

Safeguarding Policy for Sense Adventures

Safeguarding Policy for Sense Adventures where sighted volunteers act as guides for Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals. SENSE ADVENTURES activities are focused on walking but can extend to other related activities such as holidays.

# Introduction

The purpose of this safeguarding policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, particularly blind and visually impaired individuals, during SENSE ADVENTURES activities that involve the provision of sighted guides. This policy outlines guidelines and procedures to prevent and respond to any potential safeguarding concerns.

Note: Public Liability Insurance MUST be in place for all Activities.

# Sense Adventures Commitment

SENSE ADVENTURES is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all participants, regardless of their abilities. We recognise the unique needs and vulnerabilities of blind and visually impaired individuals and strive to ensure their safety and enjoyment during our activities.

# Recruitment and Training

All sighted guides undergo thorough recruitment procedures, including background checks and reference verification, to ensure their suitability for the role. They receive training in guiding techniques, communication, and understanding the needs of blind and visually impaired individuals. All Guides will get a “Vision Guide” to reinforce and remind the knowledge gained.

# Participant Consent and Assessment

Before participating in SENSE ADVENTURES activities, blind and visually impaired individuals, along with their guides, will be required to provide consent for their involvement. Additionally, an assessment of the individual's physical capabilities and needs shall be conducted to ensure their safety and to tailor the experience accordingly.

*See*

# Communication and Support

Clear communication is essential. Guides are instructed to maintain open lines of communication with blind and visually impaired participants, ensuring they feel comfortable expressing their needs and concerns. Guides will be trained to offer appropriate support, assistance, and guidance throughout the activity.

# Activity Planning and Risk Assessment

SENSE ADVENTURES activities will be planned and assessed with safety in mind. Consideration will be given to factors such as terrain, weather conditions, and the physical demands of the activity. Activities will be Graded (e.g. easy, moderate, difficult) and ALL participants are expected to meet any minimum requirements. During an activity, flexibility will be applied to accommodate the abilities of blind and visually impaired participants as well as guides.

*See*

# Emergency Policy

SENSE ADVENTURES will minimise the risk of emergency with appropriate policies [this document]. SENSE ADVENTURES will strive to have a first aider for ALL Grades of walks.

In the event of an emergency, guides are responsible for the immediate safety and well-being of blind and visually impaired participants. Clear procedures will be in place for handling emergencies, including medical incidents, adverse weather conditions, and unexpected incidents.

*See*

# Reporting and Response

Any safeguarding concerns, whether related to blind and visually impaired participants or other members, will be taken seriously and addressed promptly. Confidentiality

All personal information and safeguarding matters will be handled confidentially and only shared with relevant parties on a need-to-know basis.

# Review and Improvement

This safeguarding policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with best practices.

By adhering to this safeguarding policy, SENSE ADVENTURES aims to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants, especially blind and visually impaired individuals, who trust us to guide them through our shared outdoor activities.

# Appendix

## Recruitment and Training Record

Records to include, Guides Name, assessor, checklist of training requirements and responsibilities, record of ongoing consent, and validity dates (from & to)

## Graded Walk Guide – Policy and Procedures

Every blind and visually impaired individual MUST have a sighted guide.

Ideally, every walk will have an additional sighted “tail-end” who will be located at the back of the group. They would NOT be guiding, but will be vigilant to any matters and concerns that might arise, and take appropriate action.

Every walk will have a designated “route leader”. They will ensure a risk assessment of the walk has been made BEFORE starting, and make any Risk Assessment decisions during the walk.

## Emergency Procedures

First aiders: Any walk Graded Medium or Hard MUST have a first aider.

# Date of Policy Approval: [Date]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Approved by | Approved On | Date of Next Review |
| 0.1 Initial Draft |  |  |  |
| 1.0 Issue |  |  |  |