -

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in the safeguarding;
- Recognise a vulnerable person potentially in need of safeguarding and take action;
- Understand how to report a safeguarding alert;
- Understand dignity and respect when working with individuals including vulnerable individuals;
- Have knowledge of this Safeguarding Policy.

Confidentiality and information sharing

Gloucester 10k expects volunteers and all others associated with the event to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Information will be shared with the local authority if a vulnerable person is deemed to be at risk of harm or they pose a risk of harm to another. The police should be contacted if a vulnerable individual is in immediate danger or a crime has been committed.

Recording and record keeping

A written record must be kept in regards of any concern regarding a vulnerable person with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decisions made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated and stored securely and confidentially.

Whistleblowing

Gloucester 10k is committed to ensuring that those associated with it who in good faith whistleblow in the public interest will be protected from reprisals and victimisation.

Important contacts

Designated senior lead for Safeguarding:
Nigel Tillott
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Mobile 07979518396

Deputy Senior Lead for Safeguarding:
Dan Smith
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