

Yorkshire Mesh Radio Club – Safeguarding Policy

Approved by: Yorkshire Mesh Radio Club Committee

Date: 08/11/2025

Review Date: 08/11/2026

1. Policy Statement

The Yorkshire Mesh Radio Club is committed to providing a safe, positive, and inclusive environment for all members, visitors, and participants. We recognise our duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults and, where relevant, young people involved in our activities.

We are committed to ensuring that safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance, and the safeguarding policies of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

The Club takes all safeguarding concerns seriously and will respond promptly, fairly, and in line with national and RSGB guidance.

2. Purpose and Scope

This policy applies to all members, officers, volunteers, and visitors of the Yorkshire Mesh Radio Club.

It aims to:

- Protect all participants from harm, abuse, or neglect.
- Ensure all members understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Provide clear guidance on reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns.
- Create a culture of respect, safety, and accountability within the club.

While the club currently comprises adult members, this policy is designed to extend to young people (YP) and vulnerable adults should participation expand in the future.

When participating in joint events with other organisations (e.g. Scouts, schools, or community groups), the club will cooperate with and respect the host organisation's safeguarding policies and procedures.

3. Legal and RSGB Framework

This policy is based on and aligns with:

- The Care Act 2014 (safeguarding adults)
- The Children Acts 1989 & 2004 (where applicable to YP)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- RSGB Safeguarding Policy and Guidance
- Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR (for handling personal or safeguarding information)

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Committee:

- Holds overall responsibility for safeguarding within the club.
- Ensures this policy is reviewed annually and communicated to all members.
- Promotes a culture of safety and accountability.

Safeguarding Officer:

- Name: Michael Holroyd
- Email: safeguarding@yorkshiresmesh.org
- Acts as the primary point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
- Maintains confidential records of safeguarding matters.
- Liaises with the RSGB Safeguarding Officer and external agencies where appropriate.
- Advises the committee on safeguarding issues, including during event planning.

Members and Volunteers:

- Must respect others and uphold a safe, inclusive culture.
- Must report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the Safeguarding Officer.
- Should complete RSGB or other relevant safeguarding awareness training if they engage in youth or community activities.

5. Recognising and Responding to Concerns

Members should report immediately if they:

- Witness or suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- Receive a disclosure from another member or visitor.
- Have concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another club member or visitor.

Reporting Procedure:

1. Report the concern to the Safeguarding Officer.
2. The Safeguarding Officer will assess, record, and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the RSGB Safeguarding Officer or relevant local authority.
3. If there is immediate danger or risk of serious harm, contact emergency services (999) or the local authority safeguarding team.
4. The Committee Chair should be informed if urgent action or liaison with authorities is required.

Confidentiality:

- Information will only be shared with those who need to know to protect individuals at risk.
- All safeguarding records will be securely stored and retained in line with data protection principles.

6. Safe Practice and Code of Conduct

All members are expected to:

- Treat everyone with respect, fairness, and courtesy.
- Use appropriate language and behaviour at all times.
- Avoid one-to-one situations with young or vulnerable individuals unless another adult is present.
- Obtain appropriate parental or organisational consent for youth participation.
- Report any incidents, accidents, or concerns promptly.
- Follow club rules and RSGB guidance at all times.

When engaging in joint events (e.g. with Scouts or youth organisations):

- The club will follow the host organisation's safeguarding procedures and work collaboratively with their designated safeguarding lead.
- The club will ensure any of its members working directly with young people are appropriately briefed or vetted as required by the partner organisation.

7. Online and Digital Safety

Given the club's focus on radio and digital communication, all members must maintain safe and respectful online behaviour.

Members should:

- Use online platforms and social media responsibly.
- Avoid sharing personal data or images of others without consent.
- Report any inappropriate or unsafe online behaviour to the Safeguarding Officer.
- Comply with RSGB and club digital communication guidelines.

8. Training and Awareness

- The Safeguarding Officer will remain up to date with current safeguarding practices through RSGB and local authority resources.
- Members involved in youth outreach or public events may be required to complete basic safeguarding awareness training (e.g. RSGB or Scout Association modules).

9. Review and Implementation

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if:

- There is a change in legislation, RSGB policy, or club structure.
- The club begins regular activities involving young people or vulnerable adults.
- Any safeguarding incident or concern arises that warrants review.

The reviewed version will be approved by the Committee and made publicly available on the club website.

Approved by:

Chairperson: Owen Grein - owen.grein@yorkshiresmesh.org

Date: 11/08/2025

Safeguarding Officer:

Michael Holroyd – safeguarding@yorkshiresmesh.org

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