

Stonewater Zen Safeguarding Policy

Introduction

We are a Zen Buddhist organisation in the lineage of Taizan Maezumi Roshi. StoneWater Zen Sangha has a traditional, authentic lineage and has been established in Liverpool for over fifteen years and is affiliated to the White Plum Asanga.

We provide facilities for non residential traditional Zen training throughout the week both in Liverpool and elsewhere.

There are also residential retreats twice a year at Crosby Hall and regular retreats at our zendos in the Lake District and in Liverpool.

The group is registered with the Charity Commission and is led by a Sensei (Teacher) with lay monks, 3 Trustees and Board Members undertaking roles to manage the organisation.

All are unpaid for the roles they undertake.

Safeguarding

As an organisation that has contact with members of the public in a training role we have a responsibility to safeguard any young person under the age of 18 years and any vulnerable adult we come into contact with as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (SVG) Act 2006 as amended Sec 64 and Schedule 7 Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (see Appendix 1).

In the Stonewater Zen sangha the activity or work which is relevant to Safeguarding is defined as any form of teaching, training or instruction in Zen practice.

For young people:

- In general the training sessions and retreats will be for people over the age of 18 years. Should a young person under the age of 18 wish to attend they must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian or responsible adult.
- Should the young person wish to have one to one confidential interviews with a teacher/ local group leader as part of their training it will be the responsibility of the teacher/ local group leader to either arrange an interview monitor of the gender choice of the young person OR not exceed 3 interviews in any 30 day period.
- Infrequent school groups may visit the centre / local group but must always be accompanied by a teacher
- Talks given in schools must always be supervised by a teacher
- Anyone who discloses they are on the Sex Offenders Register, are subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), Sexual Risk Order (SRO) or Disqualification Order will not be permitted to undertake any training or give talks to children or school groups or give private interviews.
- Anyone who discloses they are on the above register or order will not be permitted to attend any meditation session or retreat where it is known that a young person under the age of 18 years or a vulnerable adult will be attending without the permission of their relevant supervising officer (Probation or Police).
- When disclosure occurs, the Safeguarding Officer will seek permission from the person to make contact with their supervising officer to discuss attendance and involvement with the Stonewater Zen group.
- If permission is not granted the Safeguarding Officer will advise Sensei with a view to exclusion from the group.

This addresses points 1) and 2) in Appendix 1.

For vulnerable adults:

The relevant section of legislation covers 'regulated activities' including providing personal care, assisting with household chores, transport or assisting with money management , etc.

Stonewater Zen does not provide any care which is defined as such a 'regulated activity' for adults.

Should any sangha member provide such assistance for another sangha member this would be done in the context of a personal relationship and agreement and not on behalf of Stonewater Zen.

We recognise however that we may come into contact with adults who are vulnerable due to other needs such as mental health, illness, disability or an inability to protect themselves from harm/exploitation.

Should concern arise that any sangha member may have particular needs due to these issues or that their needs are increasing, the concerns will be raised with the person and Sensei. Consideration will be given to appropriate action such as a referral to an outside support agency.

Confidentiality

Should the occasion arise that information needs to be shared with a third party i.e. police, social services, health providers or the probation service this will only be done *in accordance with the data protection principles and in compliance with our legal duty as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998* to safeguard any child / young person or assist a vulnerable adult, reduce the risk to them or prevent a crime from being committed. This means the information shared must be necessary, proportionate and relevant for the purpose for which it is shared, is shared only with those people who need to

have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.

This will preferably be done with the consent of any person concerned but the need for disclosure in the interests of the child, person, the sangha or to prevent a crime from being committed may override non consent.

Additional actions:

- A Safeguarding Officer will be identified to provide guidance on this policy and any issues arising during the everyday work or life of the sangha including local groups.
- This policy will be reviewed by the Safeguarding Officer on an annual basis to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose.
- The Safeguarding Officer will be responsible for maintaining a confidential and anonymised log of issues that arise in order to inform the annual review of this policy.
- The Safeguarding Officer will provide a written review report to the Board and Trustees on an annual basis.
- Training/briefing events for identified persons will be arranged as required.
- Any group leader that affiliates with Stonewater must agree to abide by and uphold this policy.
- Group leaders must advise the Safeguarding Officer of local issues arising and discuss the actions required prior to dealing with the issue,
- The Safeguarding Officer will liaise with Sensei concerning these issues.

Appendix 1.

The relevant part of the SVG Act 2006 relates to 'regulated activity' with children and young people. This is defined as work regularly carried out by the same person once a week or more often or on 3 or more days in a 30 day period or overnight through:

- (1) unsupervised activities: teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children, or provide advice or guidance on well being.
- (2) work for a limited range of establishments ('specified places') with opportunity for contact e.g. schools
- (3) provide personal care
- (4) registered childminding or foster care

In Stonewater Zen work is "any form of teaching, training or instruction of children, unless the teaching, training or instruction is merely incidental to teaching, training or instruction of persons who are not children" i.e. 1) and 2) above but not 3) and 4).

(A) The period condition is satisfied if the person carrying out the activity does so at any time on more than three days in any period of 30 days.

(B) In relation to

- (i) any form of teaching, training or instruction of children that isn't merely incidental to teaching, training or instruction of persons who are not children;
- (ii) any form of advice or guidance provided wholly or mainly for children, if the advice or guidance relates to their physical, emotional or educational well-being; i.e., anything bespoke for a young person.

The period condition is also satisfied if—

- (a) the person carrying out the activity does so at any time between 2 am and 6 am, and
- (b) the activity gives the person the opportunity to have face-to-face contact with children .

Signed: Date:.....
Trustee

Signed: Date:.....
Trustee

Signed: Date:.....
Trustee

Signed: Date:.....
Sensei

To be signed by local group leaders affiliated To Stonewater Zen

I have read and understood the above policy and agree to abide by the requirements contained therein:

Signed:.....

Local Group:

Date: