

WEST SOMERSET GREEN FORUM

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy



Principles

The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting them from abuse. Children and vulnerable adults have a lot to gain from environment-based activities which provide an excellent opportunity for them to learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own unique potential. This Policy and these Procedures are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children and vulnerable adults is the primary concern and takes precedence over all other concerns.
- All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse.
- It is everyone's responsibility to report any concerns about abuse to the designated Safeguarding Officer (see below) and the responsibility of the Social Work Department and the Police to conduct, where appropriate, a joint investigation.
- All incidents of alleged poor practice, misconduct and abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All personal data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.
- All directors, volunteers and employees must respond to any report or observation regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person.

Responsibilities:

WSGF will:

- Promote the health and welfare of children and vulnerable adults by providing opportunities for them to take part in activities safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children and vulnerable adults.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults and protect them from abuse.
- Train, support and supervise any directors, volunteers and employees, directly or self-employed, whose work on behalf of WSGF will bring them into contact with children or vulnerable adults, to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse and to minimise risk to themselves.
- Require directors, volunteers, and employees to adopt and abide by this Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and these Procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children or vulnerable adults in line with this Policy and these Procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.

Good Practice Guidelines

- People of all ages and involvement in WSGF will be treated with respect and listened to by the directors, employees and volunteers who will work with the parents/carers of children and vulnerable adults.
- DBS checks will be made on new directors, employees and volunteers where contact carrying potential risk for children and vulnerable adults is to be expected. Any uncertainty about this should be referred to the board, who will risk assess the situation. In all DBS checks, no unsafe contact allowed until DBS outcome is known.
- Designated Safeguarding Officer: Everyone must have access and know the names of to the Directors responsible for safeguarding. The current DSO is Maureen Smith 12, Ballfield Road, Minehead TA24 5JL. Tel: 01643 709478. Mobile: 0780 2247761
- The Supporting Director is David Croxton, Honeyrow House, 1a Honeyrow Lane, Bicknoller, Taunton TA4 4EE. Mobile: 0785 0740516
- The two safeguarding directors will ensure that training in safeguarding and recognising signs of all categories of abuse is provided to all those working with children and vulnerable adults on behalf of WSGF.
- Data privacy principles are laid out in WSGF's GDPR and Privacy Policy. In addition, permission must be obtained from children's parents or carers before taking or publishing photographs or videos of anyone taking part in WSGF activities. Permission for taking or publishing photographs of vulnerable adults should be obtained from their carers as well as from the vulnerable adults themselves.

Review

This Policy and these Procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually at the Spring Board meeting and:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children and vulnerable adults or any changes within WSGF.
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children or vulnerable adults within WSGF in any circumstances, at least annually.

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| Date agreed and adopted by trustees | |
| Date of review | 01/03/2025 |

| Name | Signed | Date |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Maureen Smith | | |
| Hester Watson | | |
| Elizabeth Atkinson | | |
| David Croxton | | |
| Graham Boswell | | |
| Elaine Watson | | |
| Izzy Silvester | | |