Let's Talk…….Safeguarding while working with volunteers

Taking a safeguarding approach to volunteering will help your organisation keep people safe. It creates a culture where everyone understands their right to be safe.

Your volunteers should see safeguarding as a way of working every day. They should understand why it's important to keep everyone safe, including themselves.

When working with volunteers, safeguarding is crucial to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone involved. Here are some key points to consider:

1. **Policies and Procedures**: Establish clear safeguarding policies and procedures. This includes having a code of conduct, lone working policies, and guidelines for handling bullying and harassment

2. **Recruitment and Induction**: Implement thorough recruitment processes, including background checks and interviews. Provide comprehensive induction training that covers safeguarding principles and practices

3. **Training and Support**: Offer ongoing training and support to volunteers. This can include regular supervision meetings, buddy systems, and access to external support like counselling

4. **Risk Management**: Align volunteers with roles that match their skills and experience. Provide training on potential safety concerns related to their tasks

5. **Reporting Mechanisms**: Ensure there are clear and accessible ways for volunteers to report safeguarding concerns. Volunteers should feel comfortable raising issues without fear of repercussions

6. **Creating a Safe Environment**: Foster a culture of vigilance where everyone understands their right to be safe. Encourage open communication and regular check-ins to monitor well-being

By focusing on these key areas, you can create a safe and supportive environment for your volunteers and those they work with. If you have any specific concerns or need further guidance, feel free to ask!

Helpful resources

CVA volunteering pages Volunteer. Learn. Grow. Be part of your community - Croydon Voluntary Action

CVA Events Calendar Events & Training for groups - Croydon Voluntary Action

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