**UK Bronies & Pegasisters (UKBP.org) Safeguarding Policy**

UK Bronies & Pegasisters (UKBP) is a UK based network for *My Little Pony* fans of all ages. The network operates across online platforms and arranges meetings and events in locations across the UK.

UKBP aims to provide a safe environment for all members of the network and has put in place additional measures to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

**ONLINE**

UKBP operates across a range of online platforms, including Facebook and Discord. All platforms are administered and moderated by identified staff members of UKBP.

Terms and conditions of membership make it clear that abusive and / or discriminatory language or images are not permitted anywhere on the network. In addition to the terms and conditions and reporting provisions of the platform operators, members are encouraged to report any inappropriate, abusive or potentially criminal posts to UKBP staff.

Most areas of the network are family friendly. Any posts in areas that are open to all must not contain strong language or adult content. Anyone posting strong language or adult content in areas that are open to all will be warned and may be blocked from the group.

The network also provides restricted areas for adults aged 18 and over. The posting of strong language and explicit adult content is permissible, in restricted areas, as long as it is legal. In order to access these areas, new members must apply to UKBP staff. Staff will make reasonable efforts to establish that applicants are aged over 18 before access to restricted areas is granted.

**MEETINGS**

UKBP will from time to time arrange meetings and events for members. Most events are family friendly and open to all.

Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult aged 18 or over.

On occasion, the venue may put in place restrictions on the age of people attending the event.

Abusive and / or discriminatory language or behaviour are not permitted at any UKBP event. Members are encouraged to report any inappropriate, abusive or potentially criminal behaviour to UKBP staff. Members behaving inappropriately at a meeting or event may be excluded from future events.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS**

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone’s responsibility.

UKBP members are encouraged to be vigilant to signs of abusive or inappropriate behaviour and to report concerns to local statutory agencies i.e. Police or social services, if they suspect that

a child may be at risk of

* Emotional / Psychological abuse
* Physical abuse
* Sexual abuse
* Neglect

Or

A vulnerable adult may be at risk of

* Emotional / Psychological abuse
* Physical abuse
* Sexual abuse
* Financial abuse
* Neglect

**IF YOU SEE OR HEAR SOMETHING**

DO

* Make a note of what you saw -what, where, when, who
* If you feel safe, speak to the child / vulnerable adult. Say hello and ask if they are alright.
* Ring 999 if you think someone is in immediate danger
* Tell someone

DON’T

* Investigate
* Put yourself at risk

**IF YOU ARE TOLD SOMETHING**

DO

* Listen
* Reassure
* Encourage them to report the issue
* Tell someone

DON’T

* Ask questions
* Express any doubts about what you are told
* Promise not to tell anyone

UKBP staff make a commitment to notify statutory agencies if they suspect or receive a report that a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm.

Staff should consider the privacy of those involved and only inform others of safeguarding concerns if they need to know.

Advice should be sought from statutory agencies before sharing information.

**HOW TO REPORT**

If you think someone is in immediate danger, call 999 and notify the Police.

If the risk is less immediate, call the national Police non-emergency line on 101 to report it.

To report an online safeguarding issue, specifically of children under 18 years of age, you can contact CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection Command) at [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk).