



Young and Vulnerable People Safeguarding Policy
Bognor Regis Twinning Association

Updated 1st March 2026

Young and Vulnerable People Safeguarding Policy - Bognor Regis Twinning Association

Bognor Regis Twinning Association (BRTA) abides by the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and is committed to safeguarding practice that reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice requirements.

- We recognise the welfare of children is paramount when participating in BRTA activities.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers, and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

Purpose:

To:

- Protect children and young people who participate in Bognor Regis Twinning Association Activities from harm. This includes the children of adults who participate in our activities.
- Provide members, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone participating in BRTA activities including members and volunteers. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in exclusion from the organisation.

Definitions:

The Children Act 1989 definition of a child is: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday, even if they are living independently, is a member of the armed forces or is in hospital.

Adult at Risk:

- An adult who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs),

- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Child and Adult Abuse: Children and adults may be vulnerable to neglect and abuse or exploitation from within their family and from individuals they come across in their daily lives. There are 4 main categories of abuse, which are: sexual, physical, emotional abuse, and neglect. It is important to be aware of more specific types of abuse that fall within these categories, they are:

- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child Criminal exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Domestic abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Grooming
- Historical abuse
- Online abuse

Safeguarding children: Safeguarding children is defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 as:

- protecting children from maltreatment.
- preventing impairment of children's health or development.
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Guidance and Awareness:

BRTA will ensure appropriate guidance is available to its Members and Volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it (Activity organisers) to ensure as a minimum they have guidance that enables them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in safeguarding children or vulnerable Adults.

- Recognise any child or vulnerable adult potentially in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with children or vulnerable adults.
- Have knowledge of the BRTA Young & Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

BRTA expects all members and volunteers to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information will be shared with the Local Authority if a child is deemed to be at risk of harm or contact made with the police if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed

Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decision made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Safe Selection:

BRTA has policies and procedures that cover the selections of members or volunteers responsible for young persons.

Use of social media, Mobile Phones and other Digital Technology:

There is no law preventing people from taking photographs in a public place. This includes taking photographs of other people's children.

However, BRTA policy is that children should always be consulted about the use of their image and give consent to it being used and shared.

For young people under 16, members/volunteers must get parental consent to use an image.

In situations where under 16s are separated from their parents (for example if they are in care) members/volunteers should seek consent from someone who holds parental responsibility (for example the child's carer or the local authority).

For 16- to 17-year-olds, members/volunteers should decide if it's appropriate to obtain parental consent, depending on the activity and the young person's circumstances. If you decide you do not need parental consent, then consider whether you should still inform parents that the child's photograph is being shared. In most circumstances, parents have a legal parental responsibility for their children up to the age of 18.

BRTA specifically seeks consent from the parent/guardian of all young people participating in our twinning visits as part of the application process.

Whistleblowing:

It is important that people within BRTA have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they are unhappy with anything. Whistle blowing occurs when a person raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity, or any wrong-doing within their organisation. This includes concerns about another member or volunteer. There is also a requirement by BRTA to protect whistle-blowers.

Important Contacts:

Senior Lead for Safeguarding: Bob Bonner

Email address: bognortwinning@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone number: 07903 983685

Police:

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101

NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000

Last Reviewed 1st March 2026