

Rossendale Ramblers Committee 11.12.18

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults

The Committee members have considered at length safeguarding issues in relation to children and vulnerable adults on walks. The Committee has reviewed the current Ramblers Policies, sought advice from the Ramblers Delivery Officer, and sought advice from Rochdale Borough Council Safeguarding Children Unit (Independent Reviewing Officer and Local Authority Designated Officer). We await the revised Safeguarding Policy, Practices and Guidance currently being undertaken by the Ramblers. Until we receive this and reconsider our position, the Rossendale Ramblers current position is as follows.

Rossendale Ramblers are keen to protect children and vulnerable adults both from ourselves, as well as ourselves from potential liabilities, false suspicions and allegations of abuse. Rossendale Ramblers also wish to be inclusive and encourage children and vulnerable adults on walks, providing they are supervised and remain the responsibility of an adult who has parental or legal responsibility or parental consent, and who is also a Ramblers member.

Members of the public who walk with Rossendale Ramblers, but are not members of the Ramblers, and who bring children or vulnerable adults on a walk, must give verbal assurance to the walk leader, witnessed by another Rambler member, that they have parental/legal consent and accept they have responsibility for the direct care and supervision of their charge(s) during the walk. The walk leader and/or witnessing member have the right to refuse children or vulnerable adults on any walk, if they are not satisfied verbal assurance is given.

If there are any concerns regarding a child or vulnerable adult's safety while on a walk, the Police will be informed.