

Hampshire County Federation of Women's Institutes

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

The Hampshire Federation recognises that all children and vulnerable adults, whatever their sex, disability, racial or ethnic background, religious beliefs or sexual orientation, have a right to be in a safe and caring environment and to equal protection from any form of exploitation or abuse.

We consider any individual aged under 18 to be a child for the purposes of this Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. Vulnerable adults are those aged 18 and over who receive or may need support to live in the community, or who may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people. This may be as a result of a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness (including an addiction to alcohol or drugs), or a reduction in physical or mental capacity.

The Hampshire Federation does not run its own activities which bring its trustees, staff, members and volunteers ("Representatives") into regular contact with children and vulnerable adults. Representatives of the Hampshire Federation may, however, come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults through one of our partner organisations.

We will therefore ensure that a partner organisation agrees:

- (1) to obtain any eligible DBS check(s) on our Representative(s); and
- (2) to comply with any relevant requirements under legislation including the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

We will also ensure that they have in place a safeguarding policy and procedure which includes a designated person within the partner organisation who is responsible for safeguarding children and/or vulnerable adults.

We will expect any Representative of the Hampshire Federation who works with one of our partner organisations to familiarise herself with any safeguarding policies and procedures of the relevant partner organisation, and to follow them when involved in programmes with children and/or vulnerable adults and, if necessary, to have registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority before engaging in the activity.

Complaints Procedure

Since Representatives of the Hampshire Federation, in that capacity, will only engage in activities with children and/or vulnerable adults through one of our partner organisations, the procedures for dealing with any concerns or complaints about such persons in connection with the activity will be operated by the partner organisation.

The first point of contact for complaints will be a designated person within the partner organisation, with clear responsibilities for safeguarding children and/or vulnerable adults, in accordance with their own safeguarding policy.

We will work with our partner organisations to ensure that any concerns relating to children and/or vulnerable adult protection or possible abuse are referred appropriately and will cooperate with the work of statutory agencies as necessary.

This Policy was adopted by the Trustees of the Hampshire Federation